

# Courtship

Another little bit of Brethren: the Opera, sung to the tune “When darkly looms the day” from the Finale Section of Act I of Iolanthe.

The words are by Ian C. McKay, and a full vocal and instrumental score, and a MIDI file, can be downloaded from <http://www.discourses.org.uk>

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Young Brother to young Sister, *sotto voce*, in  
hallway of meeting room:

Oh let it not be known  
We chatted on our own  
Without a chaperone,  
Or we'll be done!

Priest (eavesdropping):

I think I heard him own  
He has a mobile phone  
That rings a worldly tone,  
And just for fun!

Chorus *sotto voce*:

We think we heard him own  
He's very, very prone  
To things we can't condone,  
And just for fun!

Young Sister:

If you want to keep things right,  
Then for tomorrow night  
I'll get you an invite  
Back to our home.

Priest:

I heard her say she might  
Arrange to meet by night  
When moonlight's not too bright  
And go and roam!

Young Brother:

I think it would be nice  
To ask the Priest's advice;  
I've told him once or twice  
We'd like to meet.

Priest: He said it would be nice

To try a bit of vice;  
He's done it once or twice,  
And in the street!

Young Sister:

The priest's a prude: he'll rant  
And tell us that we can't  
And then, of course, we shan't  
Or we'll get hell!

[ominous, deep gong sound below stage]

Priest:

She says I screwed her Aunt!  
Oh God, forgiveness grant!  
I was so sure she can't  
Or would not tell!

[gong]

How could she tell him so?  
However did she know?  
Her Aunt would never go  
And tell her this!

[gong]

Chorus, *forte*, pointing at the Priest:

Oh, horror, shame and woe!  
Oh Agent of the Foe!  
[vibrato]  
Oh, tremble as you go,  
To the Abyss!

[gong]

Priest: But this promiscuous fling  
Was actually a sting;  
A cunning plan to bring  
My foes to light!

Chorus:

All right, we understand,  
It was an ambush planned  
To make them show their hand  
So that's all right.

Priest: I think you will agree

It was the way to see  
Who is my enemy  
And who my friend!

Chorus:

Of course we all agree,  
You're pure as pure can be!  
We're glad that we can see  
A happy end!  
A happy end!