

IRISH FOLKSONG

William Rhys-Herbert (1868-1921)

William Rhys-Herbert (1868–1921) was born in Ffwrnas, South Wales. As a youth, he showed much musical talent and, saving his money, he bought a harmonium. He became the first organist at Jerusalem Chapel and studied with T. J. Davies of Swansea. He graduated from the London College of Music and went to Canada where he studied at Trinity University, Toronto. He emigrated to the U.S. and was appointed organist at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and then was organist and choir director at the Church of the Redeemer, Minneapolis. He directed the Elks Glee Club and was principal accompanist to the Apollo Club. He composed numerous operettas for school performance, cantatas, songs, and part-songs. He also wrote choral music and piano sheet music under the pseudonym "W. H. Rees." He died in Chicago after a brief illness at age 53.

In comes the captain's daughter, The captain of the Yeos, Saying "Brave United Irishmen, We'll ne'er again be foes. A thousand pounds I'll bring And fly from home with thee, And dress myself in man's attire And fight for liberty."

CHORUS

We are the boys of Wexford, Who fought with heart and hand To burst in twain the galling chain And free our native land.

I want no gold, my maiden fair,
To fly from home with thee.
Your shining eyes will be my prize,
More dear than gold to me.
I want no gold to nerve my arm
To do a true man's part—
To free my land I'd gladly give
The red drops of my heart.
CHORUS

And when we left our cabins, boys, We left with right good will To see our friends and neighbours That were at Vinegar Hill! A young man from our Irish ranks A cannon he let go; He slapped it into Lord Mountjoy A tyrant he laid low! CHORUS

We bravely fought and conquered At Ross and Wexford town; And if we failed to keep them, 'Twas drink that brought us down. We had no drink beside us On Tubberneering's day, Depending on the long, bright pike, And well it worked that way. CHORUS

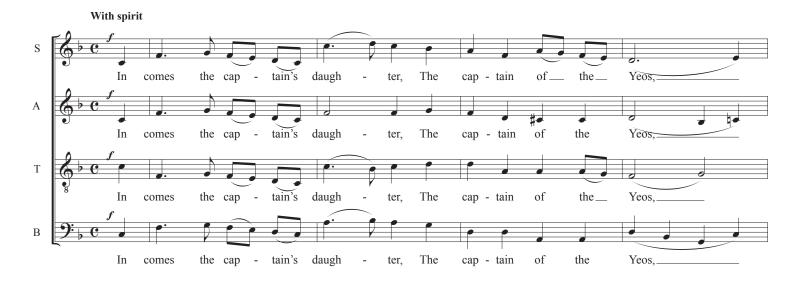
They came into our country,
Our blood and waste to spill,
But let them weep for Wexford
And think of Oulart Hill;
'Twas drink that still betrayed us
Of them we had no fear,
For everyman could do his part
Like Forth and Shelmalier.
CHORUS

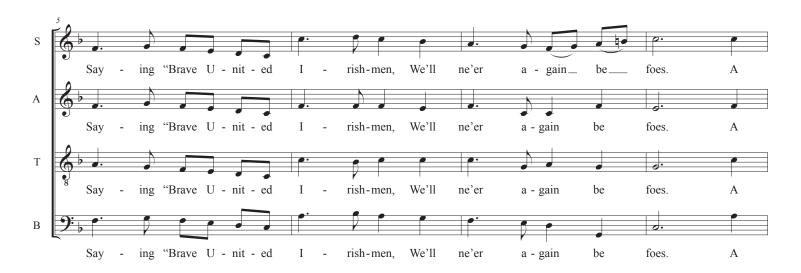
My curse upon all drinking, It made our hearts full sore, For bravery won each battle, But drink lost evermore; And if for want of leaders We lost at Vinegar Hill, We're ready for another fight And love our Country still!

Robert Dwyer Joyce (1830–1883)

"The Boys of Wexford" (also known as *The Flight of the Earls*) commemorates the Irish Rebellion of 1798, specifically, the Wexford Rebellion against English control of Irish affairs, resulting in the 1801 Act of Union. The county Wexford is ancestral home to the Kennedy family, and the folk song was performed many times for JFK during his visit to Ireland. It was arranged for the United States Marine Band by Samuel L. Nestico at President Kennedy's request, and an arrangement by Nelson Riddle was the opening and closing theme of the 1964 television series *Profiles in Courage*, based on Kennedy's book. The song also was used in the political rallies of Senator Ted Kennedy.

