

An old song re-sung

Henry Balfour Gardiner

(1877–1950)

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H. Balfour Gardiner

Allegro non troppo $\text{♩} = 116$

S *mf* I saw a ship a-sail - ing, a - sail - ing, a - sail - ing, With em - er-alds and ru - bies and

A

T *mf* A - sail - ing, a - sail - ing, a -

B

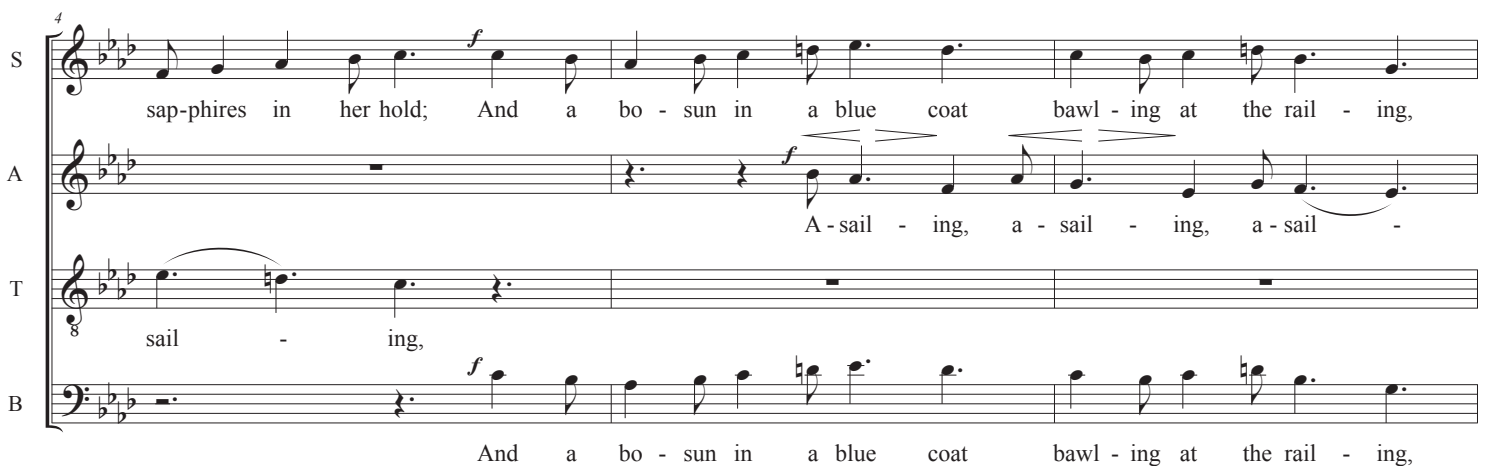


S ⁴ *f* sap-phires in her hold; And a bo - sun in a blue coat bawl - ing at the rail - ing,

A *f* A - sail - ing, a - sail - ing, a - sail -

T sail - ing,

B *f* And a bo - sun in a blue coat bawl - ing at the rail - ing,



7

S Pi - ping through a sil - ver call that had a chain of gold;

A ing. *p* The sum - mer wind was fail - ing, and the

T *p* ah

B Pi - ping through a sil - ver call that had a chain of gold;

10

S *p* A - sail - ing, a - sail - ing, a - sail -

A tall ship rolled.

T *p* A -

B ah

14

S *rit.* *p a tempo* ing. I saw a ship a - steer - ing, a -

A *rit.* *p a tempo* I saw a ship a - steer - ing, a -

T *rit.* *p a tempo* sail - ing, a - sail - ing, a - sail - ing. I saw a ship a - steer - ing, a -

B *rit.* *p a tempo* ah I saw a ship a - steer - ing, a -

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18

S steer - ing, a - steer - ing, With ro - ses in red thread worked up - on her sails; With *cresc.*

A steer - ing, a - steer - ing, With ro - ses in red thread worked up - on her sails; With *cresc.*

T 8 steer - ing, a - steer - ing, With ro - ses in red thread worked up - on her sails; With *cresc.*

