## The Legend of Evil Text by Rudyard Kipling

Music by Coleman Rowlett (2015)



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The Legend of Evil by Rudyard Kipling

This is the sorrowful story Told when the twilight fails And the monkeys walk together Holding their neighbours' tails: --

"Our fathers lived in the forest, Foolish people were they, They went down to the cornland To teach the farmers to play.

"Our fathers frisked in the millet, Our fathers skipped in the wheat, Our fathers hung from the branches, Our fathers danced in the street.

"Then came the terrible farmers, Nothing of play they knew, Only. . . they caught our fathers And set them to labour too! OML

"Set them to work in the cornland With ploughs and sickles and flails, Put them in mud-walled prisons And -- cut off their beautiful tails!

"Now, we can watch our fathers, Sullen and bowed and old, Stooping over the millet, Sharing the silly mould,

FOR

"Driving a foolish furrow, Mending a muddy yoke, Sleeping in mud-walled prisons, Steeping their food in smoke.

"We may not speak to our fathers,
For if the farmers knew
They would come up to the forest
And set us to labour too."

This is the horrible story
Told as the twilight fails
And the monkeys walk together
Holding their kinsmen's tails.

## The Legend of Evil

For Baritone Voice with Piano Accompaniment

Duration: 5'06"

## About the Piece:

The Legend of Evil (2015) is a piece for baritone voice and piano. The lyrics come from the poem of the same name by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936). While being based in tonality, the piece explores harmonies and color tones outside of the standard tonal structure, enhancing the ominous mood of the poem.

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+ Using the given pitches, create an atmosphere underneath the voice. Sparse gestures are suggested. Pitches may be played in any octave. Pedal should be compressed throughout. Arrow denotes end of gesture.

