

Address To The Toothache

music by
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TTBB

based on the poem

Address To The Toothache
by
Robert Burns (1759-1796)

Address To The Toothache

Robert Burns (1759-1796)

My curse upon thy venom'd stang,
That shoots my tortur'd gums alang;
And thro' my lugs gies mony a twang,
 Wi' gnawing vengeance;
Tearing my nerves wi' bitter pang,
 Like racking engines!

When fevers burn, or ague freezes,
Rheumatics gnaw, or cholick squeezes;
Our neighbours' sympathy may ease us,
 Wi' pitying moan;
But thee—thou hell o' a' diseases,
 Ay mocks our groan!

Adown my beard the slavers trickle!
I kick the wee stools o'er the mickle,
As round the fire the giglets keckle,
 To see me loup;
While, raving mad, I wish a heckle
 Were in their doup.

O' a' the num'rous human dools,
Ill har'sts, daft bargains, cutty-stools,
Or worthy friends rak'd i' the mools,
 Sad sight to see!
The tricks o' knaves, or fash o' fools,
 Thou bears't the gree.

Where'er that place be priests ca' hell,
Whence a' the tones o' mis'ry yell,
And ranked plagues their numbers tell,
 In dreadfu' raw,
Thou, Toothache, surely bear'st the bell
 Amang them a'!

O thou grim mischief-making chiel,
That gars the notes of discord squeel,
'Till daft mankind aft dance a reel
 In gore a shoe-thick!—
Gie' a' the faes o' Scotland's weal
 A towmond's Toothache.

Address to the Toothache

♩ = 100 *robust*

TENOR 1 *f* My curse up-on thy ven-om'd stang,

TENOR 2 *f* That

BASS 1 *f* My curse up-on thy ven-om'd stang, —

BASS 2

3

T. shoots my tor - tur'd gums a - lang; —

T. That shoots my tor - tur'd gums a - lang;

B. *f* That shoots my tor - tur'd gums a - lang;

B. That shoots my tor - tur'd gums a - lang;

5

T. Wi' gnaw - ing ven-geance; Tear -

T. Wi' gnaw - ing ven-geance; Tear -

B. thro' my lugs gies mo - ny a twang, — Tear -

B. thro' my lugs gies mo - ny a twang, — Tear -

A

7
8

T. *mf*
ing my nerves with bit-ter pang, Like rack-ing en-gines! When fe-vers burn and a-gue free-zes,

T. *mf*
ing my nerves with bit-ter pang, Like rack-ing en-gines! When

B. *mf*
ing my nerves with bit-ter pang, Like rack-ing en-gines! When

B. *mf*
ing my nerves with bit-ter pang, Like rack-ing en-gines! When fe-vers burn and a-gue free-zes,

10
8

T. Rheu - ma - tics gnaw or col - ic squeez-es, _____

T. *mp*
fe - vers burn and a - gue free-zes, _____ Our

B. fe - vers burn and a - gue free-zes, _____ squeez-es,

B. Rheu - ma - tics gnaw or col - ic squeez-es, _____

12
8

T. *p*
Our neigh-bor's sym - pa - thy can ease us, _____

T. neigh-bor's sym - pa - thy can ease us, _____

B. *p*
Our neigh-bor's sym - pa - thy can ease us, _____

B. *p*
Our neigh-bor's sym - pa - thy can ease us, _____

14 **B** *molto rit.*

T. Oh

T. *molto rit.* Wi' pit - ying moan;

B. *molto rit.* Oh But thee-thou hell o' a' dis-eas - es

B. *molto rit.* Oh

Molto Rit.

17

T. Aye mocks our groan. with pained espression: Oooh

T. Aye mocks our groan. with pained espression: Aaah

B. with pained espression: Mmm

B. Aye mocks our groan. with pained espression: Ow A -

* Inhale sharply through teeth

19

T. *mp* While

T. *mp* I throw the wee stools o'er the mick - le,

B. *mp* down my beard the slav - ers trick - le

mp still slowly, mm = 60

21

T. *mp* *high-pitched, childish laughter*

T. round the fire the gig-lets keck-le to see me loup,

B. keck-le, *mp* *wild-eyed* While, rav-ing mad, I wish a heck-le

B. keck-le,

C

25 *poco accelerando, toward m. 33*

T. were in their doup! ill

T. *mf* *poco accelerando, toward m. 33*
were in their doup! In a' the num'-rous hu-man dools

B. *poco accelerando, toward m. 33* *mf*
were in their doup! In a' the num'-rous hu-man dools

B. *poco accelerando, toward m. 33*
were in their doup!

28 *mf*

T. hairsts, daft bar-gains sut-ty stools_ Sad sight to see!

T. Or wor-thy friends rak'di'the mools, Sad sight to see! The

B. Or wor-thy friends rak'di'the mools,_ Sad sight to see! The

B. Or wor-thy friends rak'd i' the mools, Sad sight to see! The

31

T. *f* Thou bear'st me gree! What -

T. tricks o'knaves or flash o' fools, Thou bear'st me gree!

B. tricks o'knaves or flash o' fools, Thou bear'st me gree!

B. tricks o'knaves or flash o' fools, Thou bear'st me gree!

D

33 *A tempo*

T. e'er that place be priests ca' hell

T. *A tempo* *f* That

B. *A tempo* *mf* What e'er that place be priests ca' hell,

B. *A tempo*

35

T.

T. a' the tones o' mis - 'ry yell

B. *mf* Where a' the tones o' mis - 'ry yell, An'

B. *mf* Where a' the tones o' mis - 'ry yell, An'

37

T. In dread - ful raw, Thou,

T. In dread - ful raw, Thou,

B. rank - ed plagues their num - bers tell, Thou,

B. rank - ed plagues their num - bers tell, Thou,

39

T. tooth - ache, sure - ly bear'st the bell A - mang them a! O thou

T. tooth - ache, sure - ly bear'st the bell A - mang them a! O thou

B. tooth - ache sure - ly bear'st the bell A - mang them a!

B. tooth - ache sure - ly bear'st the bell A - mang them a!

41

T. grim, mis - chief mak - ing chiel, That

T. grim, mis - chief mak - ing chiel, That

B. *f* O thou grim, mis - chief - mak - ing chiel,

B. *f* O thou grim, mis - chief - mak - ing chiel,

43

T. gars the notes o' dis - cord squeel, Till

T. gars the notes o' dis - cord squeel,

B. That gars the notes o' dis - cord squeel,

B. That gars the notes o' dis - cord squeel,

45

T. daft man - kind aft dance a reel In gore, a shoe - thick, Gie a'

T. In gore, a shoe - thick,

B. In gore, a shoe - thick, Gie a'

B. daft man - kind aft dance a reel In gore, a shoe - thick, Gie a'

47

T. *rit.* the faes o' Scot - land's weal *marcato* a tow - mond's tooth ache! (wince)

T. *rit.* a tow - mond's tooth ache! (wince)

B. *rit.* a tow - mond's tooth ache! (wince)

B. *rit.* a tow - mond's tooth ache! (wince)