



The Mermaid

George Dyson
[1883–1964]

Con spirito ♩ = 108

S *mf* SOPRANO

One Fri - day morn when we set sail, And our ship not far from the
land, We there did es - py a fair pret - ty maid, With a
comb and a glass in her hand, herhand, herhand, With a comb and a glass in her hand.

The Mermaid

SOPRANO *sempre marcato e sonore*
 S *f* While the rag - ing seas did roar, And the

ALTO *sempre marcato e sonore*
 A *f* While the rag - ing seas did roar, And the

TENOR *sempre marcato e sonore*
 T *f* While the rag - ing seas did roar, And the

BASS *sempre marcato e sonore*
 B *f* While the rag - ing seas did roar, And the

13
 S storm - y winds did blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

A storm - y winds did blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

T storm - y winds did blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

B storm - y winds did blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

16
 S sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

A sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

T sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

B sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

The Mermaid

18

S low, be - low, be - low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

A low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

T low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

B low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

S

A *sotto voce ma espressivo*
Up spoke the Cap - - - tain of

T *mf e marcato*
Up spoke the Cap - tain of our gal - land ship, And a

B *sotto voce ma espressivo*
Up spoke the Cap - - - tain of

23

S

A our gal - - - land ship, "I've mar - ried a

T well - spok - en Cap - tain was he, "I've mar - ried a wife in

B our gal - - - land ship, "I've mar - ried a

The Mermaid

26

S *p* *poco a poco calando*
"And this night

A *p* *poco a poco calando*
wife, And this night

T *poco a poco calando*
fair Lon - don town, And this night she a wid - ow will

B *p* *poco a poco calando*
wife, And this night

28

S she a wid - ow will be."

A she a wid - ow will be."

T be, will be, will be, And this night she a wid - ow will be."

B she a wid - ow will be."

f *sempre marcato e sonore*

S For the rag - ing seas did roar, And the

A *f* *sempre marcato e sonore*
For the rag - ing seas did roar, And the

T *f* *sempre marcato e sonore*
For the rag - ing seas did roar, And the

B *f* *sempre marcato e sonore*
For the rag - ing seas did roar, And the

The Mermaid

33

S storm - y winds did ___ blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

A storm - y winds did blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

T storm - y winds did blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

B storm - y winds did blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

36

S sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

A sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

T sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

B sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

38

S low, be - low, be - low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

A low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

T low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

B low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

The Mermaid

p ma marcato

S And then up - spoke the lit - tle cab - in boy, And a

p espress.

A Then up - spoke the cab - in boy,

p espress.

T Then up - spoke the cab - in boy, A

p espress.

B Then up - spoke the cab - in boy, A

⁴³

S fair - haired boy was he, "I've a fa - ther and moth - er in

A — A fair - haired boy was he, "I've a fa - ther and a

T fair - haired boy was he, "I've a fa - ther and a

B fair - haired boy was he, "I've a fa - ther and a

⁴⁶

calando

S fair — Ports - mouth town, And this night they will weep — for — me, for me, for me, And this

calando

A moth - er, And this night they will

calando

T moth - er, And this night they will

calando

B moth - er, And this night they will

The Mermaid

49 *A tempo*
f marcato e sonore

S night they will weep for me." For the rag - ing seas did

A weep for me." For the rag - ing seas did

T weep for me." For the rag - ing seas did

B weep for me." For the rag - ing seas did

52

S roar, And the storm - y winds did

A roar, And the storm - y winds did

T roar, And the storm - y winds did

B roar, And the storm - y winds did

54

S blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

A blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

T blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

B blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

The Mermaid

56

S sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

A sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

T sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

B sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

58

S low, be - low, be - low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

A low, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

T low, _____ And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

B low, _____ And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

ff *agitato e sforzando*

S Three times round went our gal - lant ship, And

ff *agitato e sforzando*

A Three times round went our gal - lant ship, And _____

ff *agitato e sforzando*

T Three times round went our gal - lant ship, And _____

ff *agitato e sforzando*

B Three times round went our gal - lant ship, And

The Mermaid

63

poco a poco dim. e rit.

