

# The Roman Woman's Lament

*From the opera, Boudicca*

*For Mezzo-Soprano and Piano*

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Tom Armitage

# The Roman Woman's Lament:

“Too well, too well I've learnt to understand.”

By Tom Armitage

For Mezzo-soprano and Piano

The Roman Woman's aria from the opera, *Boudicca*, with a libretto by Tama Matheson

**Duration:** c. 3'40

# Too Well, Too Well I've learnt to Understand

From Scene 4 of 'Boudicca'

Tom Armitage

2022

Slow; Contemplative (♩=90)

Libretto by Tama Matheson

Roman Woman

Too well, too well I've learnt to un-der-stand With

Piano

R.W.

what a bit-ter gall you must have scanned The out-rage of your

Pno.

R.W.

daugh-ters; and then how That fierce re-venge has vent-ed on us now!

Pno.

13 *f* *mp*

R.W. For I was, till you came, a moth-er too

Pno. *p*

17 *f*

R.W. Un-til your wrath my moth-er's of-fice slew.

Pno. *f*

(♩=100)

21 *rit.* *mp* *p cresc.* **Poco più mosso**

R.W. For my sweet daugh-ter was un-done by you. My on-ly

Pno. *p* *pp*

(♩=100)

24

R.W. *mf*

daugh - ter, small, and young, and dear, Whom I watched

Pno. *cresc.* *mf*

29

R.W. *mf*

grow - ing joy - ous year by year, In whose bright face was

Pno. *mf*

35

R.W. *mf*

all of my de - light, And with - out whom the day is

Pno. *mf*

40 *f* **rall.** *p*

R.W. turned to night; Now all is night, and

Pno. *f* **rall.** *p*

45 *mp* *freely* **Tempo primo**

R.W. wick-ed dark-ness glowers, While mur-der scythes the rem-nant cringing

Pno. *pp* *p* **Tempo primo**

51 *pp* *cresc.* *mp* *mf* *f* **accel.**

R.W. hours! My child is dead! Then lis-ten! Lis-ten well! And

Pno. **accel.**

58 (♩=120) *mf*

R.W.

let a moth-er's words your feel-ings swell: My child for your two daugh-ters' shame, has

Pno.

64 = *f*

R.W.

died! Then cease your dread-ful war; be sat-is-fied!

Pno.

70

R.W.

If not, you sink in blood; your spi-rit's

Pno.

76

R.W. tossed On mur - der's wave, and

Pno.

**BOUDICCA:**

79

B. How dare you say such things to me!

R.W. all your hon - our lost!

Pno.