

**Oh! 'Tis Merry  
When the Moonbeams**

**W. F. Heath  
(1843-1914)**

**Wilbur Fisk Heath** (1843-1914) was born at Corinth, Vermont. As a child, he entertained friends by playing his flute, usually improvising waltzes, marches, etc. When he was twelve, the family moved to a farm near Libertyville, Illinois. At the outbreak of the Civil war, he enlisted in the 146th Illinois Volunteer Infantry as leader of the regimental band. He composed much of the music played by the band, and was chosen to lead the funeral procession of the martyred Lincoln at Springfield, Illinois, with the band playing one of his compositions. After the war, he devoted his career to teaching music in the public schools. He studied at the New England Conservancy of Music, and was a member of the National Peace Jubilee Chorus. He taught in Iowa City and Marengo, Iowa, and became superintendent of music in the public schools of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He promoted music teachers' associations and was on the board of examiners of the American College of Musicians. Aside from his successful music teaching career, he also invented and patented several mechanical devices, and became a successful business man. He was elected municipal judge in 1912. He died in Danville, Illinois. As a composer, he was best known for many songs and choruses written for educational use.

*Oh! 'tis merry when the moonbeams  
O'er the sparkling waters play,  
And a thousand stars are flashing  
From the billows' foaming spray.*

Oh! 'tis sweet to hear the murmurs  
Stealing gently from the shores,  
When the melody is mingling  
With the music of the oars;  
O'er the billows sounding far,  
Hark! the gondolier's guitar;  
Fairer sky has never shone  
With thy beams, thou placid moon!

I could fancy, in the ripple,  
That I see the Naiads play,  
While the siren mermaid cheers me  
With the magic of her lay.  
There is music in the sighing  
Of the night-wind's dying fall,  
As it meets the rippling waters,  
That is dearer far than all.

O'er the billows' roaming far...  
Come, then, with thy sweet guitar;  
Fairer night has never shone,  
Speed thy bark, then gaily on!  
Oh! 'tis merry when the moonbeams  
O'er the sparkling waters play;  
And a thousand stars are flashing  
From the billows' foaming spray.

Charles Jefferys (1807-1865)

# Oh! 'Tis Merry When the Moonbeams

W. F. Heath

S Oh! 'tis mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry, Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

A Oh! 'tis mer - ry, Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

T Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

B Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

S<sup>4</sup> moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

A moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

T moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

B moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

## Oh! 'Tis Merry When the Moonbeams

8

S flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

A flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

T flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

B flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

## Optional Solo

S Oh! 'tis sweet to hear the mur - murs Steal - ing gen - tly from the shores, When the

A

T

B

15 **Tutti**

S mel - o - dy is min - gling With the mu - sic of the oars; O'er the

A O'er the

T O'er the

B O'er the

# Oh! 'Tis Merry When the Moonbeams

19

S bil - lows sound - ing far, Hark! the gon - do - lier's gui - tar; Fair - er

A bil - lows sound - ing far, Hark! the gon - do - lier's gui - tar; Fair - er

T bil - lows sound - ing far, Hark! the gon - do - lier's gui - tar; Fair - er

B bil - lows sound - ing far, Hark! the gon - do - lier's gui - tar; Fair - er

23

S sky has nev - er shone With thy beams, thou plac - id moon!

A sky has nev - er shone With thy beams, thou plac - id moon!

T sky has nev - er shone With thy beams, thou plac - id moon!

B sky has nev - er shone With thy beams, thou plac - id moon!

S Oh! 'tis mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry, Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

A Oh! 'tis mer - ry, Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

T Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

B Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

## Oh! 'Tis Merry When the Moonbeams

30

S moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

A moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

T moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

B moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

34

S flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

A flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

T flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

B flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

## Optional Solo

37

S I could fan - cy, in the rip - ple, That I see the Nai - ads play, While the

A

T

B

# Oh! 'Tis Merry When the Moonbeams

42 **Tutti**

S si - ren mer - maid cheers me With the mag - ic of her lay. There is

A There is

T There is

B There is

46

S mu - sic in the sigh - ing Of the night - wind's dy - ing fall, As it

A mu - sic in the sigh - ing Of the night - wind's dy - ing fall, As it

T mu - sic in the sigh - ing Of the night - wind's dy - ing fall, As it

B mu - sic in the sigh - ing Of the night - wind's dy - ing fall, As it

50

S meets the rip - pling wa - ters, That is dear - er \_\_\_ far than \_\_\_ all.

