



Folk Songs and Traditional Tunes

Paul Ayres

3-part a cappella, low key

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Folk Songs and Traditional Tunes

Low Key
3-part a cappella

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ARRANGER NOTE:

This is a set of folk songs and traditional tunes, arranged in three vocal parts by Paul Ayres. The idea behind the arrangements is that they are strophic (the same music for each verse or pair of verses) and straightforward enough to be learned by any group of singers (ideally performed from memory) but not without musical interest or beauty. Simple but not simplistic, hopefully! They can be performed by three solo voices, or by upper-voice (SSA) or lower-voice (TBarB) ensembles. They should also work well when sung by mixed choirs, with sopranos and tenors on part 1, mezzos and baritones on 2, altos and basses on 3.

The collection ICC3006L contains 11 songs (ICC4018L-ICC4028L),
also available in medium and high keys.
All songs in these collections are available individually.

The Ash Grove

Low Key
3-part a cappella

English Words by Thomas Oliphant

Traditional Welsh Melody

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

arr. Paul Ayres

1
ah*

2
1. Down yon - der green val - ley where stream - lets me - an - ly When twi - light is
2. Still glows the bright sun - shine o'er val - ley and moun - tain, But what are - bles the

3
ah* ah

6
ah

fad - ing I pen - sive - ly ro - ve at the bright noon - tide in so - li - tude
black - bird his note from the tree, Still trem - bles the moon - beam on stream - let and

ah

12
ah

yon - der A - mid the dark shades of the lone - ly ash grove. 'Twas there while the
moun - tain, But what are the beau - ties of na - ture to me? With sor - row, deep

*sing "ah" or "oo" or any other sound ad lib.

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18

black - bird was cheer - ful - ly__ sing - ing I first met_ my__ dear one, the
 sor - row, my bos - om__ is__ lad - en, All day I__ go__ mourn - ing in

black - bird was cheer - ful - ly__ sing - ing I first met_ my__ dear one, the
 sor - row, my bos - om__ is__ lad - en, All day I__ go__ mourn - ing in

1. the
2. in

23

joy of my heart.____ ah____
 search of my love.____

joy of my heart, A__ told us__ glad - ness the blue - bells were
 search of my love, Ye__ eel - pes, O__ tell me, where is the__ sweet

joy, the joy of my heart, ah____
 search, in search of my love,

28

ring - ing, ah, then lit - tle__ thought I how soon we must part.
 mai - den? She sleeps 'neath the__ green turf down by the Ash Grove.

D.C.

ah

Auld Lang Syne

Low Key

3-part a cappella

Traditional Words Adapted by Robert Burns

Traditional Scottish Melody
arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

1
Should auld ac - quaint - ance be for - got and nev - er brought to mind,

2
Should auld ac - quaint - ance be for - got and nev - er brought to mind, should

3
Should auld ac - quaint - ance be for - got and nev - er brought to mind, should

5
auld ac - quaint - ance be for - got and auld lang syne. For auld lang syne, my dear, for

auld ac - quaint - ance be for - got and auld lang syne. For auld lang syne, my dear, for

auld ac - quaint - ance be for - got and auld lang syne. For auld lang syne, my dear, for

11
auld lang syne, We'll take a cup of kind - ness yet for the sake of auld lang syne.

auld lang syne, W

auld lang syne, W

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Early One Morning

Low Key

Traditional Words

3-part a cappella

Traditional English Melody
arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

1. Ear - ly one morn - ing, just as the sun was ris - ing,
2. sung the poor__ mai - den, her sor - rows be - wail - ing, the

doo* doo doo doo doo doo

doo* doo doo doo doo doo

3 heard a young maid sing__ in the val - ley be - low: "O don't de - ceive__ me,
sung the poor__ maid in the val - ley be - low:

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo "O don't de - ceive me,

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo "O don't de - ceive me,

6 O nev - er leave me, How could you use a poor maid - en so?" doo* doo

O nev - er leave me, How could you use a poor maid - en so?" doo__

O nev - er leave me, How could you use a poor maid - en so?" Re -

Fine

*sing "doo" or "dah" or any other sound ad lib.

