

UNSUNG WOMEN PART ONE - The Spinning House

INTRO / POLYPHONIC BREAK:

- B: Elizabeth Howe, Jane Elsdon, Daisy Hopkins - tear it down!
T: Disorderly girls - mistreated ones - unfortunates - tear it down!
A: It cost fifteen hundred pounds a year -
to keep the women living in fear/ for the Spinning House - tear it down!
S: Rise Up Rise up! Rebel Rebel! Resist Resist! and tear it down!

VERSE 1 (call and response: B and A = call, T and S = response)

The spinning house built on hate and neglect
Cold and wretched - a filthy place
A prison for men to control and correct
Any girl who dared to show her face
Weak tea for supper and sleeping on straw
No fire to warm them or natural light
Cold water and bricks to scrub the floor
The women were shaking with anger and fright

POLYPHONIC BREAK: (modulating up) x 1

(nb Alto only sings the second half of their pattern here: 'It cost £1500 a year, for the Spinning House, tear it down')

VERSE 2 (call and response: B and A = call, T and S = response)

Proctor and Bulldog they swore to protect
The scholars and Dons and the men of the Gown
For no reason the women and girls they'd arrest
Just for shopping or travelling to Town
Patrolling the streets, ignoring the law
Bulldog and Proctor they went on the prowl
Abusing their power strong arming the poor
And seized any woman by FAIR MEANS OR FOUL
(modulating back down)

CODA (all)

RISE UP RISE UP DISORDERLY GIRLS! REBEL REBEL MISTREATED ONES!
RESIST RESIST UNFORTUNATES! & TEAR DOWN THE SPINNING HOUSE! *X3
(Sops sing Rise Up Rise Up! Rebel Rebel! Resist Resist over *)

SEGUE from THE SPINNING HOUSE in PART TWO - GIRTON PIONEERS:

(all x 1 in unison)

Tear down the spinning house - break through the ceiling of glass

POLYPHONIC BREAK:

B&T: Tear down the spinning house - break through the ceiling of glass

A&S: History - will be ashamed of this - will be ashamed of this

VERSE 1:

B: Spinning towards EQUALITY / REVOLUTION on her bike (she was)
(x 4 alternating words)

S: Get you to Girton - get you to Newnham, Beatrice - Pioneers

T&A: Newnham - Girton - Pioneers

Anne Jemima Clough - and Emily Davies -

They couldn't access the library -

They couldn't work in the laboratory -

and they couldn't receive their degrees -

B&S: (they couldn't receive their degrees)

T&A: as there was no equality... (B & S: no equality)

VERSE 2:

T: Spinning towards EQUALITY / REVOLUTION on her bike! (she was)

B/A/S: 1897, the Senate put it to the vote -

Men came from far and wide - and called us

harpies, Suffragettes, lunatics and beggars

They strung us up and they shouted us down,

ALL: Yet through our defeat, we sang 'we work in hope'

OUTRO: *(modulating to A major)*

T/A/S: (Pioneers) Girton, Newnham, Pioneers.

B: Some talk of Senior Wranglers, and some of Double Firsts
And truly of their species, these are not the worst
But of all the Cambridge heroes, there's none - can compare
With Woodhead, Cook and Lumsden, the Girton Pioneers!

CODA (all x 1 in unison)

Tear down the spinning house - break through the ceiling of glass!