

## Scene Four

*Scene: The time is the same evening: the scene the same as in Scene I. Now, however, there is a long crude table upstage laden with food.*

*(Several women are at the table languidly keeping the flies away with fans made of paper-streamers tacked to broomhandles. There are people in knots of twos and threes pantomiming intense gossiping at the curtain's rise. The Elders' wives are once more downstage right, the Elders standing at stage left. There is a frail attempt at conviviality on the part of the young people who are oppressed by the hushed and foreboding atmosphere of the church ground.)*

**Largo con moto** (♩ = 68) *cant.*

*p misterioso*

*8ve below throughout* *simile*

**Mrs. McLEAN** (*Smug and gloating*)

**Mrs. McLean**

**35 Più mosso** (♩ = 76)

**Mrs. McLean**

ain't sur-prised. I ain't a bit sur-prised. It's jest as I was say-in' last night. 'Cept she was

*sempre p*

Start

**Mrs. HAYES**

**Mrs. Hayes**

You was right-er than right, that's cer-tain. 'Twas a

**Mrs. McLean**

caught a-fore I'd a-thought. It jes' goes to prove I was right.

*mp*

*poco a poco più mosso a* (37)

Mrs. Hayes  
scand-a-lous thing to do. She's a wick-ed girl an' a threat to the val-ley. I'll

Mrs. Hayes  
bound she's e-vil through an' through.

Mrs. Ott  
She shore cain't tend to my young-uns no more. She ain't

Mrs. Ott  
fit-tin' fer the job. An-y girl what-ll' do what she done, Well, it's a

Mrs. Gleaton  
She al-ways seemed such a sweet girl an' pleas-in' to have a-round. It's a

Mrs. Ott  
sad thing to think u-pon

*mp* *poco a poco crescendo*

Mrs. Gleaton  
hard,hard thing to re-a-lize how nak-ed she was found.

Mrs. McLEAN (*Sharply*)  
That's the loak of the dev-il, that is, that

*mf* *sempre crescendo*

Mrs. McLean  
sweet-ness an'pret-ty face. Don't let that fool you,sis-ter'n. It's just the dev-il's way.

1st man  
FIRST MAN  
Ain't the

*f*

(The scene shifts to the Elders while the wives continue to pantomime their talking. Several men from the crowd have gathered around them.)

(37) Allegro moderato (♩ = 92)

Hayes  
McLEAN  
The

1st man  
He's a-pray-in' an' a-fast-in'. Preachin's starts to-night.

2nd man  
SECOND MAN  
What's he say'bout the Polk gal?

*mp* *mf*

*loco*