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Home Sweet Home

Low Key
3-part a cappella

John Howard Payne

Henry Bishop
arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

1 

1. Mid pleas - ures and pal - a - ces though I may roam, Be it ev - er so
2. An_ ex - ile from home, splen - dour daz - zles in vain, Oh, give me my

2 

1. Mid pleas - ures and pal - a - ces though I may roam, Be ev - er so
2. An_ ex - ile from home, splen - dour daz - zles in vain, Oh, give me my

3 

1. Mid pleas - ures and pal - a - ces though I may roam, Be it ev - er so
2. An_ ex - ile from home, splen - dour daz - zles in vain, Oh, give me my

6 

hum - ble, there's no place like home. A charm from the sky seems to hal - low us
low - ly thatched cot - tage a - gain! The birds_ sing - ing gai - ly that came at my



hum - ble, there's no place li
low - ly thatched cot - tage :



hum - ble, there's no place li
low - ly thatched cot - tage :

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12

there, Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with else - where. Home, home,
 call And gave peace of mind that is dear - er than all.

there, Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with else - where. Home,
 call And gave peace of mind that is dear - er than all.

there, Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with else - where. Home, home,
 call And gave peace of mind that is dear - er than all.

19

D.C.

sweet, sweet home, there's no place like home, there's no place like home.

home, there's place like home, there's no place like home.

sweet, sweet home, there's no place like home, there's no place like home.

O Waly Waly

Low Key
3-part a cappella

Traditional Words

Traditional British Melody
arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

1

1. The wa - ter is wide, I can - not get o'er, and nei - ther have I wings
3. I leaned my back up a - gainst some oak, think - ing it was the trust - y
5. O, love is hand - some and love is fine, the sweet - est flow'r when first it's

2

1. The wa - ter is wide, I can - not get o'er, and nei - ther have I wings to
3. I leaned my back up a - gainst some oak, think - ing it was the trust - y
5. O, love is hand - some and love is fine, the sweet - est flow'r when first it's

3

1. The wa - ter is wide, I can - not get o'er, and nei - ther have I wings to
3. I leaned my back up a - gainst some oak, think - ing it was the trust - y
5. O, love is hand - some and love is fine, the sweet - est flow'r when first it's

4

fly, O, go and get me some lit - tle boat to car - ry o'er my true love and
tree, But first it bend - ed and then it broke, and so my love proved false to
new, But love grows old and it wax - es cold, and fades a - way like the morn - ing

fly, O, go and get me some
tree, But first it bend - ed a
new, But love grows old and

fly, O, go and get me some
tree, But first it bend - ed a
new, But love grows old and

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Our Captain Calls All Hands

Low Key
3-part a cappella

Traditional Words

Traditional English Melody
arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

1. Our cap - tain calls all hands To leave to - mor - row,
 2. How can you go a - broad Fight - ing for stran - gers?
 3. Down on the ground she fell Like one a - dy - ing,
 4. I said: good - bye, my dear Fa - ther and moth - er,

1. Our cap - tain calls all hands To leave to - mor - row,
 2. How can you go a - broad Fight - ing for stran - gers?
 3. Down on the ground she fell Like one a - dy - ing,
 4. I said: good - bye, my dear Fa - ther and moth - er,

1. Our cap - tain calls all hands To leave to - mor - row,
 2. How can you go a - broad Fight - ing for stran - gers?
 3. Down on the ground she fell Like one a - dy - ing,
 4. I said: good - bye, my dear Fa - ther and moth - er,

5
 Leav - ing my dear mourn In grief and sor - row.
 You'd do well stay at home, Free from all dan - gers.
 All tear - ing of her hair, Weep - ing and sigh - ing.
 I am your on - ly son, I have no broth - er.

Leav - ing my dear to mourn In grief and sor - row.
 You'd do well to stay at home, Free from all dan - gers.
 All tear - ing of her hair, Weep - ing and sigh - ing.
 I am your on - ly son, I have no broth - er.

Leav - ing my
 You'd do well to
 All tear - ing
 I am your

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Dry up those bri - dy__ tears, And leave off weep - - ing,
 You court - ed me a__ while Just to__ de - ceive__ me,
 There's no be - liev - ing__ one, Not your own broth - - er,
 But don't you weep for__ me, For I__ am go - - ing



Dry up those bri - dy__ tears, And leave off__ weep - - ing,
 You court - ed me a__ while Just to__ de - ceive__ me,
 There's no be - liev - ing__ one, Not your own__ broth - - er,
 But don't you weep for__ me, For I__ am go - - ing



