



London Town

Edward German
(1862–1936)

Sir Edward German (1862–1936) was born Edward German Jones to parents of Welsh descent. He began learning the organ and piano at age five from his father, a church organist, and taught himself the violin, leading the town orchestra, and began to compose music. He entered the Royal Academy of Music at age eighteen, where he changed his name to avoid confusion with another student named Edward Jones. German began to build a career as a composer in the mid-1880s, writing serious music as well as light opera. In 1888, he became music director of Globe Theatre in London, providing incidental music for many of its productions and those of other London theatres. His output includes symphonies, orchestral suites, symphonic poems and a substantial amount of songs and piano music. After the death of Sir Arthur Sullivan in 1900, German completed Sullivan's score for the operetta *The Emerald Isle*, and soon after, seemed established as the successor to Sullivan. Some failures eventually caused him to abandon his career as a composer. From 1911 onward, he prepared the scores of his works for publication and conducted concerts. He was knighted in 1928, and he received a medal from the Royal Philharmonic Society in 1934.

Oh London Town's a fine town, and London sights are rare,
And London ale is right ale, and brisk's the London air,
And busily goes the world there, but crafty grows the mind,
And London Town of all towns I'm glad to leave behind.

Then hey for croft and hop-yard, and hill, and field, and pond,
With Bredon Hill before me and Malvern Hill beyond.
And hawthorn white I' the hedgerow, and all the spring's attire
In the comely land of Teme and Lugg, and Clent, and Clee, and Wyre.

Oh London girls are brave girls, in silk and cloth o' gold,
And London shops are rare shops, where gallant things are sold,
And bonnily clinks the gold there, but drowsily blinks the eye,
And London Town of all towns I'm glad to hurry by.

Then, hey for covert and woodland, and ash and elm and oak,
And Tewkesbury inns, and Malvern roofs, and Worcester chimney smoke,
The apple trees in the orchard, the cattle in the byre,
And all the land from Ludlow town to Bredon church's spire.

Oh London tunes are new tunes, and London books are wise,
And London plays are rare plays, and fine to country eyes,
But craftily fares the knave there, and happily fare the few,*
And London Town of all towns I'm glad to hurry through.

So hey for the road, the west road, by mill and forge and fold,
Scent of the fern and song of the lark by brook, and field, and wold,
To the comely folk at the hearth-stone and the talk beside the fire,
In the hearty land, where I was bred, my land of heart's desire.

John Masefield (1878–1967), alt.

**Second phrase of line altered in this edition from original poem.*

London Town

Edward German

Allegro moderato (con spirito) ♩ = 104

S Oh Lon - don Town's a fine town, and Lon - don sights are

A Oh Lon - don Town's a fine town, and Lon - don sights are

T Oh Lon - don Town's a fine town, and Lon - don sights are

B Oh Lon - don Town's a fine town, and Lon - don sights are

S rare, And Lon - don ale is right ale, and brisk's the Lon - don

A rare, And Lon - don ale is right ale, and brisk's the Lon - don

T rare, And Lon - don ale is right ale, and brisk's the Lon - don

B rare, And Lon - don ale is right ale, and brisk's the Lon - don

London Town

8

S air, And bus - i - ly goes the world there, but

A air, And bus - i - ly goes the world there, but

T air, And bus - i - ly goes the world there, but

B air, And bus - i - ly goes the world there, _____ but

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of the musical score. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) are written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: 'air, And bus - i - ly goes the world there, but'. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts have a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) above the first measure of the second line. The Bass part has a dynamic marking of *mf* above the first measure of the first line. The music features a mix of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

12

S craft - y grows the mind, _____ And Lon - don Town of

A craft - y grows the mind, _____ And Lon - don Town of

T craft - y grows the mind, _____ And Lon - don Town of

B craft - y grows the mind, _____ And Lon - don Town of

Detailed description: This system contains the next four staves of the musical score. The lyrics are: 'craft - y grows the mind, _____ And Lon - don Town of'. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts have dynamic markings of *f* (forte) and *sf* (sforzando) above the second and third measures of the second line. The Bass part has dynamic markings of *f* and *sf* above the second and third measures of the first line. The music continues with quarter and eighth notes, including some accents and slurs.

16

S all towns I'm glad to leave be - hind. Then

A all towns I'm glad to leave be - hind.

T all towns I'm glad to leave be - hind. Then hey, _____

B all towns I'm glad to leave be - hind.

