



hotu opt has the benshee cried!

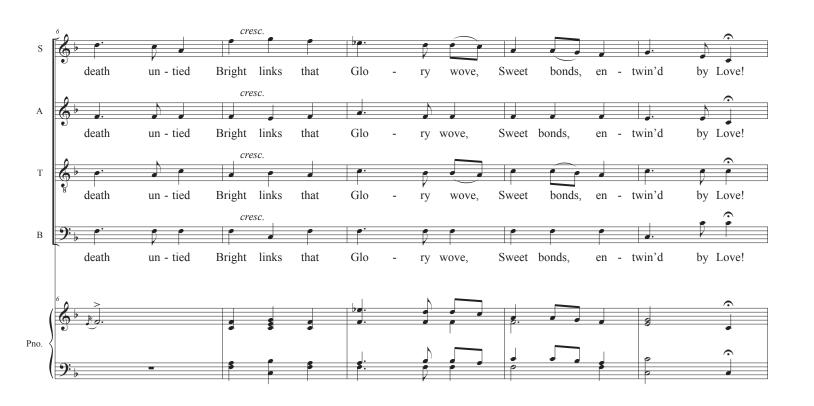
THE DIRGE

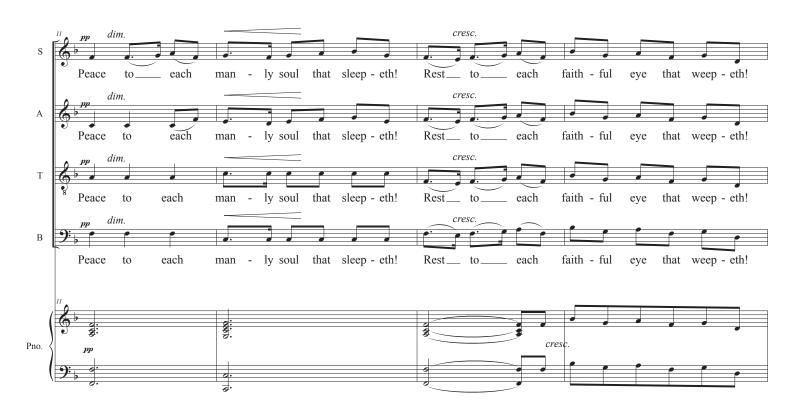
AIR: THE DEAR BLACK MAID

míchael zuíllíam Balpe (1808-1870)