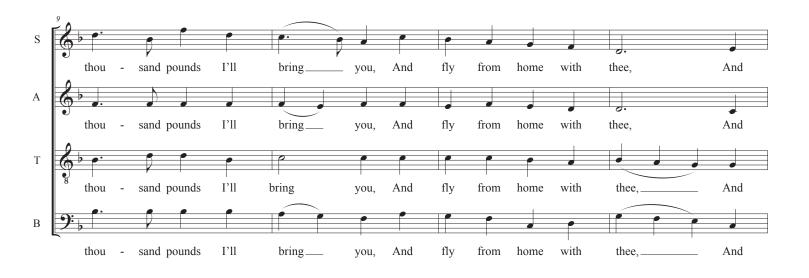
arr. W. Rhys-Herbert



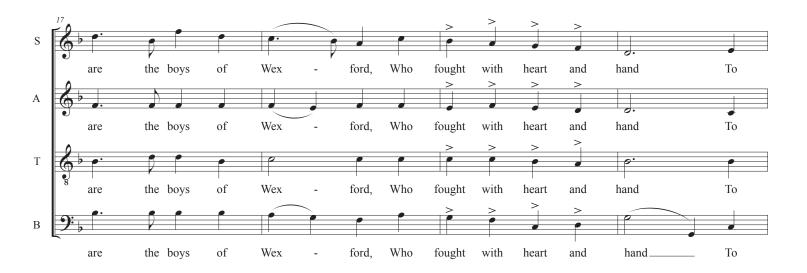


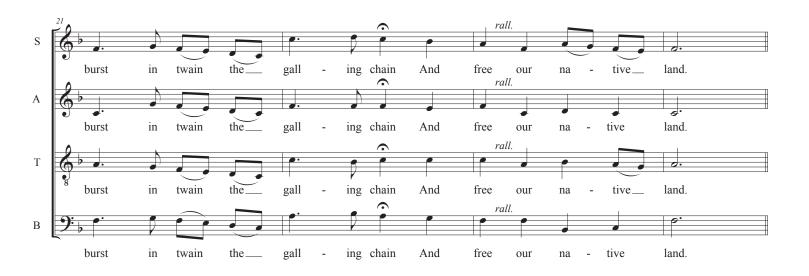


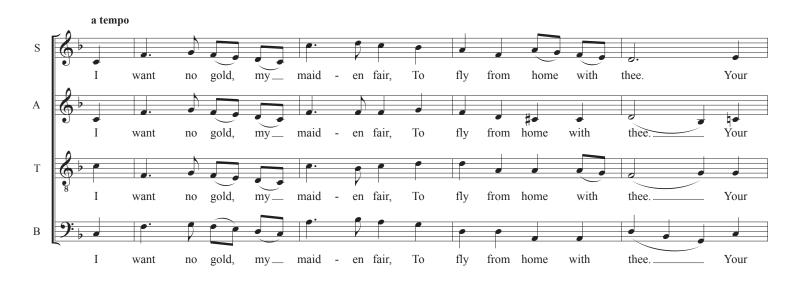
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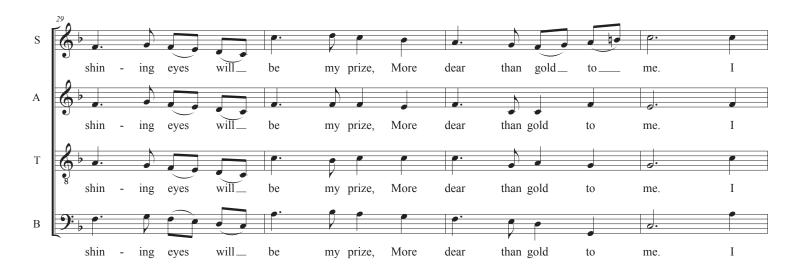