Detailed description: This system contains the final four staves of the musical score. The lyrics are: 'all towns I'm glad to leave be - hind. Then' for Soprano, 'all towns I'm glad to leave be - hind.' for Alto, 'all towns I'm glad to leave be - hind. Then hey, _____' for Tenor, and 'all towns I'm glad to leave be - hind.' for Bass. The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts have dynamic markings of *f* and *sf* above the first and second measures of the first line. The Bass part has a dynamic marking of *f* above the first measure of the first line. The music concludes with quarter and eighth notes, including accents and slurs.

London Town

20

S hey, _____ then hey, _____

A Then hey for croft and hop - yard, and hill, field, and

T _____ then hey for croft and hop - yard, and hill, field, and

B

24

Giocoso

S _____ then hey, then hey for the croft and

A pond, then hey, then hey for the croft and

T pond, then hey, then hey for croft and

B Then hey, hey, hey for

28

S hop - yard, and hill, and field, and pond, With Bre - don Hill be -

A hop - yard, and hill, and field, and pond, With Bre - don Hill be -

T hop - yard, _____ With Bre - don Hill be -

B hop - yard, field, and pond, With Bre - don

London Town

32

S fore me and Mal - vern Hill be - yond. And

A fore me and Mal - vern Hill be - yond. And haw - thorn

T fore me and Mal - vern Hill be - yond. And haw - thorn

B Hill be - fore me, And haw - thorn

36 *cresc.*

S haw - thorn white i' the hedge - row, and all the spring's at - tire In the

A white i' the hedge - row, and all the spring's at - tire In the

T white, and haw - thorn white i' the hedge - row, In the

B white i' the hedge - row, and all the spring's at - tire In the

40 *f*

S come - ly land of Teme and Lugg, and Clent, and Clee, and

A come - ly land of Teme and Lugg, and Clent, and Clee, and

T come - ly land of Teme and Lugg, and Clent, and Clee, and

B come - ly land of Teme and Lugg, and Clent, and Clee, and

London Town

44

S Wyre, Then hey, then hey, then hey for Clent, and Clee, and

A Wyre, Then hey, then hey for Clent, and Clee, and

T Wyre, hey for Clent, and Clee, and

B Wyre, Then hey, then hey for Clent, and Clee, and

p *mf* *rit.*

Tempo 1

48

S Wyre. Oh Lon - don girls are brave girls, in

A Wyre. Oh Lon - don girls are brave girls, in

T Wyre. Oh Lon - don girls are brave girls, in

B Wyre. Oh Lon - don girls are brave girls, in

f

52

S silk and cloth o' gold, And Lon - don shops are rare shops, where

A silk and cloth o' gold, And Lon - don shops are rare shops, where

T silk and cloth o' gold, And Lon - don shops are rare shops, where

B silk and cloth o' gold, And Lon - don shops are rare shops, where

London Town

56

S gal - lant things are sold, And bon - ni - ly clinks the

A gal - lant things are sold, And bon - ni - ly clinks the

T gal - lant things are sold, And bon - ni - ly clinks the

B gal - lant things are sold, And bon - ni - ly clinks the gold there, _____

60

S gold there, but drow - si - ly blinks the eye, _____ And

A gold there, but drow - si - ly blinks the eye, _____ And

T gold there, but drow - si - ly blinks the eye, _____ And

B — but drow - si - ly blinks the eye, _____ And

64

S Lon - don Town of all towns I'm glad to hur - ry by.

A Lon - don Town of all towns I'm glad to hur - ry by.

T Lon - don Town of all towns I'm glad to hur - ry by. Then

B Lon - don Town of all towns I'm glad to hur - ry by.

London Town

68

S Then hey, _____ then hey, _____

A Then hey for co - vert and wood - land, and

T hey, _____ then hey for co - vert and wood - land, and

B

72

S then hey, then

A ash, elm and oak, then hey, then

T ash, elm and oak, then hey, then

B

Giacoso

Then hey, hey,

76

S hey for the co - vert and wood - land, and ash and elm and oak, And

A hey for the co - vert and wood - land, and ash and elm and oak, And

T hey for the co - vert and wood - land, _____ And

B hey for ash and elm and oak, And

London Town

80

S Tewkes - bu - ry inns, and Mal - vern roofs, and Worces - ter chim - ney smoke,

