



Commissioned by Elektra Women's Choir with generous support from France

# Adder

from The Lost Words: A Spell Book

Robert Macfarlane

Rodney Sharman

**mysterious** ♩ = 72

S.

A.

Perc.

pno

**mysterious** ♩ = 72

S.

A.

Perc.

pno

pedal sustain until rehearsal F →

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The Lost Words written by Robert Macfarlane and illustrated by Jackie Morris.  
Text © Robert Macfarlane 2017 Illustrations © Jackie Morris 2017 (used with permission)

separate percussion parts available upon request - gratis (maraca, claves and cabasa)

12

S. *p*  
A curl of bark; a six an eight:—

A. *p*  
A curl of bark; a six an eight:—

Perc. maraca (stirred) *mf* — *p* clavr. maraca (stirred) *mp*

pno *sfz* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*



18

S. *mp* *pp*  
For ad-der is as ad-der basks.

A. *pp* *mp* *pp*  
For ad-der is as ad-der basks.

Perc. maraca (stirred) *mp*

pno *p* *sfz* *mf* *pp* *p* *f* *p*

A

24 *mp*

S. *mp* 3 3 3

Deep\_ Deep\_ in heath-er, Deep\_ in heath-er, coiled in gorse, sunk a-mong the Win-ter

A. *mp* 3 3 3

Deep\_ Deep\_ in heath-er, Deep\_ in heath-er, coiled in gorse, sunk a-mong the Win-ter

Perc.  $\frac{2}{4}$

pno *mp* 3 3 3



31 *pp* *mp* *p*

S. stones: ad - der is as ad - der hides.

A. *p* *mp* *p*

stones: For ad - der is as ad - der hides.

Perc. maraca *pp* cabasa *f* *mp* *f* (cabasa)

pno *f* *pp* *sf* *f* *mp* *f* 5 3 3

unmute as silently as possible

strum mid-range strings

36 **B** *mp* *mf*

S. Darts, dia-mond slides, sine - wave swerves, sine - wave

A. Darts, dia-mond slides, sine - wave swerves, sine - wave

Perc. *p* *mp* maraca (stirred)

pno *p* *sfz* *mp*

41 *pp* *mp* *mp*

S. sive live - wire curves of force: For ad - der is as

A. swerves, live - wire curves of force: For ad - der is as

Perc. *mf* *pp* cabasa

pno *pp* *mf* unmute silently

45 **f** **C**

S1 *ad - der glides. glides. glides.*

S2 *ad - der glides. glides. glides.*

A1 *ad - der glides. glides. glides.*

A2 *ad - der glides. glides. glides.*

Perc.

pno *normale ff f muted*

50 **(f)** **pp** **D** **pp**

S1 *ah E - cho of snake, self-es-*

S2 *ah E - cho of snake, self-es-*

A1 *mf overtone singing (c) pp*

A2 *overtc (altos) pp*

Perc.

pno *.nmute silently p*

(pedal depressed throughout)

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57

S. cape, a left - be - hind\_ ghost: For ad - der is\_

A. self - es - cape\_ a left - be - hind\_ ghost: For ad - der is\_

Perc.

pno



63

S. as ad - d' ...

A. as ad - der sheds.

Perc. maraca cabasa

pno

l.v. unmute silently

knock underside of piano with fist

strum mid-range strings

(LH) sf

**E** a little slower

69

S. *p* 3  
 Rus-tle of grass, sud-den su - sur - rus, what the eye mis- ses:

A. *p* 3  
 Rus-tle of grass, sud-den su - sur - rus what the ey mis- ses:

Perc. (stirred) *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *f* claves

pno *meno mosso* 3 *p* (mute all notes) *f* l.v.

broadly

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**F** *p* stagger breathing

74

S. *pp* *mp* *p*  
 For ad - der as ad - der his- ses. Sss

A. *pp* *mf* *p*  
 For ar is as ad - der his- ses.

Perc. maraca (stirred) *p*

pno *mp* *mp* *mf*

80

S.

*mp* overtone singing, breathe and re-enter as necessary

A.

Ah

Perc.

pno

*mp*



When the most recent edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary - widely used in schools around the world - was published, a sharp-eyed reader soon noticed that around forty common words concerning nature had been dropped. The words were no longer being used or considered important enough by children to merit their place in the dictionary. The list of these "lost words" included words like adder, bluebell, dandelion, fern, heron, kingfisher, newt, otter, and willow. Among the words taking their place were attach-ment, blog, broadband, bullet-point, cut-off, and voice-mail. The news of these substitutions - the outdoor and natural world being replaced by the indoor and virtual - became seen by many as a powerful sign of a growing gulf between childhood and the natural world.

In response, Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris set out to make a "spell book" that would conjure back twenty of these lost words, and the beings they name, from acorn to fern.

Morna Edmundson, Elektra Women's Choir director, decided to commission 10 composers to write 2 compositions each - 20 compositions set to the poetry of Robert Macfarlane - and a fabulous concert program was born (premiered in 2022). These pieces are available individually and also as a complete book. They can be performed with piano alone or with instrumentation; flute/piccolo, violin, cello, clarinet/bass clarinet and marimba/percussion.

Enjoy listening to the pristine recording; visit Cypress Choral Music Inc. ([cypresschoral.com](http://cypresschoral.com))

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