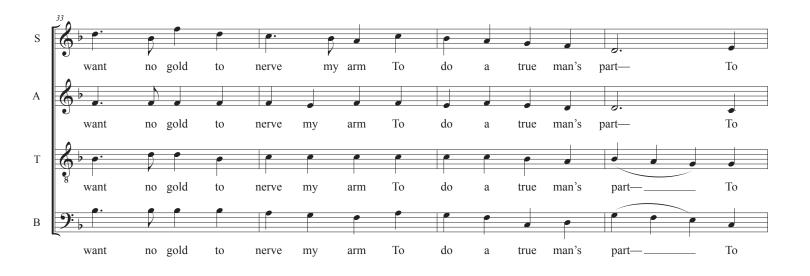


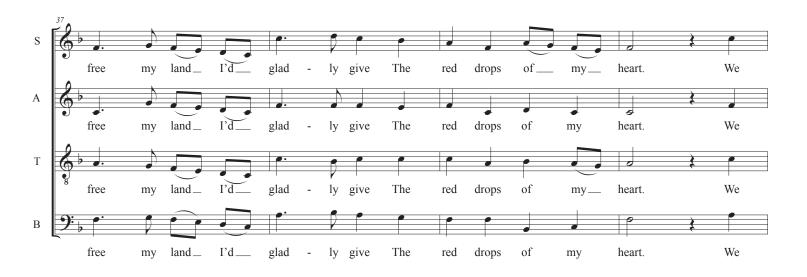


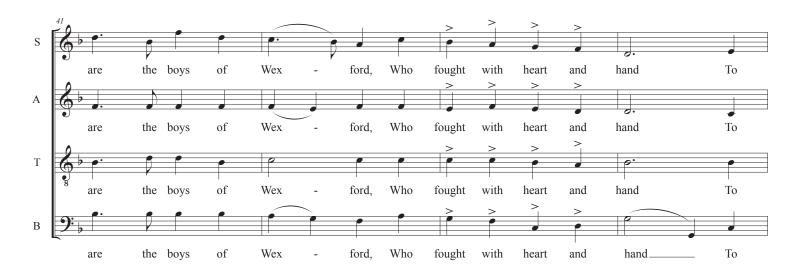


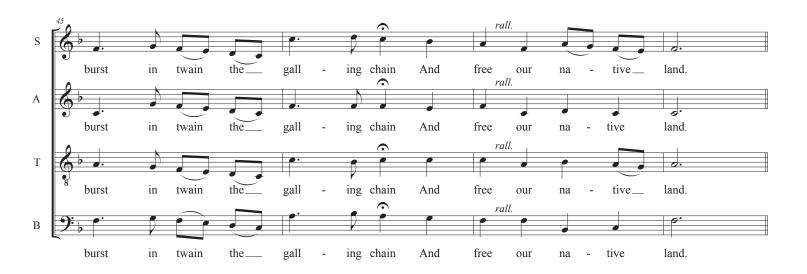


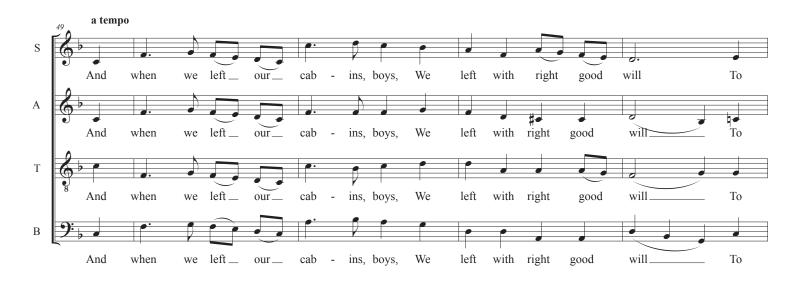


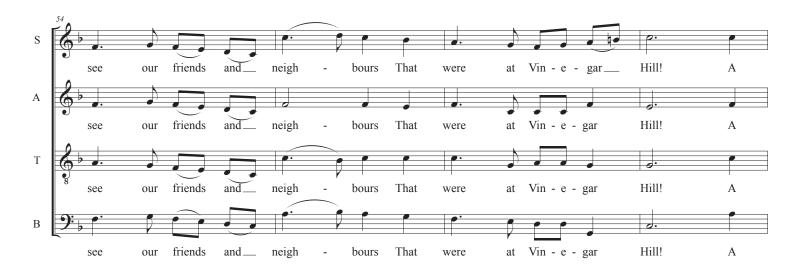


