

The Matter Song—Lyrics for MECHANICALS, A Midsummer Night’s Dream (AMND)

Sing only one verse for auditions. Choose the verse that’s easiest for you to sing. Stop at the solid line.

Lyrics in italics are specially written for AMND. These will differ from the “Singing sample” posted online.

Verse 1 (Sung by Singer #1)

My eyes are fully open to our awful situation

We shall take our play to Theseus and make him an oration.

If we happen to offend him, in his heightened moral senses

We shall suffer most e-gre-gi-ous and dire consequences.

(Now) I do not want to perish by the sword or by the dagger, *(“Now” may be omitted to allow for a breath)*

But a martyr may indulge a little pardonable swagger,

And a word of two of compliment my vanity would flatter,

But we’ve got to die tomorrow, so it really doesn’t matter! *(Audition ends here)*

(Singer #3) So it really doesn’t matter, matter, matter, matter, matter

(Singer #2) So it really doesn’t matter, matter, matter, matter, matter

(Singer #3) So it really doesn’t matter.

(Singer #2) So it really doesn’t matter.

So it really doesn’t matter.

(Singer #3) So it really doesn’t matter.

(ALL) So it really doesn’t matter, matter, matter, matter, matter, matter, matter,

Verse 2:

If I were not a little mad and generally silly

I should give you my advice upon the subject, willy-nilly;

(I should) show you in a moment how to grapple with the question, *(“I should” may be replaced with “I’d” to allow a breath)*

And you’d really be astonished at the force of my suggestion.

On the subject I shall write you a most valuable letter,

Full of excellent suggestions when I feel a little better,

(But) at present I’m afraid I am as mad as any hatter, *(“But” may be omitted to allow for a breath)*

So I’ll keep ‘em to myself, for my opinion doesn’t matter! *(Audition ends here)*

(Singer #3) Her opinion doesn’t matter, matter, matter, matter, matter.

(Singer #1) Her opinion doesn’t matter, matter, matter, matter, matter.

(Singer #3) Her opinion doesn’t matter.

(Singer #1) Her opinion doesn’t matter.

My opinion doesn’t matter.

(Singer #3) Her opinion doesn’t matter.

My opinion doesn’t matter, matter, matter, matter, matter, matter....

Verse 3:

If I had been so lucky as to have a steady brother

Who could talk to me, as we are talking now to one another—

Who could give me good advice when he discovered I was erring

(Which is just the very favour which on you I am conferring),

My existence would have made a rather interesting idyll,

And I might have lived and died a very decent indiwiddle.

This particularly rapid, unintelligible patter

Isn’t generally heard, and if it is, it doesn’t matter! *(Audition ends here)*

(Singer #1) If it is, it doesn’t matter, matter, matter, matter, matter.

(Singer #2) If it is, it doesn’t matter, matter, matter, matter, matter.

(Singer #1) If it is, it doesn’t matter.

(Singer #2) If it is, it doesn’t matter.

(ALL) This particularly rapid, unintelligible patter isn’t generally heard, and if it is, it doesn’t matter!

This particularly rapid, unintelligible patter isn’t generally heard, and if it is, it doesn’t matter!