



The Deil's Awa

Scottish Folk Song

W. G. Whittaker
(1876–1944)

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 of 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.

The deil cam fiddlin' thro' the town,
And danc'd awa wi' th' Exciseman,
And ilka wife cries, "Auld Mahoun,
I wish you luck o' the prize, man!"

*The deil's awa, the deil's awa,
The deil's awa wi' the Exciseman,
He's danc'd awa, he's danc'd awa,
He's danc'd awa wi' the Exciseman.*

We'll mak our maut, and we'll brew our drink,
We'll laugh, sing, and rejoice, man,
And mony braw thanks to the meikle black deil,
That danc'd awa wi' th' Exciseman.

There's threesome reels, there's foursome reels,
There's hornpipes and strathspeys, man,
But the ae best dance ere came to the land
Was "The deil's awa wi' the Exciseman!"

Robert Burns (1759–1796)

The Deil's Awa'

Tune: THE HEMP DRESSER

W. G. Whittaker

Quickly and with an infectious lilt

S

A

T *p*

B

The deil cam fid - dlin' thro' the town, And danc'd a - wa wi' th'Ex -

The first system of the musical score consists of four staves labeled S, A, T, and B. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 6/8. The Soprano (S) and Alto (A) parts are mostly rests. The Tenor (T) part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and contains the lyrics: "The deil cam fid - dlin' thro' the town, And danc'd a - wa wi' th'Ex -". The Bass (B) part is mostly rests.

S

A

T

B

And il - ka wife cries, "Auld Ma - houn, I

cise - man, "Auld Ma - houn, I

The second system of the musical score continues from the first. It consists of four staves labeled S, A, T, and B. The Soprano (S) part has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and contains the lyrics: "And il - ka wife cries, 'Auld Ma - houn, I". The Alto (A) part has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and contains the lyrics: "'Auld Ma - houn, I". The Tenor (T) part has a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and contains the lyrics: "cise - man, 'Auld Ma - houn, I". The Bass (B) part is mostly rests.

The Deil's Awa'

7

S wish you luck o' the prize, man!" The deil's a - wa, the

A wish you luck o' the prize, man!" The deil's a - wa, the

T

B

lightly

mp

The deil's a - wa, the

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of music. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The Soprano and Alto parts have lyrics: 'wish you luck o' the prize, man!" The deil's a - wa, the'. The Tenor part has a whole note rest. The Bass part has a whole note rest followed by a half note 'The' and a quarter note 'deil's', then a half note 'a - wa,' and a quarter note 'the'. Dynamics include 'lightly' above the Soprano staff and 'mp' above the Bass staff.

10

S deil's a - wa, The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man, He's

A deil's a - wa, The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man, He's

T

B

mp

mf

deil's a - wa, The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man, He's

Detailed description: This system contains the next four staves of music. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'deil's a - wa, The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man, He's'. The Tenor part has a whole note rest. The Bass part has a half note 'deil's', a quarter note 'a - wa,', a half note 'The deil's', a quarter note 'a - wa', a half note 'wi' the Ex - cise -', a quarter note 'man,', and a half note 'He's'. Dynamics include 'mp' above the Soprano and Alto staves, and 'mf' above the Bass staff.

13

S danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa, He's

A danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex -

T

B

dim.

mp dim.

dim.

danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex -

Detailed description: This system contains the final four staves of music. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa, He's' for Soprano; 'danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex -' for Alto; and 'He's' for Tenor. The Bass part has a half note 'danc'd', a quarter note 'a - wa,', a half note 'he's danc'd', a quarter note 'a - wa', a half note 'wi' the Ex -', and a quarter note 'He's'. Dynamics include 'dim.' above the Soprano staff, 'mp dim.' above the Tenor staff, and 'dim.' above the Bass staff.

The Deil's Awa'

15

S danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man.

A cise - - - - - man.

T danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man. We'll

B cise - - - - - man. We'll

18

S

A

T mak our maut, and we'll brew ___ our drink, ___ We'll laugh, sing, and re -

B mak ___ our maut, and we'll brew ___ our drink, We'll laugh, ___ sing, and ___ re -

21

S

A

T joice, man, And mo - ny braw thanks to the mei - kle black deil, That

B joice, ___ man, And mo - ny braw thanks to the mei - kle black deil, That

The Deil's Awa'

24

mysteriously

ppp

S The deil's a - wa, the

rather to the fore; eerily

p

A He's danc'd

ppp

T danc'd a - wa wi' th'Ex - cise - man. The deil's a - wa, the

ppp

B danc'd a - wa wi' th'Ex - cise - man. He's danc'd

27

S deil's a - wa, The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man, He's

A a - wa, he's

T deil's a - wa, The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man, He's

B

30

S danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa, He's

ppp

A danc'd, He's

T danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa, He's

B a -

The Devil's Awa'

With exuberant vivacity

32

S danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man. There's

A danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man. There's

T danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man. There's

B wa wi' the Ex - cise - man.

(Sopranos brilliant and rather hard)

35

S three - some reels, there's four - some reels, There's horn - pipes and strath -

A three - some reels, four - some reels, three - some reels,

T three - some reels, there's four - some reels, There's horn - pipes and strath -

B *ff** There's three - some reels, there's four - some reels, There's horn - pipes

* For six bars the chief accents of the bass line should fall on the second beats. Stress according to the words.

38

S speys, man, But the ae best dance ere

A four - some reels, The best dance

T speys, man, But the ae best dance ere

B and strath - speys, man, But the ae best

The Deil's Awa'

40

S came to the land Was "The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex -

A ere came Was "The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex -

T came to the land Was "The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex -

B dance ere came Was "The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex -

42

S cise - - - - -

A cise - - - - -

T cise - - - - -

B cise - - - - -

*The alternative notes may be used if the original notes are considered too high, but both versions must not be sung simultaneously.

46

S - - - man." The deil's a - wa, the

A - - - man." The deil's

T - - - man." The deil's

B - - - man." The deil's

Tenor a little to the fore

The Deil's Awa'

49

S deil's a - wa, The deil's a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - man, He's

A _____ a - wa _____

T _____ a - wa, _____ He's

B _____ a - wa _____

52

S danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa, He's *ppp*

A _____

T danc'd a - - - wa, He's *ppp*

B _____

54

S danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - - -

A *ppp* wi' the Ex - cise - - -

T danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex - cise - - -

B * BASS 1 only *ppp* wi' the Ex - cise - - -

* The second basses should be more numerous than the first.

The Devil's Awa'

57

S

A

T

B

BASS 2

mp

dim.

He's danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa, he's

60

S

A

T

B

B2

danc'd a - wa, he's danc'd a - wa, He's danc'd a - wa wi' the Ex -

The Devil's Awa'

63

S
- - - - - man!

A
- - - - - man!

T
- - - - - man!

B
ppp
- - - - - man!

B2
cise - - - - - man!

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