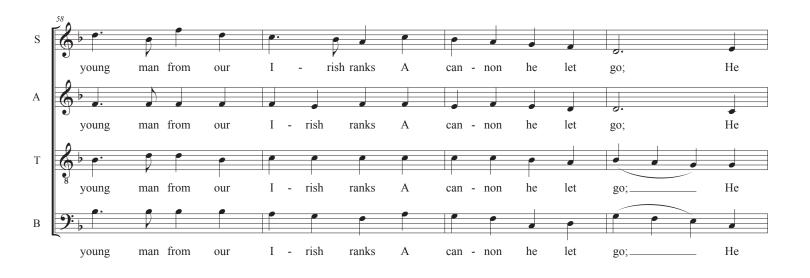


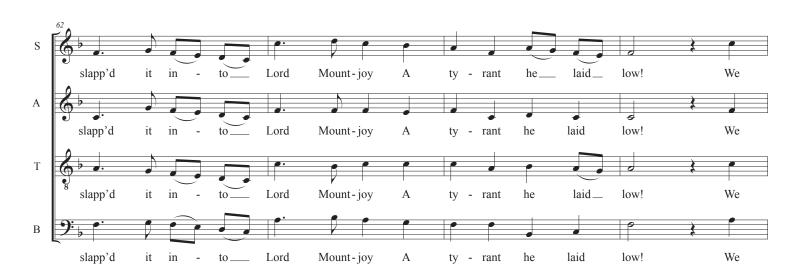


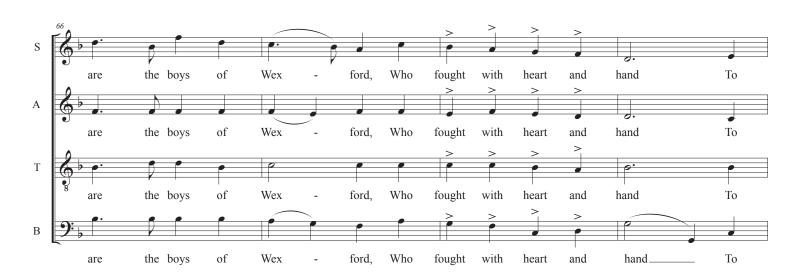


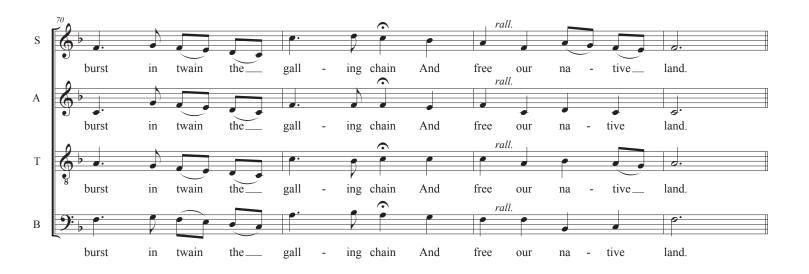


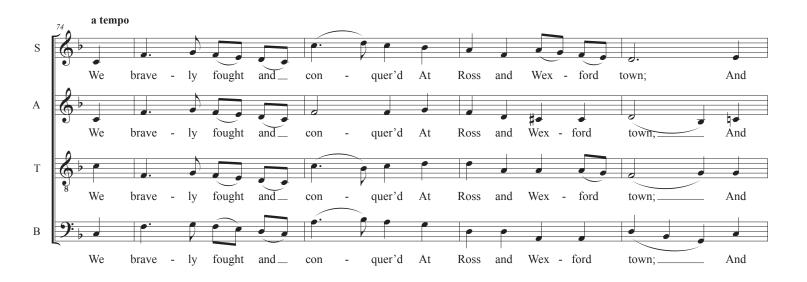


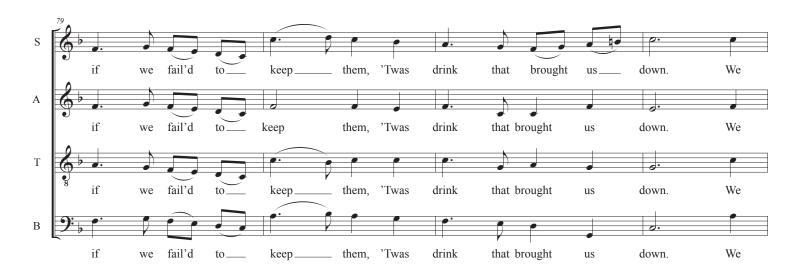


