

for David Vance  
**THE PIPER'S PROMISE**  
an opera for young performers

**Andrew Ford (1987)**  
libretto by Sue Rowley & Jim Falk

**ACT I**

**Rats!**

House lights dim slowly over 60 seconds.

60 sec

(♩=c.60) freely-piercingly

f

tam-tam

ff

con sord.

v.1

v.2

v.3

vle.

vc.

c.b.

TAPE

A



\* string tremolandi should begin slow and become as fast as possible. (use tips of bows)

Action! The Demonstration begins.

3 The crowd is boisterous but not violent -  
there is almost a carnival atmosphere.  
(Much shouting ad lib.)

[illegible]



**E**  
 \* Chorus sets up series of chants, non synchronous, using given pitches

CHORUS: *Our jobs!*

Fl.12. *bp*

Cl.1

Cl.2

Tp.1

Tp.2 *f*

Perc.

v.1

v.2

v.3

vle.

vc.

c.b. [*sempre pizz.*] *f*

CHORUS: *Our jobs and our futures!*

Fl.12.

Cl.1.2.

Tp.12.

Perc.

v.1.2.3.

vle.

vc.

c.b.



4.

Chorus' chanting gradually dies away at Trumpet fanfare.

Jack, apart from crowd, addresses audience.

Crowd assembles around platform to hear speaker.

rall.  $\text{♩} = 108$

JACK:

1. Not from here are you?  
2. Now we're li-ving with fear,

rall.  $\text{♩} = 90$

Solo

Solo

solo

solo

solo/arco

**F**

**F**

**F**



I've ne-ver seen your face. But to-day our num-bers are so great And you're  
 A dark-ness shrouds our way. And Some-time soon, next week or year They'll tell

wel- come to this place.  
 us we've had our day.

We ne-ver thought it would hap- pen We thought our jobs would last Our—



Jack

Chorus

lives stretch out a-head of us But our jobs are in the past. They'll say, "Go collect your pay"

tp.1

con sord. [Harmon] 2nd time only

f

ff

pp

Duet

mp

mf

f

v1

v2

vla

vlc

c.b.

arco

f

H

Jack

Chorus

"There's no point for you to stay." Then there'll on-ly be the dole And how will we find our way? Semi-chorus How will we find our

tp.1

senza sord.

Bva.

Duet

Perc.

T. Bells

p

mp

v1

v2

vla

vlc

c.b.

f

ff



**Main Chorus**  
 We ne-ver thought it would hap-pen We thought our jobs would last Our—lives stretch out a—head of us

**Semi-chorus**  
 way? How will we find our way?

**Tpt.1**

**Duet**  
*staccatissimo*  
*f*

**Perc.**  
*f* to tam-tam

**v.1**  
*mf*

**v.2**  
*mf*

**vla.**  
*pizz. mf*

**vlc.**  
*pizz. mf*

**c.b.**  
*pizz. mf*

**Main Chorus**  
 But our jobs are in the past. How will we find our way? How will we find our

**Semi Chorus**  
 How will we find our way? How will we find our way? How will we find our way?

**Tpt.1**

**Duet**

**v.1**  
*arco*

**v.2**  
*arco*

**vla.**  
*arco*

**vlc.**  
*arco*

**c.b.**  
*arco*



8.

Chorus freezes once more. Lights dim.

**K**

way?

stacc.

fl. 1 sempre ff stacc.

fl. 2 sempre ff stacc.

cl. 1 stacc.

cl. 2 stacc.

perc. tam-tam.

**K**

v. 1

v. 2

v. 3

vle.

vc.

c.b.

**TUTTI**

**20 sec**

**TAPE**

**K**

**V.O.** Far from Hamlyn Town,  
In this industrial city,  
In place of the Weser deep and wide  
There's a bright blue ocean on the eastern side.  
Still a pleasanter spot you never spied.  
But when begins this ditty  
The industry is running low  
And to see the townsfolk suffer so  
After a life of work with nothing to show  
It is a pity.

Progress!  
It's taking the jobs and destroying lives  
Dividing husbands, children, wives  
Taking the food from the plates,  
Where people worked, it's closing the gates,  
Changing the future from bright to black  
Each worker waiting for the sack.

At last the people in a body  
To the company office have come flocking  
"You managers need a rocking  
And as for the company - it's shocking.  
We face the sack while you are earnings  
It's our future that you determine -  
To get rid of us as though we're vermin!"