



See how smoothly

Robert Lucas Pearsall
(1795-1856)

Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795-1856) was born at Clifton Hill, Bristol, into a wealthy Quaker family. His father was an army officer and amateur musician. He was privately educated and practiced as a barrister in Bristol. In 1825, after suffering a stroke, he took his family to live abroad. He sold the family estate in Willsbridge and, in 1842, bought the Schloss Wartensee, a ruined medieval keep near Rorschach in Switzerland and spent several years restoring it. He remained there until his death. Pearsall was an amateur composer and many of his compositions were not published until after his death. He is best remembered for his part-songs and madrigals but also wrote orchestral works, anthems, services, musical treatises, and edited a Catholic hymnal. He kept in touch with his home city of Bristol and wrote many pieces for the Bristol Madrigal Society. He also composed poetry, some of which he used for his madrigals, such as 'Why Do the Roses' and 'Why should the cuckoo's tuneful note'. The particle "de" often spelled in his name is a feature added after his death by his daughter Philippa.

See how smoothly

R. L. Pearsall

Andante grazioso

S See how smooth - ly glides our bark _____

A See how smooth - ly glides our bark On the

T See how smooth - ly glides _____ our _____ bark _____

B _____ See our bark On the

5
S _____ On the stream's de - ceit - ful face, _____ As _____

A stream's, _____ the _____ stream's de - ceit - ful face,

T _____ On the stream's _____ de - ceit - ful _____ face,

B stream's _____ de - ceit - ful face,



See how smoothly

9

S
— smil - ing in _____ the sun - beam bright It

A
smil - ing in _____ the sun - beam bright _____ It

T
smil - ing in the sun - beam _____ bright It

B
sun - beam bright It

13

S
floats _____ us to a rest - ing place.

A
floats _____ us to _____ a rest - ing place.

T
floats _____ us to a rest - ing _____ place.

B
floats us to a rest - ing place.

17

S
Thus a - down life's un - cer - tain - tide On -

A
Thus down life's _____ un - cer - tain - tide _____

T
Thus down life's _____ un - cer - tain - tide _____

B
un - cer - tain - tide

See how smoothly

21

S - - ward borne by fate we glide.

A On - ward borne by fate we glide.

T On - ward borne by fate we glide. Let's be

B On - ward borne by fate we glide.

25

S Let's be mer - ry as we go, While time and

A Let's be mer - ry as we go, While time and

T mer - ry, let's be mer - ry as we go, While time and

B Let's be mer - ry as we go, While time and

30

Più moto *Allegro*

S tide to - geth - er flow. They are but two. That's

A tide to - geth - er flow. They are but two.

T tide to - geth - er flow. They are but two.

B tide to - geth - er flow. They are but two.

See how smoothly

35

S far too few, _____ too few, that's far too few for rev - el - ry, To

A _____ That's far too few, that's far too few for rev - el - ry,

T _____ That's far too few, that's far too few for rev - el - ry,

B _____ That's far too few, that's far too few for rev - el - ry,

39

S make up three, We'll give them wine _____ for com - pa - ny, We'll

A To make up three, We'll give _____ them wine for com - pa - ny, We'll

T To make up three, We'll give them wine for com - pa - ny, We'll

B _____ To make up three, _____ for com - pa - ny, We'll

43

S give them wine, we'll give them wine, we'll give them _____

A give them wine, we'll give them wine, we'll give them

T give them wine, we'll give them wine, we'll give _____ them

B give them wine, we'll give them wine, we'll give them

See how smoothly

47

S
wine for com - - - pa - ny.

A
wine for com - - - pa - ny.

T
wine for com - - - pa - ny.

B
wine for com - - - pa - ny.

Novello, Ewer and Co.
(1860-1885)

See how smoothly glides our bark
On the stream's deceitful face,
As smiling in the sunbeam bright
It floats us to a resting place.

Thus adown life's uncertain-tide
Onward borne by fate we glide.
Let's be merry as we go,
While time and tide together flow.

They are but two.
That's far too few for revelry,
To make up three,
We'll give them wine for company.

R. L. Pearsall

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