



Song of the Railroads

George A. Macfarren
(1813-1887)

On Sept. 27, 1825, the first railroad in England, the Stockton & Darlington, was thrown open to the public.

While every age is crowned with rhyme,
And song is ever young,
The bravest birth of later time
Must not remain unsung;
A poet shall be born to us,
For living men to hail,
Dismounted from old Pegasus
To mount the fiery rail!

When speed and joy go hand in hand,
And loves are side by side,
We are the sunbeams of the land
On which the angels glide;
The husband to his anxious wife,
The friend to friendly care,
The lover to his life of life
On burning wings we bear!

But oft like ships of ill accurst
That sail the solid earth
On sacred parting hours we burst,
Or mar the moment's mirth;
The dearest and the longest lost
Pass by within a span
Yet know it not; of little cost
We make the heart of man!

Note from original publication: (The remaining three stanzas are not adapted to the Music; but they are here subjoined in order to preserve the Poem complete.)

With precious freight of hopes and
We sweep the fields of space, [fears,
Decreed to dry the deepest tears,
And dim the brightest face:
A few short words writ over-night
Hundreds of miles are borne,
And scatter sorrow or delight
Far, ere the morrow morn.

Our cry is onward, onward yet—
Hard pace and little pause;
We will not let the world forget
Her nature's motive laws.
Like her we hasten day by day,
Nor rest at any goal;
The sun himself has moved, they say,
Since planets round him roll!

And if, when like a net we lie,
O'er many a distant soil,
And glad the traveller's mind and eye,
Without a traveller's toil,—
From mutual virtues understood
All scorn and hate shall flee,
What instruments of God and good
Be mightier than We?

Richard Monckton Milnes, Lord Houghton (1809-1885)

Song of the railroads

G. A. Macfarren

$\text{♩} = 126$

S
While ev - 'ry age is crown'd with rhyme, And song is ev - er young, The _

A
While ev - 'ry age is crown'd with rhyme, And song is ev - er young, The _

T
While ev - 'ry age is crown'd with rhyme, And song is ev - er young, The

B
While ev - 'ry age is crown'd with rhyme, And song is ev - er young, The brav - est

$\text{♩} = 126$

Piano

Song of the railroads

5

S
brav - est birth of lat - er time Must not re - main un - sung; While

A
brav - est birth of lat - er time Must not re - main un - sung; While

T
brav - est birth of lat - er time Must not re - main un - sung; While

B
birth of lat - er time Must not re - main un - sung;

Pno.

9

S
ev - 'ry age is crown'd with rhyme, And song is ev - er young, The _

A
ev - 'ry age is crown'd with rhyme, And song is ev - er young, The _

T
ev - 'ry age is crown'd with rhyme, And song is ev - er young, The

B
And song is ev - er young, The brav - est

Pno.

Song of the railroads

13

S
brav - est birth of lat - er time Must not re - main un - sung; A

A
brav - est birth of lat - er time Must not re - main un - sung; A

T
brav - est birth of lat - er time Must not re - main un - sung; A

B
birth of lat - er time Must not re - main un - sung;

Pno.

17

S
po - et shall be born to us, A po - et shall be born

A
po - et shall be born to us, A po - et shall be born to

T
po - et shall be born to us, be born to us,

B
be born to us, A po - et shall be born to us,

Pno.

Song of the railroads

21

S *cresc.* to us, to us, For liv - ing men to hail, Dis -

A us, to us, For liv - ing men to hail, Dis -

T *cresc.* to us, to us, For liv - ing men to hail, Dis -

B *cresc.* to us, For liv - ing men to hail, Dis -

Pno. *f* *sf* *p*

25

S mount - ed from old Peg - a - sus To mount the fier - y rail! Dis - *cresc.*

A mount - ed from old Peg - a - sus To mount, to mount the fier - y *cresc.*

T mount - ed from old Peg - a - sus To mount the fier - y rail! Dis - *cresc.*

B mount - - - ed from old Peg - a - sus To mount the fier - y *cresc.*

Pno. *sf* *cresc.*

Song of the railroads

29

S
mount - ed from old Peg - a - sus To__ mount the fier - y rail!_____

A
rail!___ from old Peg - a - sus To mount the fier - y rail!_____

T
mount - ed from old Peg - a - sus To mount the fier - y rail!_____

B
rail!___ from old Peg - a - sus To mount the fier - y rail!_____

Pno.

S
When speed and joy go hand in hand, And loves are side by side, We__

A
When speed and joy go hand in hand, And loves are side by side, We__

T
When speed and joy go hand in hand, And loves are side by side, We

B
When speed and joy go hand in hand, And loves are side by side, We are the

Pno.

