Have You Ever Seen a House Fly?

Have you ever seen a housefly?
Have you ever seen a house fly
  with its gables as wings,
  back porch as a tail,
  like a glider that clings
  to a windy gale?
Have you ever in your life seen a house fly?
  Neither have I!

Have you ever seen a horsefly?
Have you ever seen a horse fly,
  running circles in space,
  its mane in the breeze
  in a high derby race
  over roofs and trees?
Have you ever in your life seen a horse fly?
  Neither have I!

Have you ever seen a fire-breathing dragonfly
  with a trail of smoke in the sunny sky?
Have you ever seen a creamy butterfly
  as it lights and it melts on a slice of shoo-fly pie?
  Have you ever seen a house fly?
    (Shoo, fly! Don't bother me!)
  Have you ever seen a horse fly?
    (Shoo, fly! Don't bother me!)
  Have you ever seen a shoe fly?
    (Shoo, fly! Don't bother me!)
  Fly away! Don't bother me!

Have you ever seen a fruit fly?
Have you ever seen a fruit fly;
  shooting star fruit that zoom
  through dark of the night,
  a banana half-moon
  in its orbit flight?
Have you ever in your life seen a fruit fly?
  Neither have I!

  If I ever see a house, ever see a horse,
  ever see a fruit in the sky, of course,
  I'll say: "Shoo, fly! Don't bother me!
  Never, ever bother me!"

-Lawrence E. Schultz & Ryan Lawrence Schultz
**Have You Ever Seen a House Fly?**

*Performance Suggestion*

Visually enhance the text's play on words and provide a fun performance option with "flies" flying above the singers.

**Preparation:**
Create four placards with pictures of various "flies" mentioned in the piece, and attach them to long dowel rods.

- **Placard 1 (double-sided)**
  - Side 1: a medium-sized housefly
  - Side 2: a house

- **Placard 2 (double-sided)**
  - Side 1: a large horsefly
  - Side 2: a horse

- **Placard 3 (single-sided): a shoe**
  (A real shoe attached to a rod would also do the trick.)

- **Placard 4 (double-sided)**
  - Side 1: a small fruit fly
  - Side 2: a cluster of bananas, and star fruit

**Choreography:**
The four placard "flies" are maneuvered by persons hidden behind the choir. At the appropriate time, each "fly" appears over one end of the choir, moves over the heads of the singers and eventually disappears when it reaches the opposite end of the choir.

- **Placard 1, Side 1** (housefly) appears at M. 2, and begins to "fly" above the choir. On beat 2 of M. 4, it is spun around to reveal **Side 2** (house) as it continues to move over the choir. It disappears when it reaches the opposite end of the choir at M. 10.

- **Placard 2, Side 1** (horsefly) appears on the repeated M. 2. It is spun around on beat 2 of M. 4, revealing **Side 2** (horse). It continues to move over the choir, disappearing at M. 10.

- **Placard 3** (shoe) appears at M. 22 and flies over the choir in a more "active" manner, disappearing at M. 26.

- **Placard 4, Side 1** (fruit fly) appears at M. 28, is spun around on beat 2 of M. 30, revealing **Side 2** (fruit), and disappears at M. 36.

At Ms. 38-39, on the words: "house," "horse," and "fruit," the corresponding placards (Side 2) pop up and all remain in mid-air above the choir until M. 40 when all three suddenly disappear as the "shoe" (Placard 3 or real shoe) pops up. The "shoe fly" dances above the choir and immediately disappears on the last piano note of the final measure.
Have You Ever Seen a House Fly?
(quoting "Shoo, Fly! Don't Bother Me!")

Lawrence E. Schultz
Ryan Lawrence Schultz

Playfully \( \frac{q}{84} \) m\( \text{f} \) animated

Have you ever seen a house-fly? Have you ever seen a horse-fly?

Playfully \( \frac{q}{84} \) m\( \text{f} \)

Have you ever seen a house fly, with its

deliberately

ever seen a horse-fly?

ever seen a house fly, running

gables as wings, back porch as a tail,

circles in space, its mane in the breeze, in a

*Part II (lower part) is optional.

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Have you
seen a house fly?
*Nei-ther have
pronounced: ni-ther

Have you
seen a horse fly?

Neither have
Have you ever seen a fire-breathing dragon fly

in a serious tone, legato

Have you ever seen a fire-breathing dragon fly

legato

with a trail of smoke in the sunny sky?

Have you ever seen a creamy butterfly

Have you ever seen a fire-breathing dragon fly

Have you ever seen a creamy butterfly