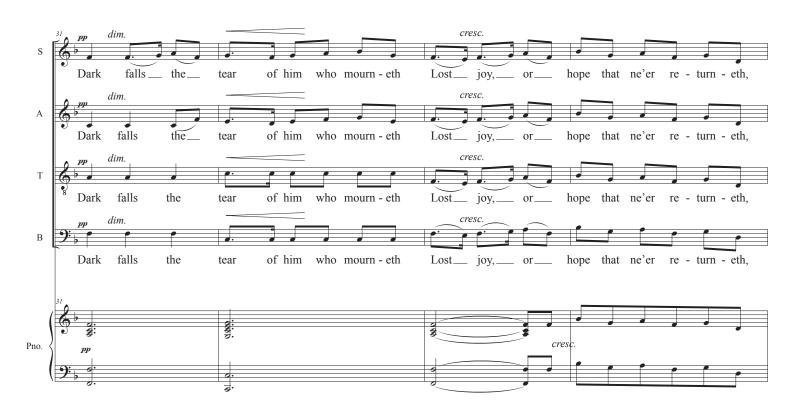








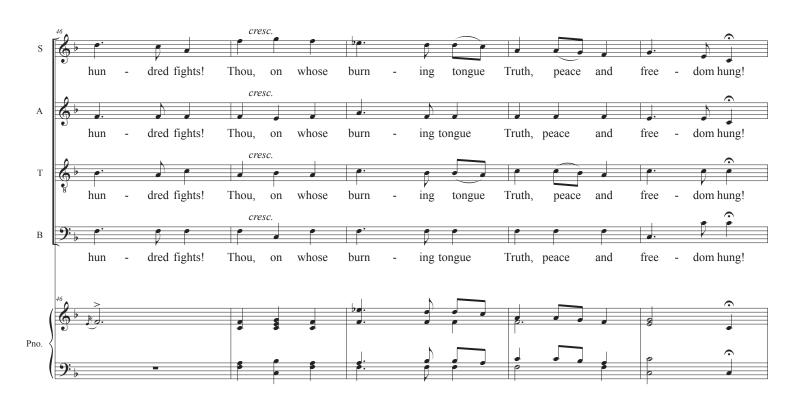




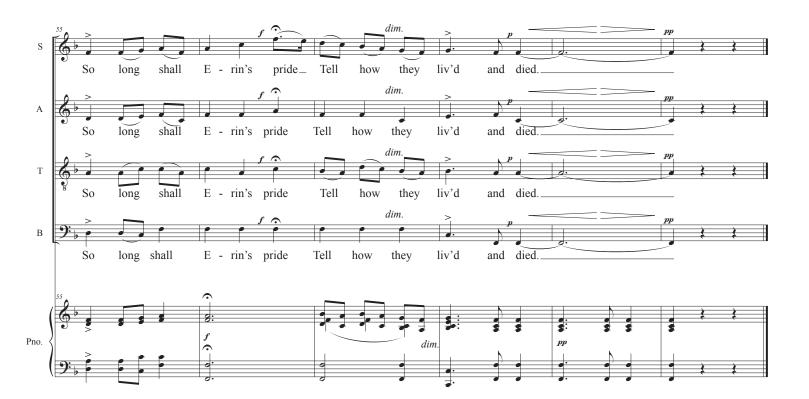




how opt has the Benshee cried!







J. Alfred Novello (1859)

Michael William Balfe (1808-1870) was born in Dublin, Ireland, and studied music in Ireland and London. At age 16, he became violinist in the Drury Lane orchestra and was celebrated as a singer throughout the region. His patron, Count Mazzara, took him to Italy, where he studied composition in Rome and Milan. His first dramatic piece was produced in Milan in1826. He sang at the Paris Italian Opera and in Italian theaters until 1835, also producing several Italian operas, and sang in New York City in 1834. He returned to England and was a successful composer of English operas, at times residing in Paris and Vienna. He retired in 1864 and died in Rowney Abbey, Hertfordshire. His compositions include a number of operas, cantatas, glees, and part-songs.

How oft has the Benshee cried! How oft has death untied Bright links that Glory wove, Sweet bonds, entwin'd by Love! Peace to each manly soul that sleepeth! Rest to each faithful eye that weepeth! Long may the fair and brave Sigh o'er the hero's grave.

We're fallen upon gloomy days [1], Star after star decays, Every bright name, that shed Light o'er the land, is fled. Dark falls the tear of him who mourneth Lost joy, or hope that ne'er returneth, But brightly flows the tear, Wept o'er a hero's bier!

Oh! quench'd are our beacon lights—Thou, of the hundred fights [2]!
Thou, on whose burning tongue [3]
Truth, peace and freedom hung!
Both mute—but long as valour shineth,
Or mercy's soul at war repineth,
So long shall Erin's pride
Tell how they liv'd and died.

Thomas Moore (1779–1852)

- 1. I have endeavoured here, without losing that Irish character, which it is ray object to preserve throughout this work, to allude to the sad and ominous fatality, by which England has been deprived of so many great and good men, at a moment when she most requires all the aids of talent and integrity.
- 2. This designation, which has been applied to LORD NELSON before, is the title given to a celebrated Irish Hero, in a Poem by O'Gnive, the bard of O'Niel, which is quoted in the "Philosophical Survey of the South of Ireland." Page 433. "Con, of the hundred fights, sleep in thy grass-grown tomb, and upbraid not our defeats with thy victories!"
- 3. Fox, "ultimus Romanorum."

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