Dry up those bri - dy__ tears, And leave off weep - - ing,
 You court - ed__ me__ a while Just to__ de - ceive__ me,
 There's no be - liev - ing one, Not your own broth - - er,
 But don't you__ weep for me, For I am go - - ing



So hap - py we__ may__ be at our next meet - ing.__
 Now my poor heart you've won, you're bound to leave me.__
 So girls, if you__ must love, love one an - o - ther.__
 To ev - er - last - ing__ joy and foun - tains flow - ing.__



So hap - py__ we may__ be__ at our next meet - ing.__
 Now my__ poor heart you've won, you're bound to leave me.__
 So girls, if__ you must love, love one an - o - ther.__
 To ev - er - last - ing__ joy__ and foun - tains flow - ing.__



So__ hap - py
 Now my__ poor
 So__ girls, if
 To__ ev - er -

The Ploughboy's Dream

Low Key
3-part a cappella

Traditional Words

Traditional English Melody
arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

1. I am a plough-boy stout and strong as ev - er drove a team,
 1. I am a plough-boy stout and strong as ev - ver drove a team, And
 1. I am a plough-boy stout and strong as ev - er drove a team, And

three years since as I lay a - bed I had a dread - ful dream, I
 three years since as I lay a - bed I had a dread - ful dream, I
 three years since as I lay a - bed I had a dread - ful dream, I

9
 I dreamt I drove my mas - ter's team of Dob - bin, Belle and Star Be -
 dreamt I drove my

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13 D.C.

-fore a stiff and ar - moured plough, as all my mas - ters are.

-fore a stiff and ar - moured plough, as all my mas - ters are.

-fore a stiff and ar - moured plough, as all my mas - ters are.

2. I found the ground was baked so hard 'twas more like brick than clay,
I could not cut my furrow through nor would my beasts obey,
The more I whipped and slashed and swore, the less my horses tried,
Dobbin lay down, and Belle and Star ignored my threat and cries.

3. Till low above me appeared a youth he seemed to hang in air,
And all around a dazzling light which made my eyes to stare.
"Give over, cruel wretch!" he cried to me, "thy beasts abuse,
Think if the ground was not so hard they would their work refuse."

4. "Besides I heard thee curse and swear as if dumb beasts could know
Just what your oaths and cursing meant, it's better far than gold
That you should know that there is one who knows thy sins full well,
And what shall be thy after doom another shall thee tell."

5. No more he said, but, light as air, he vanished from my sight,
And with him set the sun's bright beams, 'twas all as dark as night.
The thunder roared from underground, the earth it seemed to gape,
Blue flames broke forth and in those flames appeared an awful shape.

6. "I shall call thee mine!" he cried, with voice so clear and deep,
And quivering like an Aspen leaf I woke out of my sleep.
Ponder well, you ploughboys all, this dream that I have told,
And if the work goes hard with you it's worth your wage in gold.

Shenandoah

Low Key

3-part a cappella

Traditional American Words

Traditional American Melody

arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

The first and third phrases could be sung by a solo voice or semi-chorus, ad lib.

1. O She - nan - doah, I long to see you, a - way you rol - ling
 2. O She - nan - doah, I love your daugh - ter, a - way you rol - ling
 3. O She - nan - doah, I'll nev - er leave you, a - way you rol - ling
 4. O She - nan - doah, I long to hear you, a - way you rol - ling

1. O She - nan - doah, I long to see you, a - way you rol - ling
 2. O She - nan - doah, I love your daugh - ter, a - way you rol - ling
 3. O She - nan - doah, I'll nev - er leave you, a - way you rol - ling
 4. O She - nan - doah, I long to hear you, a - way you rol - ling

1. O She - nan - doah, I long to see you, a - way you rol - ling
 2. O She - nan - doah, I love your daugh - ter, a - way you rol - ling
 3. O She - nan - doah, I'll nev - er leave you, a - way you rol - ling
 4. O She - nan - doah, I long to hear you, a - way you rol - ling

4
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah, I long to see you, a -
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah, I love your daugh - ter, a -
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah, I'll not de - ceive you, a -
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah, I long to hear you, a -

ri - ver, O She - nan - doah
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah

ri - ver, O She - nan - doah
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah
 ri - ver, O She - nan - doah

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D.C.

7

- way, _____ I'm bound a - way 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.
 - way, _____ I'm bound a - way 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.
 - way, _____ I'm bound a - way 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.
 - way, _____ I'm bound a - way 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.

