



SONGS OF THE NEW YEAR

NO. 1

BOAT-SONG

Frederic H. Cowen
(1852-1935)

Sir Frederic Hymen Cowen (1852-1935) was born Hymen Frederick Cohen in Kingston, Jamaica. His father became treasurer to “Her Majesty’s Opera” and the family moved to England when Frederic was age four. At age six, his composition *Minna-waltz* was published and, at age eight, an operetta, *Garibaldi*. His first public piano recital was when he was eleven. In 1865, he won the Mendelssohn Scholarship at the Leipzig Conservatorium. However, he did not accept the award and attended the institution as an independent student, since his parents unwilling to give up control of him, as required by the prize. After returning to England, he became successful as a composer. His *Symphony No. 3 in C minor* (1880) became the most regularly and widely performed British symphony until Elgar’s First. From 1888-1892 he was conductor of Philharmonic Society of London after the resignation of Sir Arthur Sullivan (reappointed in 1899). In 1896, Cowen was appointed conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society and of the Hallé Orchestra. He also conducted the Bradford Festival Choral Society, the Bradford Permanent Orchestra, and the Scottish Orchestra (Royal Scottish National Orchestra). Cowen received honorary doctorates from Cambridge and Edinburgh, and was knighted in 1911.

Row, row, gently row,
On the water’s silvery flow!
Timing all your bending oars,
As ye pass the smiling shores!

One by one new beauties rise,
Charming all your hearts and eyes,
Flowerets fair and stately trees,
Trembling ’neath the summer breeze!

Row, gently row, row, gently row,
As the silvery waters flow,
Breathing music soft and low!
Row, gently row, row, row.

Row, row, gently row,
Blithely singing as ye go;
Echoes all repeat your song,
As ye urge the boat along!

Water-lilies, white and gold,
Blossom that ye may behold!
Rippling wavelets rise and fall,
Sweetly harmonizing all!

Row, gently row, row, gently row,
As the silvery waters flow,
Breathing music soft and low!
Row, gently row, row, row.

Edward Oxenford (1550-1604)
[Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford]

Boat song

F. H. Cowen

Andantino $\text{♩} = 40$

S *p* Row, — row, — gent - ly row, On — the wa - ter's sil - v'ry flow!

A *p* Row, — row, — gent - ly row, On the wa - ter's sil - v'ry flow!

T *p* Row, — row, — gent - ly row, On the wa - ter's sil - v'ry flow!

B *p* Row, — row, — gent - ly row, — On the wa - ter's sil - v'ry flow! —

5 S *p* Tim - ing all your bend - ing oars, As — ye pass the smil - ing shores!

A *p* Tim - ing all your bend - ing oars, As ye pass the smil - ing shores!

T *p* Tim - ing all your bend - ing oars, As ye pass — the smil - ing shores!

B *p* Tim - ing all your bend - ing oars, — As ye pass the smil - ing shores! —

9 S *poco cresc.* One by one new beau - ties rise, *dim.* Charm - ing all your hearts and eyes,

A *poco cresc.* One by one new beau - ties rise, *dim.* Charm - ing all your hearts and eyes,

T *poco cresc.* One by one — new beau - ties rise, *dim.* Charm - ing all — your hearts and eyes,

B *poco cresc.* One by one new beau - ties rise, — *dim.* Charm - ing all your hearts and eyes, —

13 *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*

S Flow - 'rets fair and state - ly trees, Trem - bling 'neath the sum - mer

A Flow - 'rets fair, state - ly trees, Trem - bling 'neath the sum - mer

T Flow - 'rets fair, state - ly trees, Trem - bling 'neath the sum - mer

B Flow - 'rets fair, state - ly trees, Trem - bling'neath the

17 *p* *dim.* *cresc.*

S breeze! Row, gent - ly row, row, gent - ly row, As the

A breeze! Row, gent - ly row, row, gent - ly row, As the

T breeze! Row, gent - ly row, gent - ly row, As the

B breeze! Row, gent - ly row, row, gent - ly row, As the

22 *dim.* *p*

S sil - v'ry wa - ters flow, Breath - ing mu - sic soft and low!

A sil - v'ry wa - ters flow, Breath - ing mu - sic soft and low!

T sil - v'ry wa - ters flow, Breath - ing mu - sic soft and low!

B sil - v'ry wa - ters flow, Breath - ing mu - sic soft and low! *pp* Gent - ly

27

S *pp* Row, _____ gent - ly row, _____ *poco rall. al fine*

A *pp* Gent - ly row, _____ gent - ly row, _____ *poco rall. al fine*

T *pp* Gent - ly row, _____ gent - ly row, _____ *poco rall. al fine*

B row, _____ gent - - - ly row, _____ *pp*

31

S *pp* row, _____ *mf* Row, _____ row, _____ gent - ly row, _____

A *pp* row, _____ *mf* Row, _____ row, _____ gent - ly row, _____

T *pp* row, _____ *mf* Row, _____ row, _____ gent - ly row, _____

B gent - ly row, _____ *mf* Row, _____ row, _____ gent - ly row, _____

35

S Blithe - ly sing - ing as ye go; E - choes all re - peat your song,

A Blithe - ly sing - ing as ye go; E - choes all re - peat your song,

T Blithe - ly sing - ing as ye go; E - choes all re - peat your song,

B Blithe - ly sing - ing as ye go; E - choes all re - peat your song,

39 *poco cresc.*

S As ye urge the boat a - long! Wa - ter - li - lies, white and gold,

A As ye urge the boat a - long! Wa - ter - li - lies, white and gold,

T 8 As ye urge the boat a - long! Wa - ter - li - lies, white and gold,

B As ye urge the boat a - long! Wa - ter - li - lies, white and gold,

43 *dim.* *cresc.*

S Blossom that ye may be - hold! Rip - pling wave - lets rise and fall,

A Blossom that ye may be - hold! Rip - pling wave - lets rise and fall,

T 8 Blossom that ye may be - hold! Rip - pling wave - lets rise and

B Blossom that ye may be - hold! Rip - pling wave - lets rise and fall,

47 *mf* *dim.* *p*

S Sweet - ly har - mo - ni - zing all! Row, gent - ly

A Sweet - ly har - mo - ni - zing all! Row, gent - ly

T 8 fall, Sweet - ly har - mo - ni - zing all! Row, gent - ly

B — har - mo - ni - zing all! Row, gent - ly

51

S row, row, gent - ly row, As the sil - v'ry wa - ters

A row, row, gent - ly row, As the sil - v'ry wa - ters

T row, gent - ly row, As sil - v'ry wa - ters

B row, row, gent - ly row, As the sil - v'ry wa - ters

dim. *cresc.* *dim.* *cresc.* *dim.* *cresc.* *dim.* *cresc.*

55

S flow, Breath - ing mu - sic soft and low!

A flow, Breath - ing mu - sic soft and low!

T flow, Breath - ing mu - sic soft and low!

B flow, Breath - ing mu - sic soft and low! Gent - ly

dim. *p* *dim.* *p* *dim.* *p* *dim.* *p* *pp*

59

S Row, gent - ly row, row, row.

A Gent - ly row, gent - ly row, row, row.

T Gent - ly row, gent - ly row, row, row.

B row, gent - ly row, gent - ly row.

pp *poco rall. al fine* *pp* *pp* *poco rall. al fine* *pp* *pp* *poco rall. al fine* *pp* *pp* *poco rall. al fine* *pp*

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