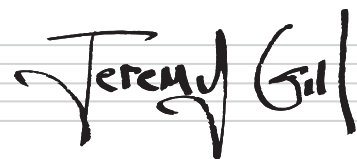


# King's Complaint

for voice and guitar



Jeremy Gil

# King's Complaint

for voice and guitar  
text by William Shakespeare

## Premiere

6 November 2021 at Marc A. Scorca Hall, National Opera Center, New York, NY  
by the Bowers Fader Duo (Jessica Bowers, mezzo-soprano and Oren Fader, guitar)

## Instrumentation

voice  
guitar

## Duration

approximately 7 minutes

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# King's Complaint

William Shakespeare (1591)  
*from King Henry VI, Part III, Act II, Scene V*

Here on this molehill will I sit me down.  
To whom God will, there be the victory!  
For Margaret my queen, and Clifford too,  
Have chid me from the battle; swearing both  
They prosper best of all when I am thence.  
Would I were dead! if God's good will were so;  
For what is in this world but grief and woe?  
O God! methinks it were a happy life,  
To be no better than a homely swain;  
To sit upon a hill, as I do now,  
To carve out dials quaintly, point by point,  
Thereby to see the minutes, how they run,  
How many make the hour full complete;  
How many hours bring about the day;  
How many days will finish up the year;  
How many years a mortal man may live.  
When this is known, then to divide the times:  
So many hours must I tend my flock;  
So many hours must I take my rest;  
So many hours must I contemplate;  
So many hours must I sport myself;  
So many days my ewes have been with young;  
So many weeks ere the poor fools will ean;  
So many years ere I shall shear the fleece:  
So minutes, hours, days, months, and years,  
Pass'd over to the end they were created,  
Would bring white hairs unto a quiet grave.  
Ah, what a life were this! how sweet! how lovely!

for the Bowers Fader Duo

# King's Complaint

William Shakespeare (1591)

(Dowlandesque)

Jeremy Gill (2021)

$\text{♩} = 52$  *p*

Voice

Here on this mole - hill will I sit me down. To

Guitar

*p, chiaro*

4 *cresc.* *espr.*

whom God will, there be the vic - to - ry! For Mar - garet

*cresc.* *f* *p*

7

my queen, and Clif - ford too, Have chid me from the bat -

*en dehors*

10

- tle; swear - ing both They pros - per best of all when I am thence.

14 *p*

Would I were dead! if God's good will were so; For

*p*

17 *cresc.* *espr.*

what is in this world but grief and woe? O God!

*cresc.* *f* *p*

20

O God! O God! O God! me - thinks it were a hap-

*en dehors*

23

- py life, To be no bet - ter than a home - ly swain;

27 *p*

To sit u - pon

*p*

30

a hill, as I do now,

33 *intimo*

To carve out di - als quaint - ly, point by point,

36

There - by to see the mi - nutes, how they run,

morendo.....tempo

*espr.*

39

How ma - ny make the

*pp* *sub. mf*

42

ho - ur full com - plete; How ma - ny ho - urs bring a - bout the day;

*en dehors*

45

How ma - ny days will fi - nish up the year; How ma - ny years a

*mf* *f*

48

mor - tal man may live.

*mf*

51 *p*

When this is known, then to di - vide the times:

*p*

55 *intimo*

So ma - ny ho - urs must I tend my flock;

59

So ma - - ny ho - urs must I take my rest;

62 *più intimo*

So ma - ny ho - urs must I con - tem - plate; So ma - ny



66 morendo.....

ho - urs must I sport my - self;

*pp*

70 tempo

*espr.*

So ma - ny days my ewes have been with young; So ma - ny weeks ere

*sub. mf* *en dehors*

73 *mf*

the poor fools will ean; So ma - ny years ere I shall shear the fleece:

*mf*

76

*f*

79  $\text{♩} = 52$  *p* accel.....  
energico

So mi - nutes, ho - urs, days, months, and years, — Pass'd

84  $\text{♩} = 66$  *pù f*

o - ver to the end, *espr.* Pass'd o - ver to the

88

end they were cre - a - ted, Would bring white hairs

92 *p* 1.

un - to a qui - et - grave.

96 2. rit.....  $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (\text{♩} = 52)$

grave. Ah, what a life were this! how sweet!

*mf*

99 rit..... *p*

how love - ly!

*p, espr.* *p*

8va