



# An old song re-sung

Henry Balfour Gardiner  
(1877-1950)

# An old song re-sung

H. Balfour Gardiner

Allegro non troppo ♩. = 116

S *mf* I saw a ship a-sail - ing, a - sail - ing, a-sail - ing, With em - er-alds and ru - bies and

A

T *mf* A - sail - ing, a-sail - ing, a -

B

S <sup>4</sup> sapphires in her hold; And a bo - sun in a blue coat bawl - ing at the rail - ing,

A *f* A-sail - ing, a - sail - ing, a-sail -

T sail - ing,

B *f* And a bo - sun in a blue coat bawl - ing at the rail - ing,

S <sup>7</sup> Pi - ping through a sil-ver call that had a chain of gold;

A ing. *p* The sum-mer wind was fail-ing, and the

T *p* ah

B Pi - ping through a sil-ver call that had a chain of gold;

10

S *p* A - sail - ing, a - sail - ing, a - sail -

A tall ship rolled.

T *p* A -

B ah

14

S *rit.* ing. *p a tempo* I saw a ship a-steer - ing, a -

A *rit.* *p a tempo* I saw a ship a-steer - ing, a -

T *rit.* sail - ing, a-sail - ing, a - sail - ing. *p a tempo* I saw a ship a-steer - ing, a -

B *rit.* *p a tempo* ah I saw a ship a-steer - ing, a -

18

S steer - ing, a - steer - ing, With ro - ses in red thread worked up - on her sails; With *cresc.*

A steer - ing, a - steer - ing, With ro - ses in red thread worked up - on her sails; With *cresc.*

T steer - ing, a - steer - ing, With ro - ses in red thread worked up - on her sails; With *cresc.*

B steer - ing, a - steer - ing, With ro - ses in red thread worked up - on her sails; With *cresc.*

## An old song re-sung

21

S sacks of pur - ple am - e - thysts, the spoils of buc - can - eer - ing, Skins of musk - y yel - low wine, and

A sacks of pur - ple am - e - thysts, the spoils of buc - can - eer - ing, Skins of musk - y yel - low wine, and

T sacks of pur - ple am - e - thysts, the spoils of buc - can - eer - ing, Skins of musk - y yel - low wine, and

B sacks of pur - ple am - e - thysts, the spoils of buc - can - eer - ing, Skins of musk - y yel - low wine, and

24

S silks in bales. Her mer - ry men were cheer - ing, haul - ing on the

A silks in bales. Her mer - ry men were cheer - ing, haul - ing on the

T silks in bales. Her mer - ry men were cheer - ing, haul - ing on the

B silks in bales. Her mer - ry men were cheer - ing, haul - ing on the

28

S brails. A - steer - ing, a - steer - ing, a - steer - ing,

A brails. ah

T brails. brails. ah A - steer - ing, a - steer - ing, a -

B brails. ah

32

S a - steer - ing. *rit. dim.* *a tempo*

A *rit. dim.* ah ah *a tempo*

T steer - ing, a - steer - ing. *rit. dim.* *a tempo*

B *rit. dim.* *pp a tempo* I

36

S *pp poco laegamente cresc.* ah ah

A *poco laegamente mf* With

T *poco laegamente mf* With

B *poco laegamente cresc.* saw a ship a - sink - ing, a - sink - ing, a - sink - ing, a -

39

S *cresc. f* ah ah With sea - men in her spi - rit - room

A *cresc. f* glit - ter - ing sea - wa - er splash - ing on her decks, With sea - men sing - ing

T *cresc. f* glit - ter - ing sea - wa - er splash - ing on her decks, With sea - men sing - ing

B *f* sink - ing, a - sink - ing, a - sink - ing, With sea - men in her spi - rit - room

An old song re-sung

42

S sing - ing songs and drink - ing, Pull - ing clar - et bot - tles down, and knock - ing off their necks, — The

A songs — and drink - ing, Pull - ing clar - et bot - tles down, and knock - ing off their necks, — The

T songs — and drink - ing, Pull - ing clar - et bot - tles down, and knock - ing off their necks, — The

B sing - ing and drink - ing, Pull - ing clar - et bot - tles down, and knock - ing off their necks, — The

45

S bro - ken glass — was clink - ing — as — she sank — a - mong — the wrecks. —

A bro - ken glass — was clink - ing — as — she sank — a - mong — the wrecks. — A -

T bro - ken glass — was clink - ing — as — she sank — a - mong — the wrecks.

B bro - ken glass — was clink - ing — as — she sank.

*dim.* *rit.* *dim.* *dim.* *rit.* *dim.* *dim.* *dim.*

*meno mosso*

49

S

A sink - ing, a - sink - ing, a - sink - ing.

T ah

B Bass 1 ah

B Bass 2 ah

A - sink - ing, a - sink - ing, a - sink - ing.

(a cry of despair)

53

S

A

T

B

B2

ah

ah

ah

ah

ah

ing,

sink - - - ing.

ah

ah

ing,

sink - - - ing.

ah

ah

(close lips)

(close lips)

\* If, in small choirs, this should prove ineffective, it may be omitted, and only the Bass part sung.

Novello's Part-Song Book No. 1387  
(1920)

**Henry Balfour Gardiner** (1877-1950) was born in London. He began learning piano at age five and was composing music by age nine. He attended the Charterhouse School and New College, Oxford. He was a piano student at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt am Main and studied conducting at Sondershausen. Gardiner collected folk songs in Hampshire (1905-1906) and taught music briefly at Winchester College (1907). He had dreams of being a concert pianist but is mostly known as a composer. His works included compositions in a variety of genres, including two symphonies. Many of his scores are lost and only a very limited amount of his music survives. As a conductor, he promoted contemporary British and colonial composers; particularly Bax, Holst, Grainger, Quilter, and Scott. He financed these concerts himself and was generous with his personal fortune; he paid for a private benefit performance of *The Planets* for Gustav Holst in 1918 and purchased Frederick Delius's house at Grez-sur-Loing to enable him to continue living in it at the end of his life. He gave up composing in 1925: in part, from self-criticism and the belief that he could not flourish as a composer in the post-war culture. He was the great-uncle of the conductor Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

I saw a ship a-sailing, a-sailing, a-sailing,  
With emeralds and rubies and sapphires in her hold;  
And a bosun in a blue coat bawling at the railing,  
Piping through a silver call that had a chain of gold;  
The summer wind was failing and the tall ship rolled.

I saw a ship a-steering, a-steering, a-steering,  
With roses in red thread worked upon her sails;  
With sacks of purple amethysts, the spoils of buccaneering,  
Skins of musky yellow wine, and silks in bales.  
Her merry men were cheering, hauling on the brails.

I saw a ship a-sinking, a-sinking, a-sinking,  
With glittering sea-water splashing on her decks,  
With seamen in her spirit-room singing songs and drinking,  
Pulling claret bottles down, and knocking off their necks,  
The broken glass was clinking as she sank among the wrecks.

John Edward Masefield (1878-1967)  
Poet Laureate of the UK from 1930-1967

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