

Lumps of Pudding

(The Finale to The Beggar's Opera)

The Beggar's opera - 1728
By John Rich and John Gay

The musical score is written in 6/4 time and consists of six staves. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second staff ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The third staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The fourth staff ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The fifth staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The sixth staff ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The chords are: Am, G, E, Am, Am, Am, G, E, Am, Am, G, E, Am, Am, G, E, Am, Am.

The Beggar's Opera, written and produced by John Gay and John Rich, was the first musical comedy. It opened in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, in 1728, and was said to have made Gay rich and Rich gay. While the lyrics were original, the tunes were taken from traditional music that was well known to most of the audiences.

"Lumps of Pudding" was used as the finale/curtain call. While the original lyrics did not use any four letter words, the original lyrics made it a "dirty song", and the lumps of pudding are not a dessert dish. The Gay and Rich lyrics are clean, but sing the song itself is rather long, I have not included them. The Beggar's opera was a resound success, and G. F. Handel, who at the time was in charge of the Royal Oopera in Covent Garden, complained that he was being killed by lumps of pudding.

Lumps of pudding is in three parts; and each of the second two parts is a variation on the first. It may look very busy at first glance, but there are a lot of phrases that repeat. If you are not familiar with 6/4 time, trying thinking of it as similar to 3/4 or 6/8.