A meets the rip - pling wa - ters, That is dear - er far than all.

T meets the rip - pling wa - ters, That is dear - er \_\_\_ far than \_\_\_ all.

B meets the rip - pling wa - ters, That is dear - er far than all.

## Oh! 'Tis Merry When the Moonbeams

54

S Oh! 'tis mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry, Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

A Oh! 'tis mer - ry, Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

T Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

B Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

58

S moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

A moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

T moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

B moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

62

S flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

A flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

T flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

B flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.



# Oh! 'Tis Merry When the Moonbeams

## Optional Solo

65

S O'er the bil - lows' roam - ing far... — Come, then, with thy sweet gui - tar; Fair - er

A

T

B

70

S night has nev - er shone, — Speed thy bark, then gai - ly on! Oh! 'tis

A Oh! 'tis

T Oh! 'tis

B Oh! 'tis

**Tutti**

74

S mer - ry when the moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play; And a

A mer - ry when the moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play; And a

T mer - ry when the moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play; And a

B mer - ry when the moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play; And a

## Oh! 'Tis Merry When the Moonbeams

78

S thou - sand stars are flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

A thou - sand stars are flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

T 8 thou - sand stars are flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

B thou - sand stars are flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

82

S Oh! 'tis mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry, Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

A Oh! 'tis mer - ry, Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

T 8 Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

B Oh! 'tis mer - ry when the

86

S moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

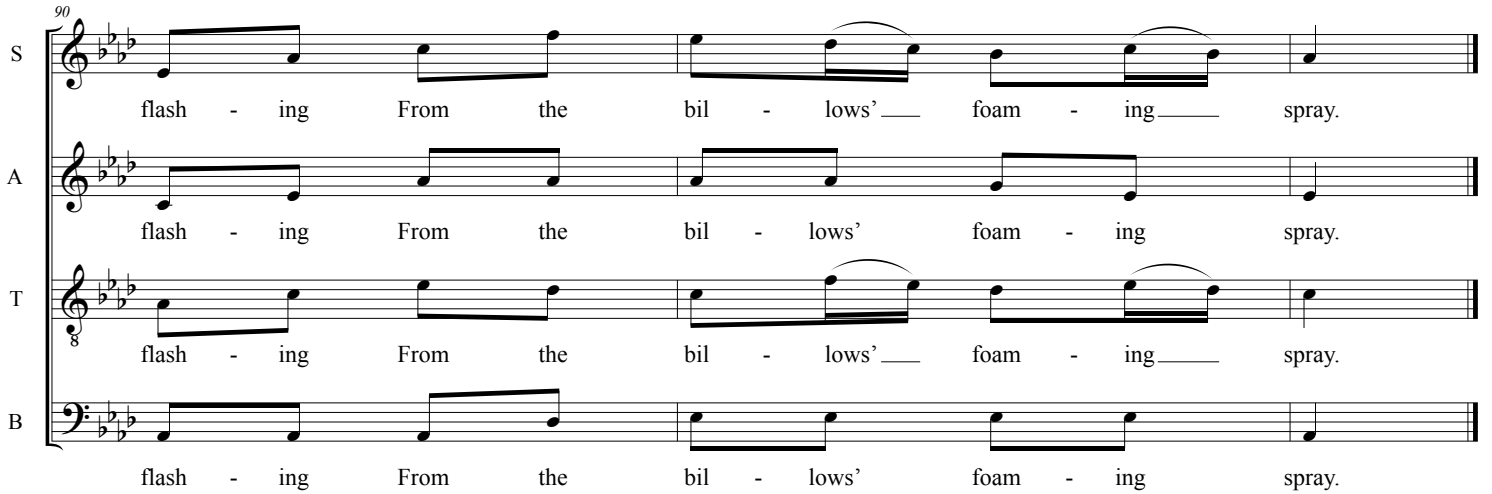
A moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

T 8 moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

B moon - beams O'er the spark - ling wa - ters play, And a thou - sand stars are

# Oh! 'Tis Merry When the Moonbeams

90



S  
flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

A  
flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

T  
8  
flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

B  
flash - ing From the bil - lows' foam - ing spray.

Iverson, Blakeman and Company  
(1879)

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