

# Maria

# No. 4

(SISTER BERTHE, SISTER SOPHIA,  
SISTER MARGARETTA, MOTHER ABBESS, NUNS)

CUE:

**SISTER SOPHIA:** I love her very dearly.  
But she always seems to be in trouble, doesn't she?  
**SISTER BERTHE:** Exactly what I say!

**Presto** **3** **(SISTER BERTHE:)**  
*parlando **5***

She climbs a tree and

**7** *sung*

scrapes her knee, Her dress has got a tear.

**SISTER SOPHIA: 13**

She waltzes on her way to Mass And

**SISTER BERTHE:**

whistles on the stair. And

**21**

underneath her wimple she has curls

**SISTER SOPHIA: 29**

in her hair— I've e - ven heard her

*(SISTER BERTHE moves to the MOTHER ABBESS.)*

sing - ing in the Ab - bey!

**SISTER BERTHE: 37** **SISTER SOPHIA:**

She's al - ways late for chap - el— But her

**SISTER BERTHE: 45**

pen - i - tence is real. She's al - ways

late for ev - 'ry - thing Ex - cept for ev - 'ry

**53**

meal. I hate to have to say it

**SISTER BERTHE, SISTER SOPHIA:**

But I ver - y firm - ly feel Ma -

61

ri - a's not an as - set to the

**SISTER MARGARETTA:**

65

Ab - bey. I'd

**MOTHER ABBESS:**  
Then say it, Sister  
Margaretta.

**SISTER MARGARETTA:**

69 **Moderato**

like to say a word in her be-half: Ma-

**(SISTER MARGARETTA:)** **Tempo giusto** **(MOTHER ABBESS and NUNS look at SISTER BERTHE, then look front.)**

71

ri - a... makes me... laugh!

**SISTER SOPHIA:**

74

How do you solve a prob - lem like Ma - ri - a?

**MOTHER ABBESS:**

76

How do you catch a cloud and pin it down?

**SISTER MARGARETTA:** **SISTER BERTHE:**  
*(raising both hands)*

78 A

How do you find a word that means Ma - ri - a?

**SISTER SOPHIA:** **SISTER MARGARETTA:**  
*(raising both hands)*

80 A clown!

fib-ber - ti - gib-bet! A will - o' - the - wisp!

**MOTHER ABBESS:**

82 her,

Man - y a thing you know you'd like to tell

**SISTER MARGARETTA:**

84 But

Man - y a thing she ought to un - der - stand,

86 And lis - ten to all you say?

how do you make her stay

**MOTHER ABBESS:** **SISTER MARGARETTA:**

88 Oh,

How do you keep a wave up - on the sand?

90 Ma - ri - a?

how do you solve a prob - lem like

**MOTHER ABBESS:**  
(raising both hands)

92

How do you hold a moon - beam in your

(NUNS begin entering, intrigued by the conversation they have happened upon.)

**SISTER MARGARETTA:**

94

hand? \_\_\_\_\_ When I'm

*mosso*

96

with her I'm con - fused, Out of fo - cus and be -

99

mused, And I nev - er know ex - act - ly where I

**(SISTER MARGARETTA:)**

102

am. \_\_\_\_\_

104

**SISTER BERTHE:**

Un - pre - dict - a - ble as weath - er, She's as

106 *(to SISTER BERTHE)*

She's a dar - ling!

**SISTER BERTHE:**  
*(to SISTER MARGARETTA)*

flight - y as a feath - er— She's a

**SISTER MARGARETTA:**  
*(to SISTER BERTHE)*

109

de - mon! She's a lamb! She'll out

**SISTER SOPHIA:**

112

pes - ter an - y pest, Drive a hor - net from his

**SISTER BERTHE:**

115

nest, She could throw a whirl - ing der - vish out of

**SISTER MARGARETTA:**  
*(raising both hands)*

118

whirl. She is gen - tle, She is

120

**SISTER SOPHIA:**  
*(raising both hands)*

121

wild, She's a rid - dle, She's a child. She's a

**SISTER BERTHE:**  
*(raising both hands)*

**SISTER MARGARETTA:**  
(dropping her hands)

**MOTHER ABBESS:**

124 head - ache! She's an an - gel - She's a

**Tempo giusto** (looking front, on count of 8, all clasp hands at chest, looking up in prayer)

126 girl...

**128 ALL NUNS:**

How do you solve a prob - lem like Ma - ri - a?

130 How do you catch a cloud and pin it down?

**GROUP 1:**

132 How do you find a word that means Ma - ri - a? A

**GROUP 2:** **GROUP 3:**

134 flib - ber - ti - gib - bet! A will - o' - the - wisp! A clown!


**136 ALL:**

Man - y a thing you know you'd like to tell her,

**MOTHER  
ABBESS,  
GROUP 1:**


138   
Man-y a thing she ought to un - der - stand, But

**SISTER  
SOPHIA,  
GROUP 2:**

140   
how do you make her stay And lis - ten to all you say?

**SISTER  
MARGARETTA,  
GROUP 3:**

**ALL:**

142   
How do you keep a wave up - on the sand? Oh,

144   
how do you solve a prob - lem like Ma - ri - a?

**Meno mosso**

*p* *dolce*  
146   
How do you hold a moon-beam in your

**Poco Meno**

148   
hand?