

Hark! the mid-watch bell

Henry R. Bishop (1786-1855)

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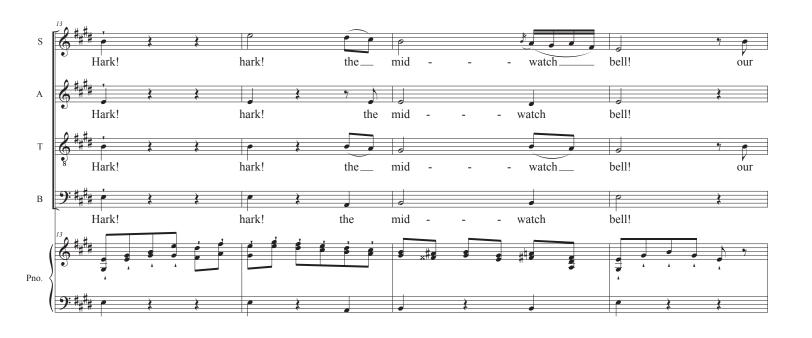
Henry R. Bishop

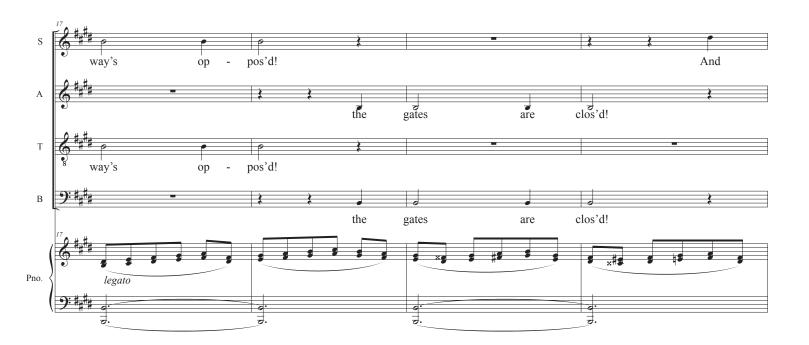


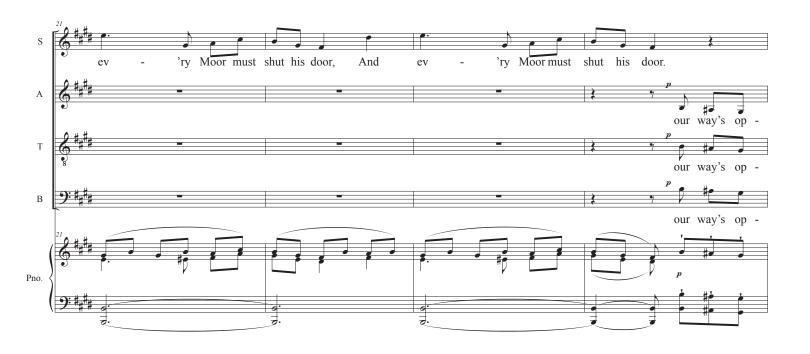






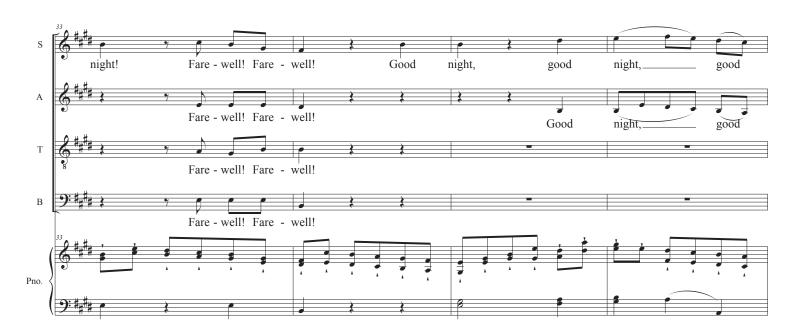


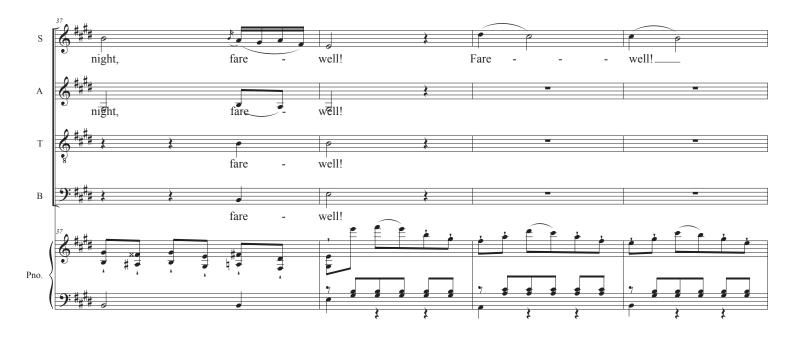
















Sir Henry Rowley Bishop (1786-1855) was born in London, son of a watchmaker and haberdasher. He left full-time education at age 13 to work as a music-publisher with his cousin. He trained as a jockey and took lessons in harmony. Bishop worked for all the major theatres of London in his era and was one of the original directors of the Philharmonic Society. He was Professor of Music in the University of Edinburgh and at the University of Oxford. He composed or arranged around 120 dramatic works, including 80 operas, light operas, cantatas, and ballets. His opera "Clari," with a libretto by the American John Howard Payne, included the song Home! Sweet Home!, which became enormously popular. It was popular in the United States throughout the American Civil War and after. second wife, singer Ann Rivière, sang in every continent and was the most widely travelled opera singer of the 19th century. He had a plentiful income during his lifetime but died in poverty in London.

Hark! hark! the mid-watch bell, And every Moor must shut his door. our way's opposed! still we defy! the gates are closed, still thus we'll try. Good night! Farewell!

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