

# Optical Illusions

By David Haines January 2020  
Commissioned by North Cambridge Family Opera

Melody/Soprano, Alto, Baritone & Piano \*

Allegro non troppo [crotchet = 120]

*mf*  
VERSE 1

Melody/Sop

When a sad old la - dy is a

Piano

*p* *mf*

Melody/Sop

4

gla - mo - rous girl, A bun - ny is a duck, then a bun - ny then a duck

Piano

Melody/Sop

7

That gla - mour girl is look - ing in - to a mir - ror, look a - gain, it's a skull, you're

Piano

\*All parts sing the Melody line in the verses.

Melody/Sop

10

left dumb - struck! See a swan and squir-rel, is it one, is it both? Two

Piano

Melody/Sop

13

fa - ces close to - ge - ther, it's a vase, no it's not! Se - ven doves in flight or a man

Piano

Melody/Sop

16

look - ing down? Does the word say 'teach' or 'learn'? I have got

Piano

Melody/Sop *f*

## REFRAIN 1

All mud-dled up, can't be-lieve what I see Dis-com - bo - bu - la - ted by am-bi-

Alto *f*

## REFRAIN 1

All mud-dled up, can't be-lieve what I see Dis-com - bo - bu - la - ted by am-bi-

Bar *f*

## REFRAIN 1

All mud-dled up, can't be-lieve what I see Dis-com - bo - bu - la - ted by am-bi-

Piano *f*

All mud-dled up, can't be-lieve what I see Dis-com - bo - bu - la - ted by am-bi-

Melody/Sop

22

gu - i - ty Such am - bi - gu - ous-op - ti - cal il - lu - sions de - pend on my

Alto

gu - i - ty Such am - bi - gu - ous-op - ti - cal il - lu - sions de - pend on my

Bar

gu - i - ty Such am - bi - gu - ous-op - ti - cal il - lu - sions de - pend on my

Piano

gu - i - ty Such am - bi - gu - ous-op - ti - cal il - lu - sions de - pend on my

Melody/Sop

25

brain see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain when I look a - gain

Alto

brain see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain when I look a - gain

Bar

brain see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain when I look a - gain

Piano

Melody/Sop

28 *mf*

Brain see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain

Alto

*mf* see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain

Bar

*mf* see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain

Piano

see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain

31 *pp*

Brain see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain

Alto *pp*

Brain see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain a - gain

Bar *pp*

Piano *pp*

Brain see - ing one thing then an - o - ther when I look a - gain

Melody/Sop 34

Bar

Piano

Melody/Sop 37 VERSE 2

*mf* When the ri - sing Moon looks in - cre - di - bly huge or twins in the Ames room are

Piano *mf*

Melody/Sop

40

hard to be-ieve 'cause one looks ti - ny and the o - ther looks gi - gan - ti - c'ly big

Piano

Melody/Sop

43

'Ap - pa - rent Dis - tance Hy - po - the - sis' de - ceived your brain in - to mak - ing

Piano

Melody/Sop

46

a false as - sum - ption, Try view - ing Hol - bein's 'Am - bas - sa - dors' from the front

Piano

Melody/Sop

49

Looks like an ac - ci - den - tal smear of paint but viewed from be - low, see a skull! 'Trompe

Piano

Melody/Sop *f* REFRAIN 2

52

l'oeil:What an op-ti-cal stunt! I'm all be-fud-dled, I can't trust my own eyes Non-ex-

Alto *f* REFRAIN 2

I'm all be-fud-dled, I can't trust my own eyes Non-ex-

Bar *f* REFRAIN 2

I'm all be-fud-dled, I can't trust my own eyes Non-ex-

Piano *f*

Melody/Sop

55

is-tent col-ours, pat-terns, things look the wrong size Ne-ga-tive im - a-ges which

Alto

is-tent col-ours, pat-terns, things look the wrong size Ne-ga-tive im - a-ges which

Bar

is-tent col-ours, pat-terns, things look the wrong size Ne-ga-tive im - a-ges which

Piano

Melody/Sop

58

on - ly look right when I stare at them for a - ges then at some - thing blank and white!

Alto

on - ly look right when I stare at them for a - ges then at some - thing blank and white!

Bar

on - ly look right when I stare at them for a - ges then at some - thing blank and white!

