

François Sarhan

Lear Summaries

being a selection of scenes from the original play
by William Shakespeare, the contraction
of this play by Jacques Roubaud, and the
contraction of the contraction of the same.

for four solo voices

introduction

Lear Summaries consists of fragments for voices.

These fragments are either songs, recitatives, events (using stage activity), madrigals. Most of them use textual elements of A King, Lear, by Jacques Roubaud, being a contraction of the King Lear play by Shakespeare. In some cases, fragments from the original are used.

The whole covers the complete plot, more or less, but doesn't tell it in the sense it could be understood by an audience ignoring the original story.

A stage realisation can imply the presence of a narrator explaining the missing elements of the plot.

These fragments also integrate other textual elements, such as slogans, scams and commercial (*Don't give up*).

They are the continuation of previous pieces called *Oh Nuncle*, and *Such is life*. In the case these pieces are to be performed in the same evening, they should be integrated as part of the *Lear Summaries*.

According to Jacques Roubaud's contraction of the play, each character in the score has his own font, colour and size.

Colours

Lear red- then (madness) dark red
Cordelia - pink then red
Gloucester - blue
Edgar - cyan / Edmund : green blue
Goneril : brown / Regan : dark green
Kent black
the fool violet

Summaries grey

corps

Lear : 18
Cordelia : 10
Gloucester : 14
Edgar : 12 Edmund : 11
Goneril / Regan 11
Kent 10
Fool 12

Summaries 16

Fonts

Lear times
Gloucester times
Edgar times - Edmund **chicago**
Cordelia : hoefler text
Goneril, Regan **chicago**
Kent, ... **courier**
Fool, **chalkboard**
summaries : cap

How to perform Lear Summaries :

a) separately.

b) one after the other, in any order, in any number.

c) by type :

- events (no singing, or singing is secondary), to be realised on stage only
- songs or madrigals (classical group music, performable without stage activity)
- recitatives : solos or duets

duration : 30 minutes

Lear Summaries was composed on february-april 2007, was commissioned by **Vara Konserthus**, Sweden, and first realised by **Vox Vocal quartet** in june-july 2007.