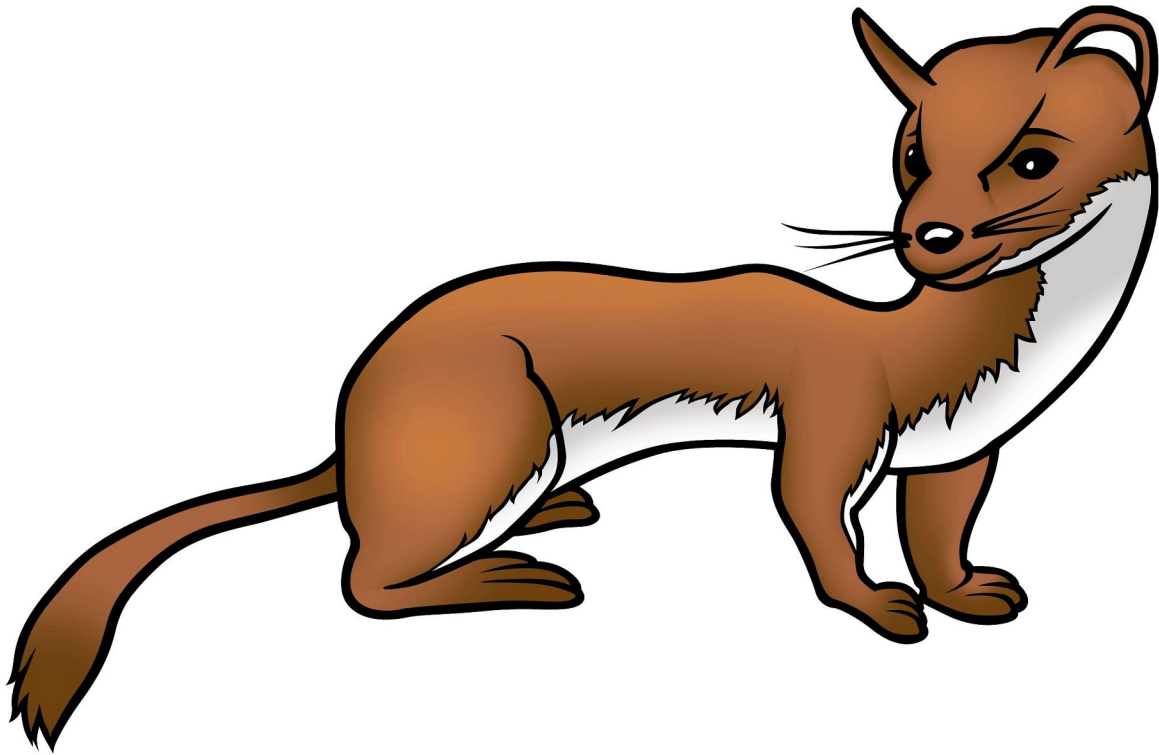


Weasel King

for Voice & Piano



An arrangement of the poem by Christopher Isherwood

by Jeffrey Naden

WEASEL KING

When I am old and feeble grown
And children ask me who I've known
Among the novelists and peers
And great men of my early years,
I shall reply, with haughty look,
"I've never met an earl or duke
Nor a marquis, but I'll sing
About my friend the Weasel King."
His Majesty was small but vicious –
He thought a rabbit's ear delicious
To eat for breakfast, and could bite
Through leather or through vulcanite.
If he ever saw a stoat
He jumped and caught it by the throat.
He led his people into battle
And cut the badgers down like cattle.
Blood was his favourite drink, then cider,
He was no temperance-pledge abider.
His scream was louder than ten geese,
When angry;
But in times of peace,

He passed a life of ease and culture
With his favourite pet, a vulture.
He didn't live – quite the contrary –
In a palace like George and Mary.
He scorned vast throne-rooms, and instead
Spent nearly all the day in bed.
Just after tea-time he'd begin
To practice on his violin –
He had composed a fine lament
On one note, on this instrument –
And when the music soothed his soul,
He'd take his pipe and fill the bowl
And light it up, and call for lamps,
Chatting of heraldry and stamps.
And once, after a solemn feast,
He rose and pinned upon my breast
A cross awarded for great merit –
The Order of the Woollen Ferret.
So that is why I always sing,
“God bless our gracious Weasel King.”

Weasel King

Steady ♩ = 70

When I am old and fee-blegrown and child-ren ask me who I've known a-mong the

(pedal at discretion)

6

no-ve-lists and peers and great men of my ear-ly years, I shall re-ply with haugh-ty look, "I've

11

ne-ver met an earl or duke nor a mar - quis, but I'll sing, sing a-bout my friend the Wea-sel

16

Quicker $\text{♩} = 120$

King." His Ma-jes-ty was small but vi - cious - he thought a rab-bit's ear de-li - cious

20

to eat for break - fast, and could bite through lea - ther or through

23

vul - ca - nite. If he e - ver saw a stoat

26

he jumped and caught it by the throat. He led his

28

peo - ple in to bat - tle and cut the bad - gers down like cat - tie. Blood

This system contains measures 28, 29, and 30. The vocal line is in a key with three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. It features eighth and sixteenth note patterns. The piano accompaniment consists of a busy left hand with sixteenth-note runs and a right hand with chords and eighth notes. Measure 30 ends with a double bar line.

31

was his fa vou - rite drink, then ci - der, he was no tem - p'rance pledge a - bi - der.

This system contains measures 31, 32, and 33. The vocal line continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a triplet in measure 31. The piano accompaniment features a prominent triplet in the right hand in measure 31 and continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 33 ends with a double bar line.

34

His scream was lou - der than tenegeese when an - gry.

This system contains measures 34, 35, and 36. The vocal line has a long note in measure 34 followed by eighth notes. The piano accompaniment is highly rhythmic, with the right hand playing chords and eighth notes, and the left hand playing a steady eighth-note pattern. Measure 36 ends with a double bar line.

37

This system contains measures 37, 38, and 39. The vocal line is mostly silent, with rests in measures 37 and 38, and a final note in measure 39. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, featuring triplets in the right hand in measures 38 and 39. Measure 39 ends with a double bar line.

40

45

But in times of peace,

49

Relaxed ♩ = 65

he passed a life of ease and cul-ture with his fa-vrite pet, a vul-ture.

54

He did-n't live-quite the con- tra ry -in a pa lacelike George and Ma- ry.

57

He scorned vast throne-rooms, and in- stead spent near-ly all the day in bed.

61

Just af-ter tea-time he'd be- gin to prac- tise on his vi- o - lin,

64

he had com-posed a fine la-ment on one note for this in - stru - ment - -

67

and when the mu - sic soothed his

72

soul, he'd take his pipe and fill the bowl and light it up and call for lamps,

76

chat-ting of he-rald-ry and stamps. And once, af-ter a so lemn feast, he rose and pinned u-pon my

81

breast a cross a-war-ded for great me - rit - The Or - der of the Wool- len

86

Fer - ret. So that is

89

why I al-ways sing, sing a bout my friend the Wea - sel

93

King; sing, sing, "God bless our gra - cious Wea - sel
rit.

97

King."
(a tempo) *rit.*