

The three ravens

Traditional
arranged

John Gerrard Williams
(1888–1947)

John Gerrard Williams (1888-1947) was born in London and began a career as an architect. He devoted his spare time to music, joining choral societies and orchestras. He had had no other training when he began to compose in 1911, becoming a fruitful composer and arranger. Most works are smaller forms and intimate in nature. Much of his best work are lyrical songs. Williams composed an orchestral ballet, a rhapsody, a suite and assorted smaller pieces. His string quartets reflect French influence, especially that of Debussy and his piano music has been compared to Ravel's. His choral music was mainly brief in format, writing songs for mixed voices (e.g. *Diaphenia*, *Sweet Kate*, *Fair, Sweet, Cruel*, *Charming Chloe*, *Three Sleeps*, *When Laura Smiles*, *Whither Runneth My Sweet Heart?* and the wordless *Tragic Fragment*), women's voices (*The Hawthorne Tree*), four-part men's voices (e.g. *Old Farmer Buck*, *Thou Sent'st to Me a Heart* and *Scizzars are Pumpy*) and two part children's voices (e.g. *Welcome Sweet Pleasure*, *I Loved a Lass* and *Foreign Craft*). Williams also wrote hundreds of instrumental arrangements of folk-songs, folk dance tunes, popular melodies, J.S. Bach and more.

There were three ravens sat on a tree,
They were as black as they might be,
The one of them said to his mate,
“Where shall we our breakfast take?”
Down, down in yonder green field
There lies a knight slain 'neath his shield.


From “Melismata” (1611)


The three ravens

arr. J. G. Williams


solo or
semi-chorus

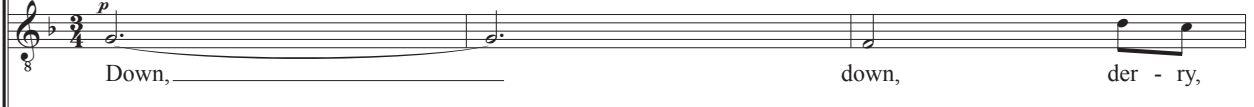
Con moto

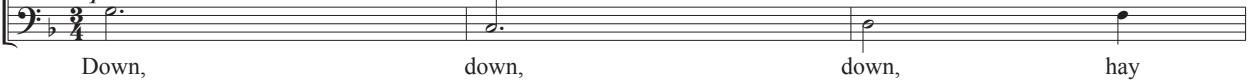
(S) 

S 

(A) 

A 

T 

B 

(S) 

S 

(A) 

A 

T 

B 

The three ravens

7

(S) (Down - a-down, hay down - a - down,) There were three rav'ns sat on a

S down - - - a - down,

(A) tree, (Down - a-down, hay down - a - down,) There

A down, hay

T hay

B down - - - a - down, hay

10

(S) tree, (With a down,) There

S down, down - a - down, hay down - a - down, down,

(A) were three rav'ns sat on a tree, (With a down,)

A down, hay down,

T down, down, hay down,

B down, hay down,

The three ravens

13

(S) were three rav'ns sat on a tree, They were as black as they might be, (With a

S hay down - - - a - down, der - ry,

(A) There were three rav'ns sat on a tree, They were as black as

A hay down - - - a - down, down -

T hay down, hay down - - - a - down - a -

B hay down - - - a - down - - - a - down - a -

16

(S) down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down, down,)

S down, hay down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down,

(A) they might be, (With a down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down, down.)

A - - - a - down, down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry,

T down, hay down, down,

B down, hay down - a - down, down,

The three ravens

20

(S) *p* The one of them said to his

S der - ry, der - ry, down, down, down,

(A) *p* The

A down, down - - - a - down,

T down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down, down,

B down, hay down - - - a - down,

23

(S) mate, (Down - a-down, hay down - a-down,) The one of them said to his

S down - a - down,

(A) one of them said to his mate, (Down - a-down, hay down - a-down,) The

A down, hay

T hay

B down, down - a - down, hay

The three ravens

27

(S) mate, (With a down,) The

S down, down - a - down, hay down - a - down, down,

(A) one of them said to his mate, (With a down,)

A down, hay down,

T down, down, hay down,

B down, hay down,

30

(S) one of them said to his mate, "Where shall we our break - fast take?" (With a

S hay down - - a - down, der - ry,

(A) The one of them said to his mate, "Where shall we our

A hay down - - a - down, down -

T hay down, hay down - - a - down - a -

B hay down - - a - down - - a - down - a -

The three ravens

33

(S) down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down, down.)

S down, hay down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down,

(A) break - fast take?" (With a down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down, down.)

A - - - a - down, down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry,

T down, hay down, down,

B down, hay down - a - down, down,

37

(S) Down, down in yon - der green field,

S der - ry, der - ry, down, down, down,

(A) Down, down in yon - der green

A down, down - - - a - down,

T down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down, down,

B down, hay down - a - down, down,

The three ravens

41

(S) (Down - a-down, hay down - a-down, Down, down in yon-der green field, (With a

S down - a - down, down,

(A) field, (Down - a-down, hay down - a-down,) Down, down in yon-der green

A down, hay down,

T hay down,

B down - a - down, hay down,

45

(S) down,) Down, down in yon - der green

S down - a - down, hay down - a - down, down, hay

(A) field, (With a down,) Down,

A hay down, hay

T down, hay down, hay

B hay down, hay

The three ravens

48

(S) field There lies a knight slain 'neath his shield, (With a down, der - ry,

S down - - - a - down, der - ry, down, hay

(A) down in yon - der green field There lies a knight slain 'neath his shield, (With a

A down - - - a - down, down - - - a -

T down, hay down - - - a - down - a - down,

B down - - - a - down - - - a - down - a - down, hay

51

(S) der - ry, der - ry, down, down.)

S down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down, down.

(A) down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down, down.)

A down, down, der - ry, der - ry, der - ry, down.

T hay down, hay down.

B down - - - a - down, hay down.

TERMS OF USE

These editions are available as a service to the choral community, offering inexpensive access to public domain literature. Choir resources can purchase other literature still under copyright, especially to support those creating and publishing new compositions and arrangements. These editions have been created using public domain sources under U. S. copyright law. Out of respect to the research, time and effort invested:

please print and issue an edition in its entirety, retaining notices, attributions, and logos.
please refrain from using an edition as a basis for creating another edition.

If performed, sending a copy of the concert program would be a valuable affirmation. If recorded, notification and attribution would be appropriate professional courtesies and a copy of the recording would be greatly appreciated!

For a full description of these requests and more scores, visit:
www.shorchor.net

