



Eight
Four-Part Songs



No. 8

Better Music
ne'er was known

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry
(1848-1918)

Better music ne'er was known
Than a quire of hearts in one.
Let each other, that hath been
Troubled with the frail or spleen.
Learn of us to keep his brow
Smooth and plain, as ours are now!
Sing, though before the hour of dying;
He shall rise, and then be crying,
"Hey ho, 'tis nought but mirth
That keeps the body from the earth."

Act 5, Scene 3
The Night of the Burning Pestle

Beaumont & Fletcher
Francis Beaumont (1584-1616)
John Fletcher (1579-1625)

Better Music ne'er was known

C. Hubert H. Parry

Vivace

S *f* > Bet - ter mu - sic ne'er was known Than a quire of hearts in one.

A *f* > Bet - ter mu - sic ne'er was known Than a quire of hearts _____ in _____ one.

T *f* > Bet - ter mu - sic ne'er was known Than a quire of hearts _____ in _____ one.

B *f* > Bet - ter mu - sic ne'er was known Than a quire of hearts in one.

S ⁴ > Let each oth - er, that hath been Trou - bled with the frail or spleen. Learn of *mf*

A > Let each oth - er, that hath been Trou - bled with the frail or spleen. Learn of *mf*

T > Let each oth - er, that hath been Trou - bled with the frail or spleen. Learn of *mf*

B > Let each oth - er, that hath been Trou - bled with the frail or spleen. Learn of *mf*

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7

S us to keep his brow Smooth and plain, as ours are now, smooth and plain, smooth and plain, smooth and

A us to keep his brow Smooth and plain, as ours are now, smooth and plain, smooth and plain, smooth and

T us to keep his brow Smooth and plain, as ours are now, smooth and plain, smooth and plain,

B us to keep his brow Smooth and plain, smooth and plain, smooth and plain, smooth and

cresc.

10

S plain, as ours, as ours are now! Sing, sing, though be-fore the hour of

A plain, as ours are now! Sing, sing, sing,

T smooth and plain, as ours are now! Sing, sing, though be-fore the hour of

B plain, as ours are now! Sing, sing, sing,

f *Animato*

13

S dy - ing, Sing, sing,

A sing, sing, sing, sing, sing, though before the hour of

T dy - ing, Sing, sing, though before the hour of dy - ing, sing,

B sing, though before the hour of dy - ing, Sing, sing, sing, though be-

Better Music ne'er was known

16

S sing, though before the hour of dy - ing; He shall rise, he shall

A dy - ing, Sing, sing, sing, be - fore the hour of dy - ing, be -

T sing, sing, sing; He shall rise,

B fore the hour of dy - ing, be - fore the hour of dy - ing, be - fore the hour of

cresc. *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.*

19

S rise, he shall rise, and then be cry - ing, "Hey ho, hey

A fore the hour of dy - ing; He shall rise, and be cry - ing, "Hey ho, hey

T he shall rise, shall rise, and then be cry - ing, "Hey ho,

B dy - ing, be - fore the hour of dy - ing; He shall be cry - ing, "Hey ho,

f *f* *f* *f*

23

S ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey

A ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey

T hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey

B hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey ho, hey

pp *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

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27

S ho, 'tis nought but mirth That keeps the bod - y, 'tis nought but

A ho, 'tis nought but mirth That keeps the bod - y, 'tis nought but

T ho, 'tis nought but mirth That keeps the bod - y, 'tis nought but

B ho, 'tis nought but mirth That keeps the bod - y, 'tis nought but

30

S mirth That keeps the bod - y, the bod - y from the

A mirth That keeps the bod - y, the bod - y from the

T mirth That keeps the bod - y, the bod - y from the

B mirth That keeps the bod - y, the bod - y from the

33

S earth, but mirth, but mirth, but

A earth, but mirth, but mirth, but

T earth, but mirth, but mirth, but

B earth, but mirth, but mirth, but

Better Music ne'er was known

36 *cresc.*

S mirth that keeps the bod - y, nought but mirth, mirth, mirth, mirth, mirth, — but mirth That keeps the

A mirth that keeps the bod - y, but mirth, but mirth, nought, — 'tis nought but mirth That keeps the

T mirth that keeps the bod - y, nought but mirth, nought but mirth, nought but mirth, but mirth That keeps the

B mirth that keeps the bod - y, nought but mirth that keeps the bod - y, nought but mirth That keeps the

39

S bod - - - - y, but mirth — that keeps the

A bod - - - - y, but mirth — that keeps the

T bod - - - - y, but mirth — that keeps the

B bod - - - - y, but mirth — that keeps the

42 *ff* *sostenuto*

S bod - y, that keeps the bod - y from the earth.”

A bod - y, that keeps — the bod - y from the earth.”

T bod - y, that keeps — the bod - y — from — the earth.”

B bod - y, the bod - y from the earth.”

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