

# Jens Vejmand



Danish words, 1905: Jeppe Aakjær (Danish; 1866-1930)  
 Translation: Rockne H. Johnson (American; 1930- )

Vejmand Rasmussen Klemmensen,  
 Hadbjerg, ca. 1900.

Music, 1907: Carl August Nielsen (Danish; 1865-1931)

Tempo Giusto,  
 cantabile

Melody

Piano

*mf*

1. Who sits be - hind the shel - ter, with rags a - round his hand, \_\_\_ With  
 if you wake in mor - ning at ve - ry first of dawn \_\_\_ To  
 when you ride to town with the far - mer's hus - ky span, \_\_\_ And  
 when you jour - ney home - ward In show - ers and in blast, \_\_\_ The  
 smooth'd he for all oth - ers that dif - fi - cult road - way, \_\_\_ But  
 stands with - in the church - yard a weath - er'd, rot - ten board; \_\_\_ That

5

leath - er for the eye - patch and 'round his shoe a band? \_\_\_ That  
 hear the ham - mer clang - ing a - gain, a - gain, a - gain, \_\_\_ That  
 come a - cross an old man whose eye in wa - ter stands -- That  
 e - v'ning star now shi - v'ring of cold in the south - west, \_\_\_ If  
 when it came t'ward yule - tide, then said the strong arm, "Nay." \_\_\_ That  
 to the side is slan - ted and with its pain - ting blurr'd. \_\_\_ That

*f*

10

(8)

is in - deed Jens Vej - mand, who's there of his sore need, Who must change with his  
 is in - deed Jens Vej - mand, up - on his an - cient bones, Who hews fe - ro - cious  
 is in - deed Jens Vej - mand, with straw on leg and knee, Who would de - spair of  
 ham - mer blows yet ring out be - hind the wa - gon near, That is in - deed Jens  
 was in - deed Jens Vej - mand, his ham - mer lost its fight. They bore him o'er the  
 is in - deed Jens Vej - mand's, his life was fill'd with stone, But on his grave, ne -

15

(8)

ham - mer the hard stone in - to bread. 2. And  
 sparks out from mor - ning - damp - en'd stones. 3. And  
 find - ing a - gainst the frost a lee. 4. And  
 Vej - mand who still is sit - ting there. 5. So  
 heath on a cold De - cem - ber night. 6. There  
 glec - ted, they ne - ver gave him 6. one.