

# **The Song of the Bell Buoy**

**Philip Greely Clapp  
(1888-1954)**

**Philip Greely Clapp** (1888-1954) was born in Boston, Massachusetts, into a musical family. He studied piano with his mother and his aunt, and at age 11, he began to study theory and composition under John P. Marshall, dean of the Boston University Music Department. He studied at Harvard University and under Karl Muck, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He also studied in Stuttgart, Germany under a Harvard fellowship. He was a teaching fellow at Harvard University, music director at Dartmouth College and other colleges, and Director of the School of Music at the University of Iowa. He was active as teacher, pianist, conductor, and composer. He died in Iowa City, Iowa. He composed in many genres, and some of his symphonies were featured by many orchestras including New York Philharmonic Orchestra and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Oh, I rise and I fall, I call and I call,  
Though the years may grow long and the days may go by;  
Near a reef of gray stone, forsaken, alone,  
I am left to the sea, to the sun and the sky.

How I shout and I reel with the frenzy I feel  
When my wave-woven garments are fashioned of fire—  
When the night wind blows keen and no star may be seen  
And the heart of the sea is as wild as Desire!

As I sway and I swing how my brazen lips fling  
Their one word of warning to those sailing home,  
But there comes no reply save a spar drifting by,  
A sob from the surf and a face in the foam!

Whether foul or fair sky, but one message I cry  
From the half-hidden ledges I haunt as a ghost;  
To the end will I bide on the pulse of the tide  
Unwearied, undaunted—the voice of the Coast!

Herbert Bashford (1871-1928)

# The Song of the Bell Buoy

Philip Greely Clapp

**Allegro commodo**

Soprano (S) vocal line:

A Alto (A) vocal line:

Tenor (T) vocal line:

Bass (B) vocal line:

Piano accompaniment:

The piano part consists of two staves. The top staff is treble clef, 6/8 time, dynamic *mf*, featuring eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff is bass clef, 6/8 time, dynamic *p*, featuring quarter-note patterns.



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## The Song of the Bell Buoy

Soprano (S) vocal line:

fall, I call and I call, Tho' the

Alto (A) vocal line:

fall, I call and I call, Tho' the

Tenor (T) vocal line:

fall, I call and I call,

Bass (B) vocal line:

fall, I call and I call,

Piano (Pno.) piano line:

mf

Soprano (S) vocal line:

years may grow long and the days may go

Alto (A) vocal line:

years may grow long and the days may go

Tenor (T) vocal line:

the years may grow long and the days may go

Bass (B) vocal line:

grow long and the days may go

Piano (Pno.) piano line:

p

## The Song of the Bell Buoy

5

Soprano (S) vocal line, piano accompaniment.

**10**

S by; for -  
A by; Near a reef of gray stone, for -  
T by; for -  
B by;  
Pno. (piano) accompaniment.

Soprano (S) vocal line, piano accompaniment.

**13**

S sak - en, a - lone, I am left to the  
A sak - en, a - lone, I am left to the  
T sak - en, a - lone, I am left to the  
B a - lone, I am left to the  
Pno. (piano) accompaniment.

## The Song of the Bell Buoy

16

S sea, to the sun and the sky. *poco rit.* *f a tempo*  
A sea, to the sun and the sky. *poco rit.* *f a tempo*  
T sea, to the sun and the sky. *poco rit.* *f a tempo*  
B sea, to the sun and the sky. *poco rit.* *f a tempo*

Pno. *a tempo*

19 *animato*

S shout and I reel with the fren - zy I feel When my wave - wov - en gar - ments are  
A shout and I reel with the fren - zy I feel When my wave - wov - en gar - ments are  
T shout and I reel with the fren - zy I feel When my wave gar - ments are  
B shout and I reel with the fren - zy I feel wave - wov - en gar - ments are

Pno. *animato* *f*

## The Song of the Bell Buoy

7

S 22 fash - ion'd of fire— When the night wind blows keen and no

A fash - ion'd of fire— When the night wind blows keen and no

T fash - ion'd of fire— When the night wind blows keen and no

B fash - ion'd of fire— When the night wind blows keen and no

Pno. *tranquillo*

S 25 star may be seen And the heart of the sea

A star may be seen And the heart of the sea

T star may be seen And the heart of the sea

B star may be seen And the heart of the sea

Pno. *animando* *cresc.*

## The Song of the Bell Buoy

28

Soprano (S) vocal line: *cresc.*, dynamic *f*, melodic line with sustained notes and slurs.

Alto (A) vocal line: *cresc.*, dynamic *f*, melodic line with sustained notes and slurs.

Tenor (T) vocal line: *cresc.*, dynamic *f*, melodic line with sustained notes and slurs.

Bass (B) vocal line: *cresc.*, dynamic *f*, melodic line with sustained notes and slurs.

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment: Four-measure piano chords in G major, followed by a dynamic *f* and eighth-note patterns.

— is as wild as De - sire!

31

Soprano (S) vocal line: dynamic *p*, sustained notes.

