



O, wert thou
in the cauld blast

Scottish Folk Song

Hugh S. Robertson
(1874–1952)

Sir Hugh Stevenson Robertson (1874–1952) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, son of a Funeral Undertaker and Carriage Hirer, and served as an assistant in the family enterprise, eventually becoming manager. He first established his musical career as conductor of the Toynbee House Choir in Glasgow. He took leadership of the Toynbee Musical Association and transformed it, founding the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. He was director of the Orpheus choir for almost fifty years, leading it to national and international recognition. The Orpheus Choir had no equal in Britain and toured widely. He is recognized as one of the most significant British coral directors in history. He was also active as teacher, composer, adjudicator, critic, poet, playwright, essayist, and lecturer. He died at his home in Cathcart, Glasgow. His son was the Australian politician and diplomat Hugh Robertson. His compositions include a significant number of part-songs, especially settings of Scottish folk songs.

O wert thou in the cauld blast,
On yonder lea, on yonder lea,
My plaidie to the angry airt,
I'd shelter thee, I'd shelter thee;
Or did Misfortune's bitter storms
Around thee blaw, around thee blaw,
Thy bield should be my bosom,
To share it a', to share it a'.

Or were I in the wildest waste,
Sae black and bare, sae black and bare,
The desert were a Paradise,
If thou wert there, if thou wert there;
Or were I Monarch o' the globe,
Wi' thee to reign, wi' thee to reign,
The brightest jewel in my Crown
Wad be my Queen, wad be my Queen.

Robert Burns (1759–1796)

O, wert thou in the cauld blast

Hugh S. Robertson

Very expressive; not too slow

S
A
T
B

Hum (open lips)
Hum (open lips)
Hum (open lips)


O wert thou in the cauld blast, On yon - der lea, on


S
A
T
B


yon - der lea, My plaid - ie to the an - gry airt, I'd


O, wert thou in the cauld blast

7


S 


A 


T  Or did Mis - for - tune's

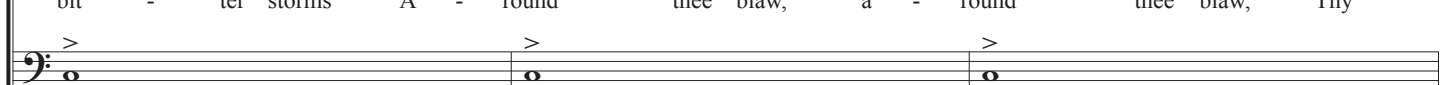
B  shel - ter thee, I'd shel - ter thee;

10

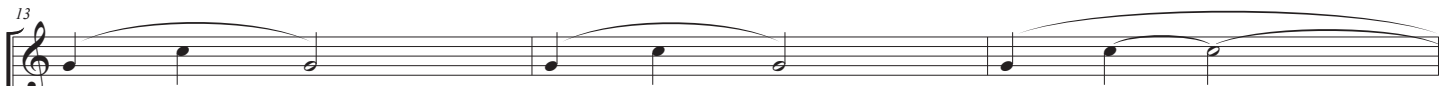
S 


A 


T  bit - ter storms A - round thee blaw, a - round thee blaw, Thy

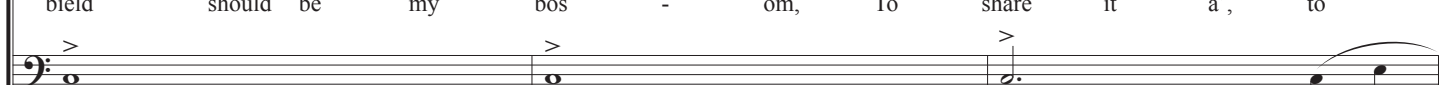
B 

13

S 

A 

T  bield should be my bos - om, To share it a', to

B 

O, wert thou in the cauld blast

16

S
A
T
B

share it a'.

Or were I in the wild - est waste, Sae

19

S
A
T
B

black and bare, sae black and bare, The des - ert were a

22

S
A
T
B

Par - a - dise, If thou wert there, if thou wert there;

Or

O, wert thou in the cauld blast

34

S
A
T
B

cauld _____ blast, On yon - der lea, on yon - der lea, My

37

S
A
T
B

plaid - ie to the an - gry airt, I'd shel - ter thee, I'd shel - ter thee.

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