



**He was a rat**

**Havergal Brian  
(1876-1972)**

**Havergal Brian** [born William Brian] (1876-1972) was born in Dresden, a district of Stoke-on-Trent. He taught himself the rudiments of music and became organist of Odd Rode Church in Cheshire. He was good friends with composer Granville Bantock. He was a prolific composer with thirty two symphonies, writing into his nineties. He adopted the name "Havergal" from a local family of hymn-writers.

He was a rat,  
And she was a rat,  
And down in one hole they did dwell;  
And both were as black as a witch's cat,  
And they loved one another well.

He had a tail,  
And she had a tail,  
Both long and curling and fine;  
And each said, "Yours is the finest  
tail in the world, excepting mine!"

He smelt the cheese,  
And she smelt the cheese,  
And they both pronounced it good;  
And both remarked it would greatly add  
To the charms of their daily food.

So he ventured out,  
And she ventured out,  
And I saw them go with pain;  
But what befell them I never can tell,  
For they never came back again.

Anon.

# He was a rat

Havergal Brian

Quickly and lightly

S *f* He was a rat, And she was a rat, And down in one hole they did  
*pp*

A *f* He was a rat, And she was a rat, And down in one hole they did  
*pp*

T *f* He was a rat, And she was a rat, And down in one hole they did  
*pp*

B *f* He was a rat, And she was a rat, And down in one hole they did  
*pp*

S <sup>4</sup> dwell; \_\_\_\_\_ And both were as black as a witch - 's cat, And they

A dwell; \_\_\_\_\_ And both were as black as a witch - 's cat, And they

T dwell; \_\_\_\_\_ And both were as black as a witch - 's cat, And they

B dwell; \_\_\_\_\_ And both were as black as a witch - 's cat, And they

# He was a rat

7

S loved one an - oth - er well. He had a

A loved one an - oth - er well. He had a

T loved one an - oth - er well. He had a

B loved one an - oth - er well. He had a tail,

10

S tail, And she had a tail,

A tail, And she had a tail,

T tail, And she had a tail,

B tail, And she had a tail, Both

13

S Both long and curl - ing and fine; and each said,

A Both long and curl - ing and fine; and each said,

T Both long and curl - ing and fine; and each said,

B long and curl - ing and fine; and each said,

# He was a rat

Vivace

17

S "Yours is the fin - est tail in the world, ex - cept - ing mine!"

A "Yours is the fin - est tail in the world, ex - cept - ing mine!"

T "Yours is the fin - est tail in the world, ex - cept - ing mine!"

B "Yours is the fin - est tail in the world, ex - cept - ing mine!"

Quickly and lightly

21

S He smelt the cheese, And she smelt the cheese, And

A He smelt the cheese, And she smelt the cheese, And

T He smelt the cheese, And she smelt the cheese, And

B He smelt the cheese, And she smelt the cheese, And

23

S they both pro - nounced it good; And both re - marked it would

A they both pro - nounced it good; And both re - marked it would

T they both pro - nounced it good; And both re - marked it would

B they both pro - nounced it good; And both re - marked it would

# He was a rat

26

S great - ly add To the charms of their dai - ly food.

A great - ly add To the charms of their dai - ly food.

T great - ly add To the charms of their dai - ly food.

B great - ly add To the charms of their dai - ly food. *f* So

29

S So he ven - tured out, *f* *pp* And

A So he ven - tured out, *f* *pp* And

T So he ven - tured out, *f* *pp* And

B So he ven - tured out, *f* *pp* And

he ven - tured out, \_\_\_\_\_ And she ven-tured out, \_\_\_\_\_

32

**Lento**

S she ven - tured out, And I saw them go with pain;  $\frac{2}{4}$

A she ven - tured out, And I saw them go with pain;  $\frac{2}{4}$

T she ven - tured out, And I saw them go with pain;  $\frac{2}{4}$

B \_\_\_\_\_ And I saw them go with pain;  $\frac{2}{4}$

# He was a rat

**Vivace** **Slower**

35 *mf* But what be - fell them I nev - er can tell, For they nev -

A *mf* But what be - fell them I nev - er can tell, For they nev -

T *mf* But what be - fell them I nev - er can tell, For they nev -

B *mf* But what be - fell them I nev - er can tell, For they nev -

38 *p* - - er, nev - - - er

A *p* - - er, nev - - - er

T *p* - - er, nev - - - er

B *p* - - er, nev - - - er

43 *p* came back a - gain.

A *p* came back a - gain.

T *p* came back a - gain.

B *f* came back a - gain.

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