Piano

Melody/Sop

61

When I stare at them for a - ges then at some - thing blank and white

Alto

when I stare When I stare at them for a - ges then at some - thing blank and white

Bar

when I stare When I stare at them for a - ges then at some - thing blank and white

Piano



Melody/Sop

64

*pp*

Stare at them for a - ges then at some - thing blank and

Alto

*pp*

Stare at them for a - ges then at some - thing blank and

Bar

*pp*

Stare at them for a - ges then at some - thing blank and

Piano

*pp*

Piano accompaniment for the first system, including treble and bass clefs.

Melody/Sop

67

VERSE 3

white *mf* 'Li - ter - al ll lu - sions' ex - ploit

Alto

white

Bar

white

Piano

*mf*

Piano accompaniment for the second system, including treble and bass clefs.

Melody/Sop

70

tenth of a se-cond de-lay be-tween re-ti-nal i-mage and pro-ces-sing by brain

Piano

Melody/Sop

73

Which tries to guess what it will see, but freaks out

Piano

Melody/Sop

75

When pre-dic-tion and the out-come are not the same 'Phy-si-o-lo-gi-cal Il-lu-sions'

Piano

Melody/Sop

78

take ad-van-tage of li-mi-ta-tions of the far-from-per-fect hu-man eye

Piano

Melody/Sop

81

Those ghos-tly dots at in-ter - sec-tions a - round the one you're fo-cused on are not real

Piano

Melody/Sop

84

*f*  
REFRAIN 3

My! So sly! 'Cog - ni - -tive Il - lu - sions' are the dis - pa - ri - ty be-tween

Alto

*f*  
REFRAIN 3

'Cog - ni - -tive Il - lu - sions' are the dis - pa - ri - ty be-tween

Bar

*f*  
REFRAIN 3

'Cog - ni - -tive Il - lu - sions' are the dis - pa - ri - ty be-tween

Piano

*f*

'Cog - ni - -tive Il - lu - sions' are the dis - pa - ri - ty be-tween

Melody/Sop

87

how you know the world works and what you can see M C Esch-er was the mas-ter: pa-ra-

Alto

how you know the world works and what you can see M C Esch-er was the mas-ter: pa-ra-

Bar

how you know the world works and what you can see M C Esch-er was the mas-ter: pa-ra-

Piano

Melody/Sop

90

dox-i-cal stair: des-cend-ing up, as-cen-ding down: in the end you go no-where

Alto

dox-i-cal stair: des-cend-ing up, as-cen-ding down: in the end you go no-where

Bar

dox-i-cal stair: des-cend-ing up, as-cen-ding down: in the end you go no-where

Piano

dox-i-cal stair: des-cend-ing up, as-cen-ding down: in the end you go no-where

Melody/Sop

*pp*  
CODA

93

Des - cend - ing up, as - cen - ding down, and you go no - where

Des - cend - ing up, as - cen - ding down, and you go no - where

Des - cend - ing up, as - cen - ding down, and you go no - where

*pp*

Melody/Sop

96

Des - cend - ing up, as - cen - ding down, and you go no - where and you

Des - cend - ing up, as - cen - ding down, and you go no - where and you

Des - cend - ing up, as - cen - ding down, and you go no - where and you

*pp*

Melody/Sop

*mf*

*f*

99

go no - where and you go no - where Op - ti - cal il - lu - sions are your

Alto

*mf*

*f*

go no - where and you go no - where Op - ti - cal il - lu - sions are your

Bar

*mf*

*f*

go no - where and you go no - where Op - ti - cal il - lu - sions are your

Piano

*mf*

*f*

Melody/Sop

102

eyes and your brain be - ing hi - jacked, hood - winked, com - man - deered, but

Alto

eyes and your brain be - ing hi - jacked, hood - winked, com - man - deered, but

Bar

eyes and your brain be - ing hi - jacked, hood - winked, com - man - deered, but

Piano

Melody/Sop

104

most of all en - ter - tained Op - ti - cal il - lu - sions, most of all they

Alto

most of all en - ter - tained Op - ti - cal il - lu - sions, most of all they

Bar

most of all en - ter - tained Op - ti - cal il - lu - sions, most of all they

Piano

Melody/Sop

107

en - ter - tain!

Alto

en - ter - tain!

Bar

en - ter - tain!

Piano