- way, _____ a - - way _____ 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.
 - way, _____ a - - way _____ 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.
 - way, _____ a - - way _____ 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.
 - way, _____ a - - way _____ 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.

- way, _____ I'm bound a - way 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.
 - way, _____ I'm bound a - way 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.
 - way, _____ I'm bound a - way 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.
 - way, _____ I'm bound a - way 'cross the wide Mis - sou - ri.

Preview Copy

The Three Ravens

Low Key

3-part a cappella

Traditional Words

Traditional English Melody

arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

1. There were three ra - vens sat on a tree,
 3. His hawks they fly so ea - ger - ly, down a down
 5. She bur - ied him be - fore the prime,

down hey down, They were as black as they might be,
 There's no fowl would call him come nigh, with a down,
 She was dead her - self ere the en - song time,

down hey down, with a down,
 down hey down, with a

8 The of them said to his mate, 7 Where shall we our
 Down there comes a fal - low doe As great with child as
 God send ev' - ry gen - tle - man Such hawks, such hounds, and

down,

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12. 1.2.

break - fast take?_
 she might go,___ with a down der - ry der - ry der - ry down down._____

such a le - man,

with a down_____ der - ry der - ry

with a down der - ry der - ry der - ry

15.

2. Down in yon - der green_ field, down a down hey
 4. She lift - ed up his blood - y head,

der - ry down down. 2. Down in yon - der green_ field, down a down hey
 4. She lift - ed up his blood - y head,

down down 2. Down in yon - der green_ field, down a down hey
 4. She lift - ed up his blood - y head,

19.

down, There lies a knight slain un - der his shield, with a
 And kissed his wounds that were_ so red,

down hey down,

down hey down,

22

down der - ry der - ry down, His hounds they lie there at his feet, So
 She got him up u - pon her back And

down with a down, His hounds they lie there at his feet, So
 She got him up u - pon her back And

— with a down, His hounds they lie there at his feet, So
 — She got him up u - pon her back And

26

well they can their mas - ter keep, with a down der - ry der - ry der - ry down down. —
 car - ried him to an earth - en lake,

well they can their mas - ter keep with a down der - ry der - ry der - ry down
 car - ried him to an earth - en lake,

well they can their mas - ter keep with a down der - ry down. —
 car - ried him to an earth - en lake,

30

— down der - ry der - ry der - ry down down. —

down. down der - ry der - ry der - ry down down.

— down der - ry der - ry der - ry down down.

To My Lullaby Surrender

Suo Gân

Low Key

Traditional Welsh Words
Anonymous English Translation

3-part a cappella

Traditional Welsh Melody
arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

1
oo*

2
1. To my lull - a - by sur - ren - der, Warm and ten - d - er is my breast.
2. Hush, my dear one, sleep se - rene - ly, Now, my love - ly, Mum - mer deep.

3
oo*

5
ah*

Moth - er's arms with love - re - ceiv - ing Lay their bles - sing on your rest.
Moth - er rocks you, Mum - mer now - , Close your eyes now, go to sleep.

9
ah

oth - ing shall to - n
An - gels hov - er

ah

* Sing "oo" or "ah" or "mm" or any other sound ad lib.

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D.C.

13

00

Lie con - ten - ted, calm - ly slum - ber On your moth - er's breast, my dear
I will hold you close, en - fold you, Close your eyes now, go sleep

00

Preview Copy

Tom's Gone to Hilo

Low Key
3-part a cappella

Traditional Words

Traditional Melody
arr. Paul Ayres

Tempo and dynamics ad lib.

1 Tom - my's gone, and I'll go too, A - way down Hi - lo, Oh Tom -

2 Tom - my's gone, and I'll go too, A - way down Hi lo, Oh Tom - my's

3 Tom - my's gone, and I'll go too, A - way w n Hi lo, Oh Tom - my's

5 gone, and I'll go too, Tom's gone to Hi lo. John - ny's gone for ev - er - more, A -

gone, and I'll go too, Tom's gone to Hi - lo. John - ny's gone for ev - er - more, A -

gone, and I'll go too, Tom's gone to Hi - lo. John - ny's gone for ev - er - more, A -

12 way down Hi - lo, Oh John - ny's gone for ev - er - more, John's gone to Hi - lo.

-way down Hi - lo, (

-way down Hi - lo, (

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