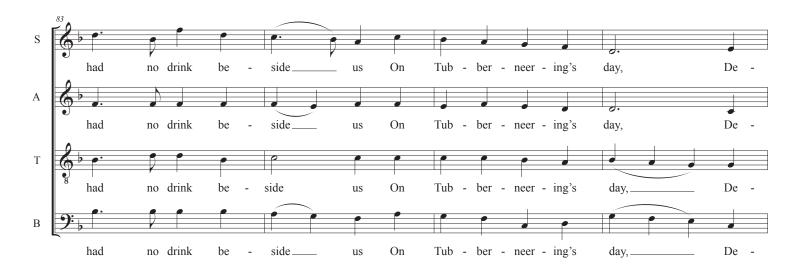


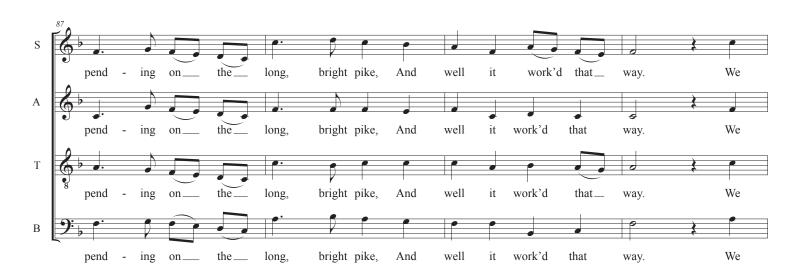


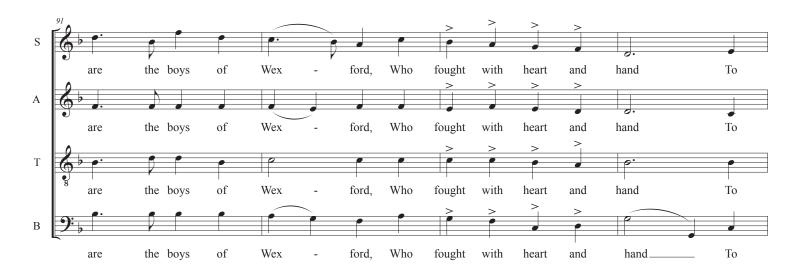


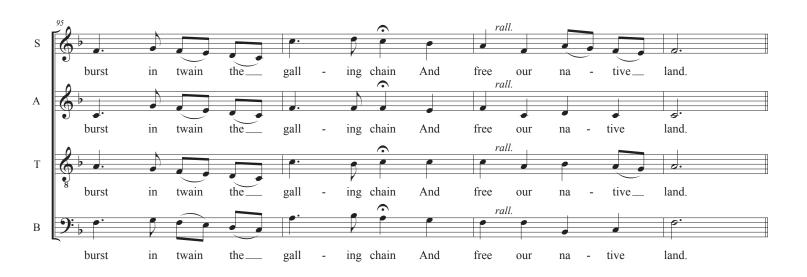


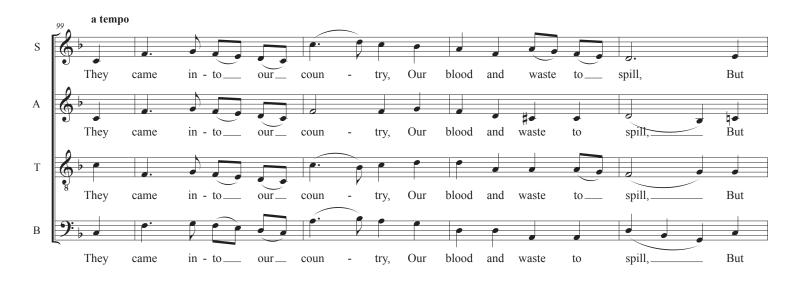


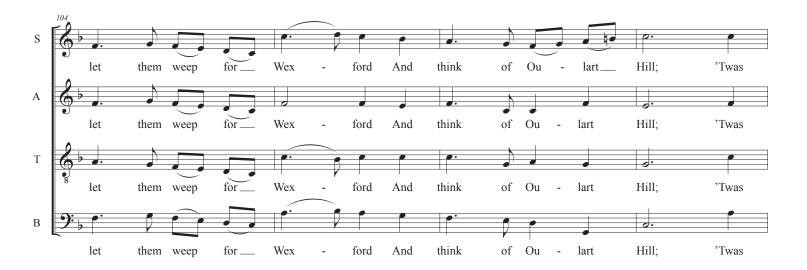