S three times round went she, Then three times round went our

A three times round went she, Three times round went

T three times round went she, Three times round went

B three times round went she, Three times round went

poco a poco dim. e rit.

poco a poco dim. e rit.

66

S gal - lant, gal - lant ship, And she sank to the bot - tom of the

A our gal - lant ship, And she sank to the

T our gal - lant ship, And she sank to the

B our gal - lant ship, And she sank to the

68

S sea, the sea, the sea, And she sank to the bot - tom of the sea.

A bot - tom of the sea.

T bot - tom of the sea.

B bot - tom of the sea.

p

The Mermaid

A tempo
sempre f e largamente

S For the rag - ing seas did roar, And the storm - y winds did

A For the rag - ing seas did roar, And the storm - y winds did

T For the rag - ing seas did roar, And the storm - y winds did

B For the rag - ing seas did roar, And the storm - y winds did

74

S blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

A blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

T blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

B blow, And we jol - ly sail - or boys were

76

S sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

A sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

T sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

B sit - ting up a - loft, And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be -

The Mermaid

78

S low, be - low, be - low, *ff* *più largamente* And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

A low, *ff* *più largamente* And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

T low, *ff* *più largamente* And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

B low, *ff* *più largamente* And the land - lub - bers ly - ing down be - low.

Stainer & Bell
(1922)

Sir George Dyson (1883–1964) was born in Halifax, Yorkshire, England. A church organist by age 13, he trained at the Royal College of Music and served as assistant organist at St. Alfege Church, Greenwich. Winning scholarships, he studied also in Italy, Austria and Germany. He was appointed director of music at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, then at Marlborough College. After traumatic military service in WWI and convalescence, he graduated from Oxford, was a schoolmaster and college lecturer at Wellington College, the RCM, and Winchester. He later became director of the RCM. He was conductor of an adult choral society, and a visiting lecturer at Liverpool and Glasgow universities. He died in Winchester. His compositions include numerous pieces in a wide variety of genres.

This folksong appears in many versions, the earliest known as *The Seamen's Distress* in a 1765 publication *Newcastle Garland*. In most versions, the sailors sight a mermaid, a sign of bad-luck, before their ship is wrecked. It is sometimes titled *The Sailor's Song* or *Our Gallant Ship*. It also appears in comic versions.

One Friday morn when we set sail,
And our ship not far from the land,
We there did espy a fair pretty maid,
With a comb and a glass in her hand.
While the raging seas did roar,
And the stormy winds did blow,
And we jolly sailor boys were sitting up aloft,
And the landlubbers lying down below.

Up spoke the Captain of our gallant ship,
And a well-spoken Captain was he,
"I've married a wife in fair London town,
And this night she a widow will be."
For the raging seas did roar,
And the stormy winds did blow,
And we jolly sailor boys were sitting up aloft,
And the landlubbers lying down below.

And then upspeke the little cabin boy,
And a fair-haired boy was he,
"I've a father and a mother in fair Portsmouth town,
And this night they will weep for me."
For the raging seas did roar,
And the stormy winds did blow,
And we jolly sailor boys were sitting up aloft,
And the landlubbers lying down below.

Three times round went our gallant ship,
And three times round went she,
Then three times round went our gallant ship,
And she sank to the bottom of the sea.
For the raging seas did roar,
And the stormy winds did blow,
And we jolly sailor boys were sitting up aloft,
And the landlubbers lying down below.

TERMS OF USE

These editions are available as a service to the choral community, offering inexpensive access to public domain literature. Choir resources can purchase other literature still under copyright, especially to support those creating and publishing new compositions and arrangements. These editions have been created using public domain sources under U. S. copyright law. Out of respect to the research, time and effort invested:

- please print and issue an edition in its entirety, retaining notices, attributions, and logos.
- please do not consider this edition a source for creating another edition.

If recorded, notification and attribution would be appropriate professional courtesies.

For a full description of these requests and more scores, visit:
www.shorchor.net

