



North Country Folk Tunes
XIV

♫! the Oak and the Ash

arranged
W. G. Whittaker

Allegretto ♩ = 104

T TENOR *con dolore*
p
A North Coun - trie lass up to Lon - don did pass Al -

B BASS
pp
A North

T 5
though with her na - ture it did not a - gree, Which_ made her re -

B
Coun - - - trie lass

T 10
pent and so of - ten la - ment Still_ wish - ing a - gain_ in the

B
up to Lon - don did pass, Which_ made her re -

O! the Oak and the Ash

15 ALTO *mp* *poco*

A O! the oak and the ash, and the

T North for to be. O! the oak and the ash, and the *poco*

B pent. O! the oak and the ash,

19 *dim.*

A bon - - - ny row - - - an

T bon - ny row - an tree Do flour - ish at home in my *dim.*

B and the bon - ny row - an tree Do flour - ish at home *dim.*

23 *p* *dim.* *rit.*

A tree Do flour - ish in my Coun -

T ain Coun - trie, *dim.* *rit.*

B in my ain Coun - trie, *rit.*

Dotted bar lines indicate stresses. The normal lines are preserved only for convenience in conducting. Accent according to the words.

“This tune is generally barred in 4/4, but cadential unsatisfactoriness arises in some places. Here it is barred in 2/4, so to more rhythmical elasticity. The more strongly accented bars will assert themselves without the need for complicated notation.”

O! the Oak and the Ash

27

A *ppp* *a tempo*
trie.

T *ppp* *a tempo*
in my ain Coun - trie.

B *ppp* *mf* *a tempo*
in my ain Coun - trie. O! the

32 SOPRANO

S *pp*
O!

A *pp*
O!

T *pp*
O!

B *p* *pp*
oak and the ash,

36

S fain wad I be in the North Coun -

A fain wad I be in the North Coun -

T fain wad I be in the North Coun -

B

O! the Oak and the Ash

39

S
trie Where the lads and the lass - es are

A
trie Where the lads and the lass - es are

T
trie Where the lads and the lass - es are

B
and the

42

S
mak - - - ing of hay; O there shall I

A
mak - - - ing of hay; O

T
mak - - - ing of hay; O!

B
row - - - - an tree.

45

S
see what is pleas - ant to me A

A
there shall I see what is pleas -

T
see what is pleas -

B

O! the Oak and the Ash

48 *f*
S mis - chief light on them that en - ticed me a -
A - ant to me A mis - chief light on
T A mis - chief light on them that en -
B

51 *dim.*
S way. O! the oak and the ash, and the
A them that en - ticed me a -
T ticed me a - way. *dim.* *leggiero*
B *f* O! the oak *dim.*

54
S bon - ny row - an tree Do flour - ish at
A way. O! the oak and the ash
T O! the oak and the
B and the ash,

O! the Oak and the Ash

57

S home in my ain coun - trie.

A do flour - ish at home.

T ash do flour - ish at home.

B Do.

p

mp

60

S in my ain coun - trie. At

A in my ain coun - trie. At

T in my ain coun - trie. At

B flour - ish at home in my ain coun - trie. At

rit.

pp

a tempo

63

S

A wakes and at fairs, be - ing void of all

T At wakes and at fairs,

B wakes and at fairs, void of all

pp

3

O! the Oak and the Ash

68

S

A
cares, We there with our lov - ers did

T
void of all cares, We there did use for to

B
cares, We there did use

71

S

A
use for to dance, Div. *p* Then hard hap had I, my ill -

T
dance, Then hard hap had

B
for to dance.

75

S

A
for - tune to try, And go up to Lon - don, my

T
I my ill - for - tune to try, Then hard hap had

B

O! the Oak and the Ash

79

S *pp* O!

A steps to ad - vance; *p* O! the oak and the

T I. *pp*

B *pp* O!

82

S

A ash, and the bon - ny row - an tree Do flour - ish at

T — O! the oak

B the oak and

86

S *cresc.* the oak and the ash, in my

A *cresc.* home in my ain coun - trie, in my

T *cresc.* and the ash, in my

B *cresc.* the ash, Do flour - ish

O! the Oak and the Ash

90 *rit.* *f* *p* *mf*

S ain coun - trie. But

A ain coun - trie.

T ain coun - trie.

B in my ain coun - trie.

95 *mf* *mf* *mf* *sonore*

S still I per - ceive I a hus - band might have If

A But still I per - ceive I a

T

B But still I per -

99 *cresc.* *f* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *cresc.*

S I to the cit - y my mind could but frame; But

A hus - - - band might have,

T But still I per -

B ceive I a hus - - - band might

O! the Oak and the Ash

103

S I'll have a lad that is North Coun - trie bred Or _____

A _____ But I'll _____

T ceive I a hus - - - band might have, But I'll

B have, But _____ I'll _____ have a lad _____

107

S else I'll not mar - ry, in the mind that I

A have _____ a lad that is North _____ Coun - trie

T have a _____ lad that is North Coun - trie

B _____ that is North _____ Coun - trie

110

S am. O! the oak and the ash, and the bon - ny row - an

A bred. _____ O! the oak _____ and the

T bred. O! the oak _____ and the

B bred. The oak _____ and

O! the Oak and the Ash

114

S tree Do flour - ish at home in my

A ash, Do flour - ish at home in my

T ash, Do flour - ish at home in my

B the ash,

117 *dim. poco a poco*

S ain coun - - - trie, Do *rit.*

A ain coun - - - trie, Do *rit.*

T ain coun - - - trie, Do *rit.*

B *dim. poco a poco* Do flour - ish

120

S flour - ish in my ain coun - trie. *ppp*

A flour - ish in my ain coun - trie. *ppp*

T flour - ish in my ain coun - trie. *ppp*

B in my ain coun - trie. *ppp*

William Gillies Whittaker (1876-1944) was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, England. He studied science at Armstrong College, University of Durham, received training in organ and singing, and became a member of its faculty. He later was Professor of Music at the University of Glasgow and principal of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music. He was a respected choral conductor with positions with Armstrong College, the Newcastle and Gateshead Choral Union and the Newcastle Bach Choir. Whittaker was a scholar of Bach and conductor Bach's works. He was editor of a series of Bach's cantatas and author of one of the definitive commentaries on Bach's cantatas. He also edited instrumental works of the 17th and 18th centuries. He composed a number of larger choral works, piano pieces, songs, and choral arrangements. He is particularly known for his collection of "North Country Folk Songs" and choral arrangements of many of the songs.

A North Country lass up to London did pass
Although with her nature it did not agree,
Which made her repent and so often lament
Still wishing again in the North for to be.
O! the oak and the ash, and the bonny rowan tree
Do flourish at home in my ain countrie.

O! fain wad I be in the North Country
Where the lads and the lasses are making of hay;
There shall I see what is pleasant to me
A mischief light on them that enticed me away.
O! the oak and the ash, and the bonny rowan tree
Do flourish at home in my ain countrie.

At wakes and at fairs, being void of all cares,
We there with our lovers did use for to dance,
Then hard hap had I, my ill-fortune to try,
And go up to London, my steps to advance.
O! the oak and the ash, and the bonny rowan tree
Do flourish at home in my ain countrie.

But still I perceive I a husband might have
If I to the city my mind could but frame;
But I'll have a lad that is North Country bred
Or else I'll not marry, in the mind that I am.
O! the oak and the ash, and the bonny rowan tree
Do flourish at home in my ain countrie.

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