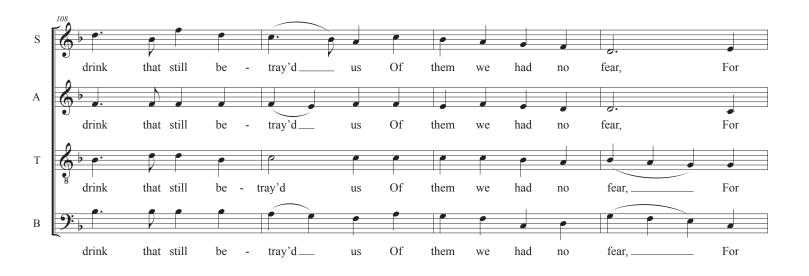


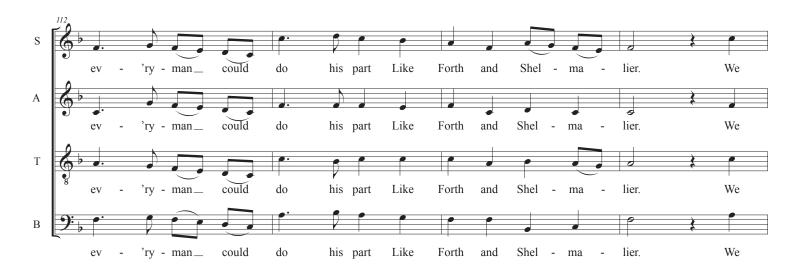


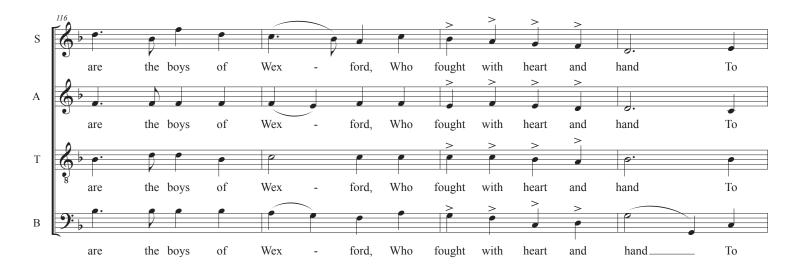


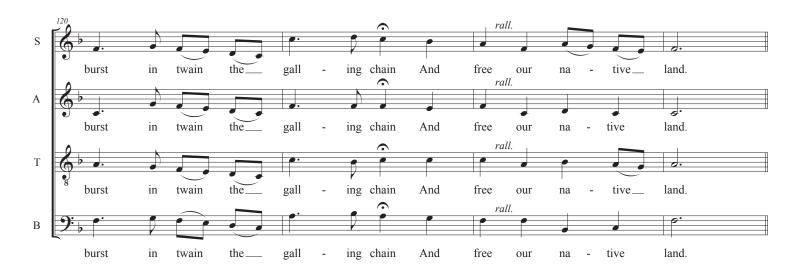


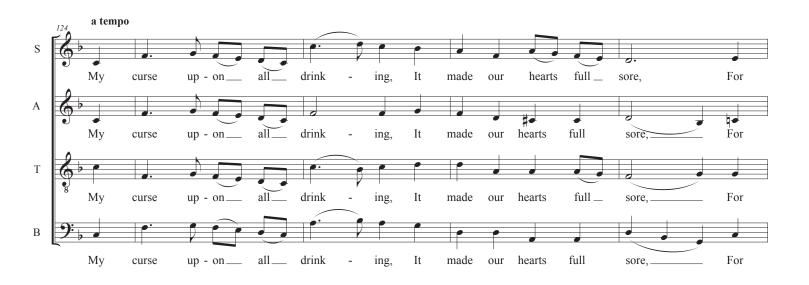


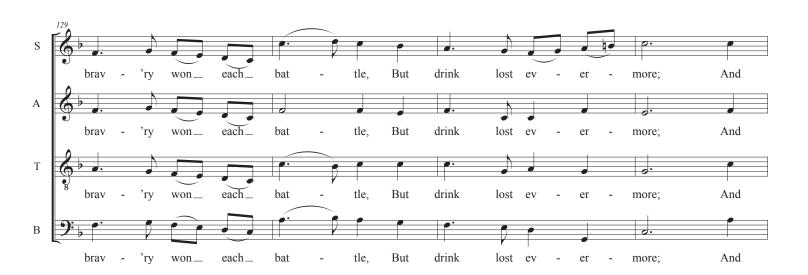


