

Sugar Making

T. Martin Towne (1835-1912)

Thomas Martin Towne (1835-1912) was born in Coleraine. Massachusetts, where he grew up on a farm and attended the district school and the local singing school. He studied music at Willston Seminary and a convention in Shelburne. He moved to Hudson, New York, to study with W. F. Sherwin and then to Albany as a tenor in St. Peter's Church. He moved west and taught in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and in the Detroit public schools. During this time, he also studied with Lowell Mason, George F. Root, and William B. Bradbury at a North Reading, MA, normal school. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he left teaching and sang with the Continental Vocalists, eventually settling in Janesville, Wisconsin. After teaching a year, he enlisted and became musician in the 40th Wisconsin Infantry. After the war, he went to Milwaukee and taught music at the Female College and sang in Plymouth Church. A few years later, he moved to Chicago, Illinois. He lead choirs, composed, held music conventions, taught in many normal schools, and was musical editor for the David C. Cook publishing house. He died in Chicago. After his first wife died, he married Isabella Electa Kellogg, who wrote Sunday school books and edited several Sunday school papers besides writing lyrics for some of her husband's songs using the pseudonyms Mrs. Thomas Martin Towne, Mrs. E. S. Kellogg, and Belle Kellogg. They were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He composed hundreds of sheet songs, duets, quartets, part-songs, gospel songs, Sunday school songs, hymns, and anthems.

> Now the wintry winds retire, At the ford the ice is breaking, And the old folks by the fire, Sit, and talk of sugar making; 'Tis the busy, bustling March, And the month the question settles, That 'tis time to mend the arch, Time to scour the rusty kettles.

O the gladest time of year Is the merry sugar making, When the swallows first appear, And the sleepy buds are waking.

Soon the bluebirds and the bees O'er the stubble will be winging, So 'tis time to tap the trees, And to set the axe a-ringing; Time to hew and shape the trough, And to burn the pile so hollow, For the snow is melting off And the sugar-thaw must follow.

Crocuses are peeping out
All along the southern border,
So 'tis time to stir about,
Time to put the camp in order;
Time to set the hut to rights,
Where the boys and girls together,
Tend the furnace fire o' nights,
In the rough and rainy weather.

Words arranged from the "Youth's Companion"

Sugar Making

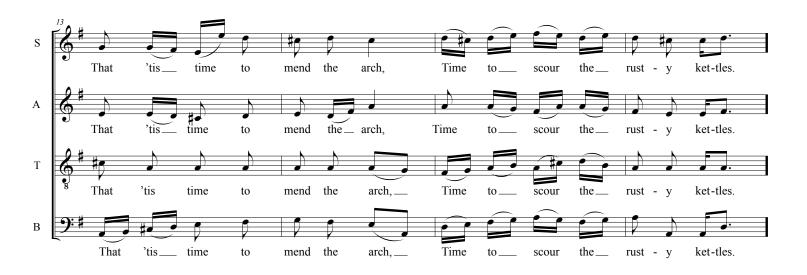
T. Martin Towne

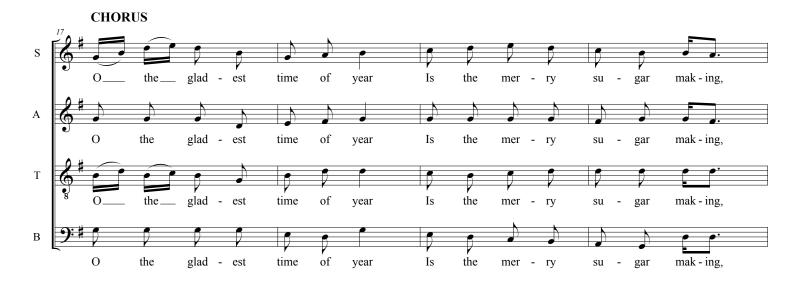


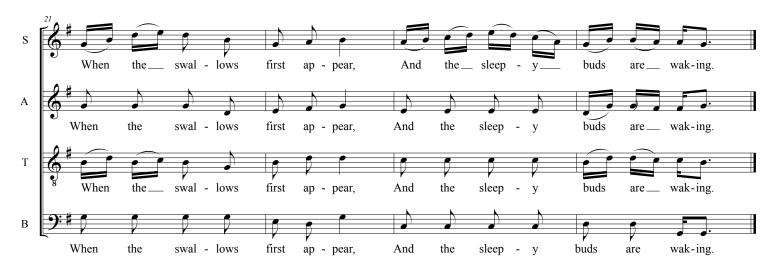


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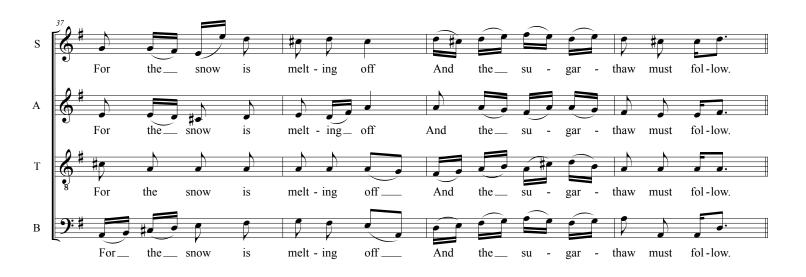


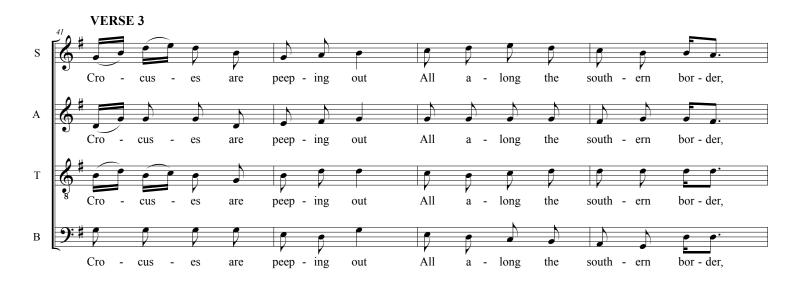


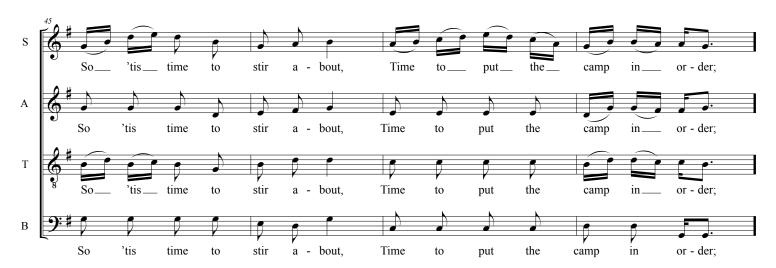




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Root & Cady (1870)

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