Alto (A) vocal line: dynamic *p*, sustained notes.

Tenor (T) vocal line: dynamic *p*, sustained notes.

Bass (B) vocal line: dynamic *p*, sustained notes.

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment: Eight-measure piano chords in G major, dynamic *mf*, dynamic *p*, and eighth-note patterns.

—

The Song of the Bell Buoy

9

34

Soprano (S): - | :. - | I swing how my  
Alto (A): As I sway and I swing how my  
Tenor (T): - | :. - | how my  
Bass (B): - | :. - | how my

Pno. (Piano): *cresc.*

37

Soprano (S): braz - en lips fling Their one word of  
Alto (A): braz - en lips fling Their one word of  
Tenor (T): braz - en lips fling Their one word of  
Bass (B): braz - en lips fling Their one word of

Pno. (Piano): *f*

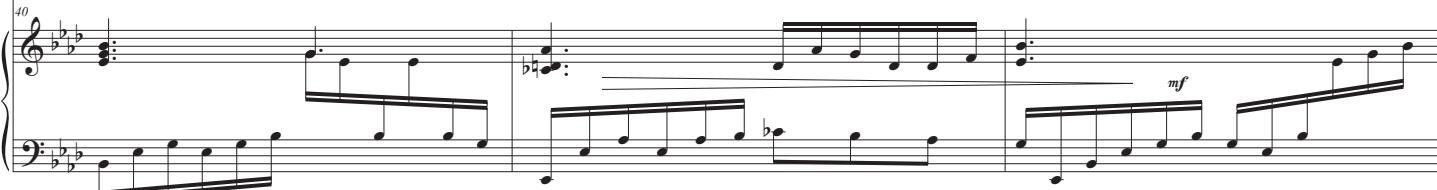
## The Song of the Bell Buoy

S 40 warn - ing to those sail - ing home, *p* But there

A warn - ing to those sail - ing home, *p*

T 8 warn - ing to those sail - ing home, *p*

B warn - ing to those sail - ing home, *p*

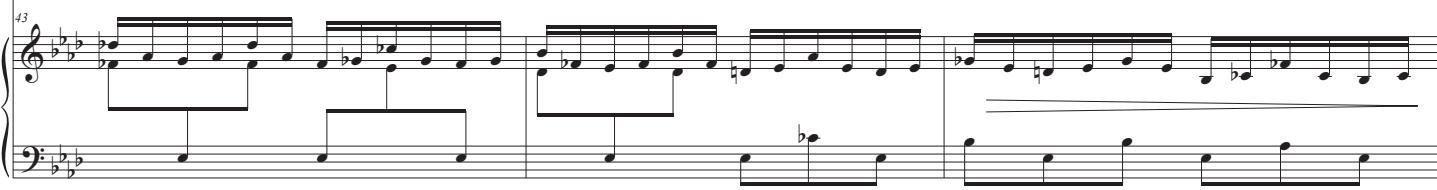
Pno. 40 

S 43 comes no re - ply

A save a spar drift - ing

T 8

B

Pno. 43 

The Song of the Bell Buoy

11

46

S

A by,

T *mf*  
A sob from the surf

B and a

Pno.

49

S

A *mf*  
foam!

T in the foam!

B *Bassi non cresc.*  
face in the foam!

Pno.

## The Song of the Bell Buoy

52

Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B) sing "Wheth-er foul or fair".  
 Pno. dynamic: *mf*, *p*

53

Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B) sing "From the sky, but one mes - sage I cry".  
 Pno. dynamic: *mf*

The Song of the Bell Buoy

13

58

S half - hid - den ledg - es I haunt \_\_\_\_\_ as a

A half - hid - den ledg - es I haunt \_\_\_\_\_ as a

T the half - hid - den ledg - es I haunt \_\_\_\_\_ as a

B the half - hid - den ledg - es I haunt \_\_\_\_\_ as a

Pno.

61

S ghost; To the end will I bide \_\_\_\_\_ on the

A ghost; To the end will I bide \_\_\_\_\_ on the

T ghost; To the end will I bide \_\_\_\_\_ on the

B ghost; end will I bide \_\_\_\_\_ on the

Pno.

## The Song of the Bell Buoy

64

S pulse of the tide Un - wear - ied, un -  
A pulse of the tide Un - wear - ied, un -  
T pulse of the tide Un - wear - ied, un -  
B pulse of the tide Un - wear - ied, un -

Pno.

67

S daunt ed- the voice of the  
A daunt ed- the voice of the  
T daunt ed- the voice of the  
B daunt ed- the voice of the

Pno.

The Song of the Bell Buoy

15

Musical score for "The Song of the Bell Buoy". The score consists of five staves. The top four staves represent vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). Each vocal part has a melodic line with lyrics: "Coast! \_\_\_\_\_". The fifth staff represents the piano (Pno.) and includes a dynamic marking ***ff*** and the instruction *con spirito*. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Silver, Burdett and Company  
(1923)

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