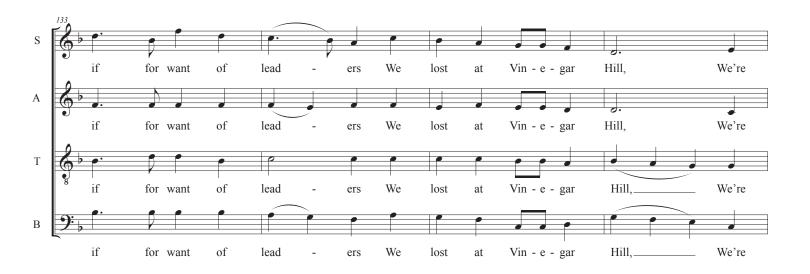


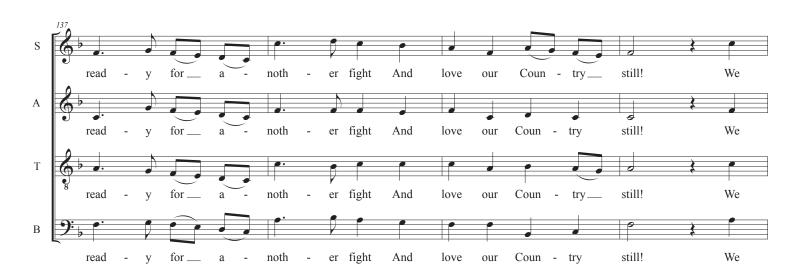


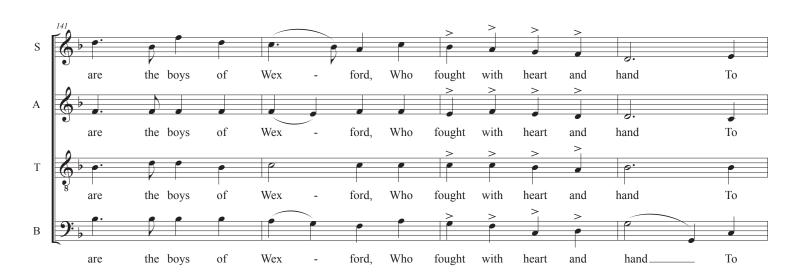


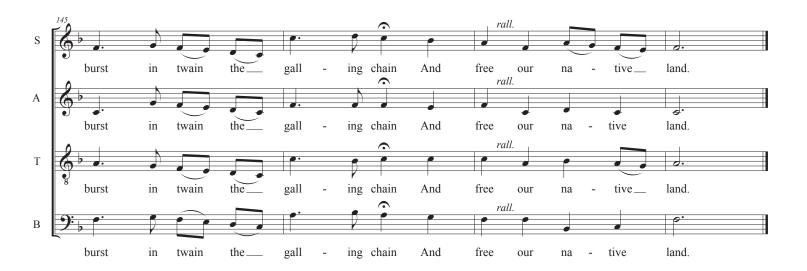












J. Fischer & Bro. (1909)

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