A Tewkes - bu - ry inns, and Mal - vern roofs, and Worces - ter chim - ney smoke, And

T Tewkes - bu - ry inns, and Mal - vern roofs, and Worces - ter chim - ney smoke, And

B Tewkes - bu - ry inns, and Mal - vern roofs, And

84

S And the ap - ple trees in the or - chard, the cat - tle in the

A ap - ple trees in the or - chard, the cat - tle in the

T ap - ple trees, and ap - ple trees in the or - chard,

B ap - ple trees in the or - chard, the cat - tle in the

88

S byre, And all the land from Lud - low town to Bre - don church -

A byre, And all the land from Lud - low town to Bre - don church -

T And all the land from Lud - low town to Bre - don church -

B byre, And the land from Lud - low town to Bre - don church -

London Town

92

S - 's spire, Then hey, then hey then hey to

A - 's spire, Then hey, then hey to

T - 's spire, hey to

B - 's spire, Then hey, then hey to

96

rit. **Meno mosso (only slightly slower)** ♩ = 92

S Bre - don church - 's spire. Oh Lon - don tunes are

A Bre - don church - 's spire. Oh Lon - don tunes are

T Bre - don church - 's spire. Oh Lon - don tunes are

B Bre - don church - 's spire. Oh Lon - don tunes are

100

S new tunes, and Lon - don books are wise, And Lon - don plays are

A new tunes, and Lon - don books are wise, And Lon - don plays are

T new tunes, and Lon - don books are wise, And Lon - don plays are

B new tunes, and Lon - don books are wise, And Lon - don plays are

London Town

104

S rare plays, and fine to coun - try eyes, But *pp*

A rare plays, and fine to coun - try eyes, But craft - i - ly fares the

T rare plays, and fine to coun - try eyes, But *pp*

B rare plays, and fine to coun - try eyes, But *pp*

108

S craft - i - ly fares the knave there, and hap - pi - ly fare the

A *pp* knave, the knave there, and hap - pi - ly fare the

T craft - i - ly fares the knave there, and hap - pi - ly fare the

B craft - i - ly fares the knave there, and hap - pi - ly fare the

111

S few, _____ And Lon - don Town of

A few, _____ And Lon - don Town of

T few, _____ And Lon - don Town of

B few, _____ And Lon - don Town of

London Town

114

S all towns I'm glad to hur - ry through. So

A all towns I'm glad to hur - ry through.

T all towns I'm glad to hur - ry through.

B all towns I'm glad to hur - ry through. So hey, _____

118

S hey, _____ so hey, _____

A So hey for the road, the west road, by mill and forge and

T _____

B — so hey for the road, by forge and _____

122

Giacoso

S — so hey, so hey for the road, the

A fold, so hey, so hey for the road, the

T So hey, so hey for the road, the

B fold, So hey, hey, hey for the

London Town

126

S west road, by mill and forge and fold, And scent of the fern and

A west road, by mill and forge and fold, And scent of fern and

T west road, _____ And scent of fern and

B west road, by forge and fold, And scent of

130

S song of the lark by brook, and field, and wold, To the

A song of lark by brook, and field, and wold, To the come - ly

T song of lark by brook, and field, and wold, To the come - ly

B fern and song of lark, To the come - ly

134 *cresc.*

S come - ly folk at the hearth - stone and the talk be - side the fire, In the

A *cresc.* folk at the hearth - stone the talk be - side the fire, In the

T *cresc.* folk, the come - ly folk at the hearth - stone, In the

B *cresc.* folk at the hearth - stone, the talk be - side the fire, In the

London Town

138 *f*

S heart - y land, where I was bred, my land of heart's _____ de -

A heart - y land, where I was bred, my land of heart's _____ de -

T heart - y land, where I was bred, my land of heart's _____ de -

B heart - y land, where I was bred, my land of heart's _____ de -

142 *pp* *delicato* *mf* *rit.*

S sire, So hey, _____ so hey, _____ so hey, my land of heart's de -

A sire, So hey, so hey, my land of heart's de -

T sire, hey, _____ my land of heart's de -

B sire, So hey, so hey, my land of heart's de -

146 *a tempo* *ff* *marcato*

S sire, my land of sire, heart's _____ de - sire.

A sire, my land of heart's _____ de - sire.

T sire, my land of heart's _____ de - sire.

B sire, my land of heart's _____ de - sire.

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