

COMPOSED FOR THE PRESTO PROJECT BY SEÁN DOHERTY

1.

I - ma - gine an i - mag - in - a - ry me - nag - er - ie

3

2.

man - ag - er man - ag - ing an i - mag - in - a - ry me - nag - er - ie.

choir



THE IMAGINARY MENAGERIE MANAGER

USING THIS CANON

Compiled for the Presto project
by Dr Róisín Blunnie

Dublin City University, 2023

FOR DEVELOPING YOUR POLYPHONIC SKILLS

Reflecting the surreal nature and vivid imagery of its text, this composition has a swirling character, with unexpected emphasis and de-emphasis of particular syllables and a sense of almost perpetual movement. In order to achieve a successful sing-and-play task, it is necessary to have a clear impression of the pulse and of where each note sits in the bar and in relation to the pulse.

WITH YOUR CHOIR OR SINGING GROUP

In your conducting, give one and a half preparatory beats so that the tempo is clearly established and ample notice is given before the singing enters, and include a crisp cue on beat 2, so that the singers can begin confidently on the second half of that beat. In line with the character of the text, sometimes accented syllables do not fall on traditionally accented beats. Explore the dramatic effects of emphasising textually important syllables, regardless of their musical positioning.

When singing in two parts, there are occasions when the parts are momentarily in unison. Ensure the singers are aware of this and encourage accuracy and unity at these points.

An accompaniment is provided. You can play the accompaniment on an instrument, or play or download a backing track on the Presto website.

Optional Accompaniment



IN THE MUSIC LESSON

Creative Activities: Composer Seán Doherty suggests the following ideas for responding creatively to the tongue-twister text of this canon:

- *A menagerie is a collection of exotic animals, like a zoo. Can you name any imaginary animals?*
- *What are the day-to-day activities of an imaginary menagerie manager? She could feed the unicorns, walk the Loch Ness Monster, and wash the dragon.*
- *Come up with sounds for these imaginary animals. Use these in your performance.*
- *Draw your favourite imaginary animal. How would you manage this animal in a menagerie?*

