

“Fast Car” – vocal score in braille music with annotations

Below is a print version of what would be raised braille dots for a reader who is blind to use. Each braille “cell” is made up of a pattern of dots in a two across, three down, pattern, like an egg box for half a dozen eggs. A brailist usually reads the raised dots with both index fingers, reading from left to right as in print. The print braille dots here are larger than real ones, which are a set size, a bit like print in a specific font.

In vocal scores, lines of the lyrics alternate with lines of the music, as in print. Usually a brailist reads either the lyric lines or the music lines, needing to memorise at least one line for performance. A very few brailists are able to read both lines at the same time. The layout in this print version is not quite the same as the copy for a brailist.

Fast Car
 Music by Jonathan Dove
 Lyrics by Alasdair Middleton

With excitement. Crotchet = 152. 4 4

Treble clef, 3 bars' rest, barline, minim rest, crotchet rest, quaver rest, bar continuation sign,

Today I want a

(bar 4 continued) fourth octave, C quaver, barline, accent, G semibreve, tie, barline, G minim, tied to G quaver, G quaver, E quaver, C quaver,

red car



(Bar 23) accent, fifth octave C minim, accent, fourth octave, G minim, barline, minim rest, crotchet rest, quaver rest, bar continuation sign,



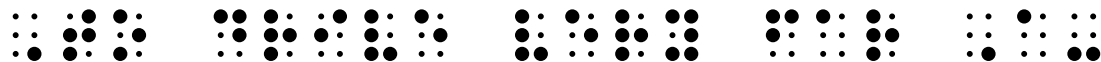
A fast red car



(Bar 24 continued) fourth octave G quaver, barline, accent, flat B crotchet, accent, C crotchet, accent, fourth octave G minim, barline, minim rest, crotchet rest, bar continuation sign,



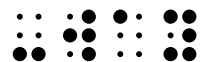
To drive very far A-



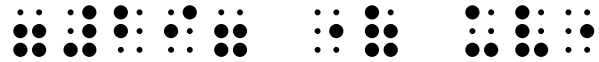
(Bar 26 continued) fourth octave G crotchet, barline, flat B semibreve, tied, barline, B crotchet, flat B quaver, B quaver, B dotted crotchet, A quaver, barline,



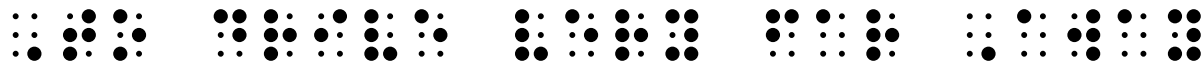
-way



(bar 29) fourth octave G semibreve, barline, minim rest, crotchet rest, bar continuation sign,



To drive very far Away



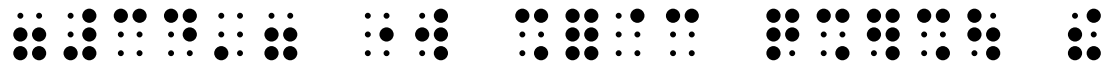
(bar 30 continued) fourth octave G crotchet, barline, flat B semibreve, tie, barline, B crotchet, flat B quaver, B quaver, B crotchet, C crotchet, barline, D semibreve, tied, barline, D dotted minim, bar continuation sign,



Maybe To the sea



(bar 34 continued) fourth octave B crotchet, barline, sharp F semibreve, tie, barline, F minim, sharp F crotchet, sharp G crotchet, barline, A semibreve, barline,



Or a distant city



(bar 38) fourth octave A crotchet, sharp F crotchet, sharp G crotchet, A crotchet, barline, B crotchet, sharp C dotted minim, tie, barline, C dotted minim, bar continuation sign,



Where nobody knows me



(bar 40 continued) sharp fifth octave C crotchet, barline, B crotchet, B quaver, A quaver, B crotchet, sharp F crotchet, barline, minim rest, bar continuation sign,



And I don't understand



(bar 42 continued) third octave B crotchet, sharp C crotchet, barline, D minim, D crotchet, E crotchet, barline, sharp F minim, bar continuation,



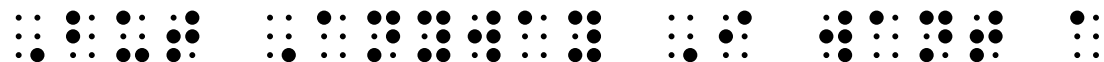
what they say –



(bar 44 continued) sharp fourth octave G crotchet, A crotchet, barline, B semibreve, tie, barline, B dotted minim, crotchet rest, barline, minim rest, crotchet rest, quaver rest, bar continuation sign,



But Anyway I want a



(bar 47 continued) fourth octave G quaver, barline, accent, fifth octave E quaver, C quaver, fourth octave G quaver, quaver rest, quaver rest, G quaver, E quaver, C quaver, barline,



red car



(bar 49) accent, fifth octave C minim, accent, fourth octave G minim, barline, minim rest, crotchet rest, quaver rest, bar continuation sign,



A fast red car



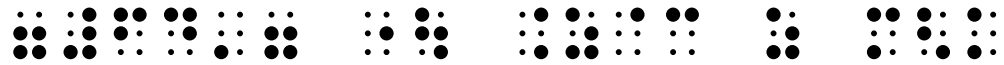
(bar 50 continued) fourth octave G quaver, barline, accent, flat B minim, accent, C crotchet, accent, fourth octave G minim, barline, minim rest, crotchet rest, bar continuation sign,




And stay.



(bar 64 continued) fourth octave G crotchet, barline, fifth octave D semibreve, tie, barline, D semibreve, barline, bar rest, double bar line.



Questions about braille

1. Find the braille for “(bar 10 continued)”. There are six cells of braille here, in the music line. Each end are brackets. The dot on its one, the fifth cell, means “continued”. So that leaves three cells for “10”. Compare these three cells  with the letters in “Jonathan” in the second line of the title. What do you notice? Can you work out how numbers are shown in braille?
2. Only a few letters in the text have two dots in the lowest row of a cell, dots 3 and 6. Can you find two? What are the letters you have found?
3. In the music braille, find the signs for rests at the end of the first line of music which begins with the treble clef. Do you notice a pattern here that links to your answer to question two above?
4. Find bar 9. Say the words “fast red car” loudly, separating each word clearly. Each word starts with an accent, a special push, giving the impression of power. In the music there is a special sign to remind the singer to make these words strong. How is this shown in braille music? Find another bar where there is the same accent: what bar number is that?
5. Starting in bar 61 you have a very long note to sing. How many crotchet beats do you keep singing “stay” for?

Musical points

1. Singing after rests is always tricky. You have to know exactly when to come in. In this song sometimes you start singing a phrase on the fourth beat of the bar, with a crotchet, sometimes you come in after the fourth beat, with a quaver. What note values are used for the phrase beginnings in a. bar four, b. bar eight, c. bar ten and d. in bar fourteen?
2. The words “But Anyway I want a red car” in bars 47 to 49 sound a bit impatient. How does the composer do this? (Think about the rhythm and the tune.)
3. The phrase “And I don’t understand what they say” (bars 42 to 46) has a tune that is different to the rest of the piece. What kind of pattern is this tune?

4. The song is about a fast car. How fast does the piece go?
5. Several phrases have the same tune. Find one phrase that is repeated, stating the bar number it starts in each time.