

Paul Leary

Geoffrey Chaucer



# **The Wife of Bath's Tale**

*What Women Want*

for Soprano, Alto, Violin and Piano



# The Wife of Bath's Tale

What Women Want  
for Erica Dunkle and Kristen Blackman

Geoffrey Chaucer  
c. 1343

Paul Leary  
b. 1974

$\text{♩} = 100$  molto rubato

Soprano

Alto

Violin

Piano

7

S.  $\text{♩} = 82$  **A** *mf*

A. *mf*

Vln.  $\text{♩} = 82$  **A**

Pno.

Some said that wom-en want-ed wealth and treas-ure,—  
Hon-or said

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12

S.  Some 'Gorg-eous clothes' and oth-ers 'Fun in Bed.'

A.  some, some 'Jol-li-ty and pleas-ure,' 'To be

Vln. 

Pno. 

16

S.  and some, that what most mat-tered Was

A.  oft, wid-owed and re-mar-ried,' said oth-ers a-gain, Was

Vln. 

Pno. 

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20

S. *mf* that we should be cos-set-ed and flat - tered... **B** Some say, the things we most de - si - re are these:

A. *mf* that we should be cos-set-ed and flat - tered...

Vln. *p* *mf* *p* **B**

Pno. *p* *mf* *p*

25

S. With no one to re-prove our faults and lies. Ra - ther to have one call us

A. Free - dom to do ex - act - ly as we please. Ra-ther to have one

Vln. *p*

Pno. *p* *p* *p*

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30 **C** ♩ = 100 *molto rubato* **molto rall.** ♩ = 80

S. good and wise! the Knight drew near and si - lence was com-man - ded through - out

A. call us wise! the Knight drew near and si - lence was com-man - ded through-out

Vln. **C** ♩ = 100 *molto rubato* **molto rall.** ♩ = 80 *p non-vib.*

Pno.

38 **D**

S. the hall. The queen gave or-der he should tell them all.

A. the hall. What thing it was that wom-en

Vln. **D** *p*

Pno. *string plucked with fingernail* *f*

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44

S. *Hestood not si-lent like a beast or post.*

A. *want-ed most. But gave his ans-wer with the ring-ing word.*

Vln. *p* *mf*

Pno. *normal*

50

S. *mf* *f*  
 'My liege and la - dy, a wo-man wants the self-same sove-reign-ty o-ver her hus-band, as ov-er her lov - er. And

A. *mf* *f*  
 'My liege and la - dy, a wo-man wants the self-same sove - reign - ty, her hus-band as ov-er her lov - er. And

Vln. *f* *p* *mf*

Pno.

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56 **E**

S. mast - er him, he must not be a - bove her...'

A. mast - er him, he must not be a - bove her...'

Vln. *f* *ff*

Pno. *f*

60

S.

A.

Vln. *tr* *subp*

Pno. *subp*

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64 **F**

S. *mf*  
 In all the court not one shook her head,

A. *mf*  
 or con-tra-dict-

Vln. <sup>(tr)</sup> *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *p*

70 **G**

S.

A. ed what the Knight said.

Vln. **G** *ff*

Pno. *ff*

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75 *f*

S. So they lived to the end, per-fect bliss; and may Christ send us hus-bands young and fresh in

A. So they lived to the end, per-fect bliss; and may Christ send us hus-bands young and fresh in

Vln.

Pno.

79 **H** *p*

S. bed. And grace to ov-ver-bid them when we wed. And Je-su, hear my prayer, cut short the

A. bed. And grace to ov - er - bid, we wed. And Je-su, hear my prayer, cut short the

Vln.

Pno.

*ped. sempre* \* pluck string with fingernail, *la*

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85

S. lives, of those who won't be gov - erned by their wives...

A. lives, of those who won't be gov - erned by their wives...

Vln.

Pno.

The musical score is written in G major and 3/4 time. The vocal parts (S. and A.) are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "lives, of those who won't be gov - erned by their wives...". The violin part (Vln.) is in treble clef and features a repeating eighth-note pattern in the right hand, with a sustained bass line in the left hand. The piano part (Pno.) is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and features a repeating eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a sustained bass line in the left hand. The score is marked with a dynamic of *p* (piano) and includes a fermata over the final note of the vocal lines.