

Why Can't The English?

Cue: HIGGINS: A woman who utters such depressing and disgusting sounds has no right to be anywhere—no right to live. Remember that you are a human being with a soul and the divine gift of articulate speech: that your native language is the language of Shakespeare and Milton and the Bible, and don't sit there crooning like a bilious pigeon.

Allegro

ELIZA: Aoooooowww!

(Fl., Bsn. *colla voce*)
HIGGINS:

Look at her, a pris-'ner of the

Piano

p (Bsn.)

p (Strs. pizz.)

(No Bs.)

gut - ters; (Ob., Cl. I, Hp.) Con - demned by ev - 'ry syl - la - ble she

ut - ters. (Ob., Cl. I, Hp.) By right she should be tak - en out and (Ob.)

(W.W.) (Bsn.)

(Spoken)
For the cold-blooded murder of the English tongue!

LIZA: A-o-o-o-w!

HIGGINS: Aooooow! Heavens, what a noise.

hung

(W.W., Str.) (Fl., Ob., Cl.)

(+ Hns.)

(+ Bs., Bsn., Cello) (Bsn.) (+Bs.)

16 Poco meno mosso

This is what the Brit-ish pop-u - la-tion calls an el- e - men-t'ry ed- u -

(Str., Hp.)
(+ Ob.)
(+ Cl.)

PICKERING: Come, sir, I think you picked a poor example.

HIGGINS: Did I?

ca - tion.

(Fl.)
(Cl.)
(Str., Fl., Cls.)
(Bsn.)
(Tutti)

28 Vivo

Hear them down in So - ho Square, drop - ping aitch - es ev - 'ry - where,

(Str.)
(Cello, Bsn.)

Speak - ing Eng - lish an - y way they like.

(Fl., Ob.)

36 (To Cockney)

COCKNEY:

You, sir, did you go to school? What - ya tike me

(Fl. Ob.)

HIGGINS:

fer, a fool? No one taught him "take" in - stead of

(Fl., Ob. trill)

44

"tike." Hear a York - shire - man, or worse,

(Str.)

(Br.)

(Cello, Bsn.)

Hear a Cor - nish - man con - verse. I'd ra - ther hear a

Meno mosso

choir_sing - ing flat! Chick - ens cack - ling

(Fl., Cl.)

(+ Hns.)

(w.w.)

HIGGINS:
Garn! I ask you, sir, what
ELIZA: sort of word is that?

in a barn, Just like this one, Garn! It's

(Str. pizz.)

56

"Aooow" and "Garn" that keep her in her place,

(Str., Hp.)
p colla voce

(Bsn.)

Not her wretch - ed clothes and dirt - y face.

f (Tutti)

64

Listesso tempo

Why can't the Eng - lish teach their chil - dren how to

(W.W.)

mf
(Bsn., Str. pizz.)

speak? This verb - al class dis - tinc - tion by

(+ Bs. Dr.)

now should be an - tique. If you spoke as

(72)

(Wood Block)

she does, sir, in - stead of the way you do, Why,

(Wood block)

(Str. arco)

PICKERING: I beg your pardon!

HIGGINS:

you might be sell-ing flow-ers too. An
(Ob.)

(Cl., Bsn.) *p*

80 Eng-lish-man's way of speak-ing ab-so-lute-ly class-i-
(Cello & bassa)

(Str.)

fies him. The mo-moment he talks he makes some oth-er Eng-lish-man de-
(Bsn. & bassa)

88 spise him. One com-mon lan-guage I'm a-fraid we'll nev-er
(+w.w.) (w.w.)

(Cl., Bsn.) *sf*
(Str. pizz.)

gut. Oh, why can't the Eng - lish learn to

(Str. arco) (Ob., Bsn.) (Str., W.W.)

96 Listesso tempo

set a good ex - am - ple to peo - ple whose Eng - lish is

(Str.) *leggiero* (Va.) (Cello)

(+ W.W.) (Fl., Cl., Vln.)

pain - ful to your ears? The Scotch and the I - rish

(Br. cup) (+ Bsn.) (Bsn., Cello, Bs.)

107

leave you close to tears. There e - ven are

(W.W.) (Hn.) (+ Trbn. cup) (Str.)

plac - es where Eng - lish com - plete - ly dis - ap -

(Spoken): In America, they haven't used it for years!

pears.

(+Bsn.)

(Tutti)
f

117

Why can't the Eng - lish teach their chil - dren how to

mf (Brass)
(W. W.)

(Str. pizz.)

speak? Nor - we - gians learn Nor - we - gian; the Greeks are taught their

125

Greek. In France ev - 'ry French-man knows his lan - guage from "A" to

(Spoken): The French never care what they do, actually, as long as they pronounce it properly.

"Zed" A -

mf (Bsn.)

131

ra - bi - ans learn A - ra - bian with the speed of sum - mer

(Ob., Cello)

p (Str.)

light - ning; The He - brews learn it back - wards, which is

(+ Bsn.)

139

ab - so - lute - ly fright - 'ning. But use prop - er Eng - lish, you're re -

(W.W.)

sf (Cl.) *p* (Str. pizz.)

143

gard - ed as a freak. Why can't the Eng - lish

(Wood Block) (Tutti) *mf* (Br. open)

147

Why can't the Eng - lish

ff (Bsn., Trbn., Cello, Bs.) *p* (W.W., Str.)

learn to speak?

leggiero (+ Br.) *cresc.* *sf* (Dialogue)