Song of the railroads

39

S are the sun - beams of the land On which the an - gels glide; When

A are the sun - beams of the land On which the an - gels glide; When

T are the sun - beams of the land On which the an - gels glide; When

B sun - beams of the land On which the an - gels glide;

Pno.

43

S speed and joy go hand in hand, And loves are side by side, We _

A speed and joy go hand in hand, And loves are side by side, We _

T speed and joy go hand in hand, And loves are side by side, We

B And loves are side by side, We are the

Pno.

Song of the railroads

47

S are the sun - beams of the land On which the an - gels glide; The

A are the sun - beams of the land On which the an - gels glide; The

T are the sun - beams of the land On which the an - gels glide; The

B sun - beams of the land On which the an - gels glide;

Pno.

51

S hus - band to his an - xious wife, The hus - band to his wife,

A hus - band to his an - xious wife, The hus - band to his wife, The _

T hus - band to his an - xious wife, his an - xious wife,

B his an - xious wife, The hus - band to his an - xious wife, _____

Pno.

Song of the railroads

55

cresc. *f* *sf* *p*

S The friend, the friend, the friend to friend - ly care, The

A friend, the friend, the friend to friend - ly care, The

T *cresc.* *f* *sf* *p*
The friend, the friend, the friend to friend - ly care, The

B *cresc.* *f* *sf* *p*
The friend, the friend to friend - ly care, The

Pno. *f* *sf* *p*

59

cresc. *sf* *cresc.*

S lov - er to his life of life On burn - ing wings we bear! The

A lov - er to his life of life On burn - ing, on burn - ing wings we

T *cresc.* *sf* *cresc.*
lov - er to his life of life On burn - ing wings we bear! The

B *cresc.* *sf* *cresc.*
lov - - er to his life of life On burn - ing wings we

Pno. *sf* *cresc.*

Song of the railroads

63

S lov - er to his life of life On burn - ing wings we bear! _____

A bear! to his life of life On burn - ing wings we bear! _____

T lov - er to his life of life On burn - ing wings we bear! _____

B bear! to his life of life On burn - ing wings we bear! _____

Pno.

69

S But oft like ships of ill ac-curst That sail the sol - id earth On sa - cred part - ing _

A But oft like ships of ill ac-curst That sail the sol - id earth On sa - cred part - ing

T But oft like ships of ill ac-curst That sail the sol - id earth On sa - cred part - ing

B But oft like ships of ill ac-curst That sail the sol - id earth On sa - cred part - ing

Pno.

Song of the railroads

75

S hours we burst, Or mar the mo - ment's mirth; But

A hours we burst, Or mar the mo - ment's mirth; But

T hours we burst, Or mar the mo - ment's mirth; But

B hours we burst, Or mar the mo - ment's mirth;

Pno.

78

S oft like ships of ill ac - curst That sail the sol - id earth On —

A oft like ships of ill ac - curst That sail the sol - id earth On —

T oft like ships of ill ac - curst That sail the sol - id earth On

B That sail the sol - id earth On sa - cred

Pno.

Song of the railroads

82

S sa - cred part - ing hours we burst, Or mar the mo - ment's mirth; The

A sa - cred part - ing hours we burst, Or mar the mo - ment's mirth; The

T sa - cred part - ing hours we burst, Or mar the mo - ment's mirth; The

B part - ing hours we burst, Or mar the mo - ment's mirth;

Pno.

86

S dear - est and the long - est lost, the dear - est and the lost

A dear - est and the long - est lost, the dear - est and the lost Pass -

T dear - est and the long - est lost, the long - est lost

B the long - est lost, the dear - est and the long - est lost

Pno.

Song of the railroads

90

S *cresc.* Pass by, pass by, pass by with - in a span *sf* Yet *p*

A by, pass by, pass by with - in a span *sf* Yet *p*

T *cresc.* Pass by, pass by, pass by with - in a span *sf* Yet *p*

B *cresc.* Pass by, pass by with - in a span *sf* Yet *p*

Pno. *f* *sf* *p*

94

S know it not; of lit - tle cost We make the heart of man! *sf* Yet *cresc.*

A know it not; of lit - tle cost We make, we make the heart of *sf* *cresc.*

T know it not; of lit - tle cost We make the heart of man! *sf* Yet *cresc.*

B know it not; of lit - tle cost We make the heart of *sf* *cresc.*

Pno. *sf* *cresc.*

98

S
know it not; of lit - tle cost We_ make the heart of man! _____

A
man! _____ of lit - tle cost We make the heart of man! _____

T
know it not; of lit - tle cost We make the heart of man! _____

B
man! _____ of lit - tle cost We make the heart of man! _____

Pno.

98

Novello, Ewer and Co.
(1860-1885)

Sir George Alexander Macfarren (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860. However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and edited the works of Handel and Purcell. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

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