B steer - ing, a - steer - ing, With ro - ses in red thread worked up - on her sails; With *cresc.*

21

S sacks of pur - ple am - e - thysts, the spoils of buc - can - eer - ing, Skins of musk - y yel - low wine, and *mf*

A sacks of pur - ple am - e - thysts, the spoils of buc - can - eer - ing, Skins of musk - y yel - low wine, and *mf*

T 8 sacks of pur - ple am - e - thysts, the spoils of buc - can - eer - ing, Skins of musk - y yel - low wine, and *mf*

B sacks of pur - ple am - e - thysts, the spoils of buc - can - eer - ing, Skins of musk - y yel - low wine, and *mf*

24

S silks in bales. Her mer - ry men — were cheer - ing, haul - ing on — the *f* $\frac{12}{8}$

A silks in bales. Her mer - ry men — were cheer - ing, haul - ing on — the *f* $\frac{12}{8}$

T 8 silks in bales. Her mer - ry men — were cheer - ing, haul - ing on — the *f* $\frac{12}{8}$

B silks in bales. Her mer - ry men — were cheer - ing, haul - ing on — the *f* $\frac{12}{8}$

28 *dim.* *p*
 S brails. A - steer - ing, a - steer - ing, a - steer - ing,
 A *dim.* brails. ah *poco*
 T brails. ah
 B *dim.* brails. ah *poco*
 brails. ah

32 *rit.* *dim.* *a tempo*
 S a - steer - ing.
 A *rit.* *dim.* ah *a tempo*
 T *rit.* *dim.* steer - ing, a - steer - ing. *a tempo*
 B *rit.* *dim.* *pp* *a tempo*
 I

36 *pp* *poco laegamente* *cresc.*
 S ah
 A *poco laegamente* *mf*
 T *poco laegamente* *mf* With
 B *poco laegamente* *cresc.* With
 saw a ship a - sink - ing, a - sink - ing, a - sink - ing, a -

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39

S *cresc.* ah — ah — With sea - men in her spi - rit - room

A *cresc.* glit - ter - ing sea - wa - er splash - ing on her decks, With sea - men sing - ing

T *cresc.* glit - ter - ing sea - wa - er splash - ing on her decks, With sea - men sing - ing

B sink - ing, a - sink - ing, a - sink - ing, With sea - men in her spi - rit - room

42

S sing - ing songs and drink - ing, Pull - ing clar - et bot - tles down, and knock - ing off their necks, — The

A songs — and drink - ing, Pull - ing clar - et bot - tles down, and knock - ing off their necks, — The

T songs — and drink - ing, Pull - ing clar - et bot - tles down, and knock - ing off their necks, — The

B sing - ing and drink - ing, Pull - ing clar - et bot - tles down, and knock - ing off their necks, — The

45

S broken glass — was clink - ing — as — she sank — a - mong — the wrecks. — *dim.* *rit.* *dim.*

A broken glass — was clink - ing — as — she sank — a - mong — the wrecks. — *dim.* *rit.* *dim.* *p*

T broken glass — was clink - ing — as — she sank — a - mong — the wrecks. *dim.* *rit.* *dim.*

B broken glass — was clink - ing — as — she sank. *dim.* *rit.*

meno mosso

49

S

A

T

Bass 1

B

Bass 2

B2

sink - ing, a-sink - ing, a - sink - ing.

ah

ah

A - sink - ing, a-sink - ing, a - sink -

ah

ah

(a cry of despair)

53

S

A

T

B

B2

ah

ah

ah

sink - ing.

ah

ing, sink - ing.

ah

ah

(close lips)

(close lips)

Novello and Co.
(1920)

* If, in small choirs, this should prove ineffective, it may be omitted, and only the Bass part sung.

Henry Balfour Gardiner (1877-1950) was born in London. He began learning piano at age five and was composing music by age nine. He attended the Charterhouse School and New College, Oxford. He was a piano student at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt am Main and studied conducting at Sondershausen. Gardiner collected folk songs in Hampshire (1905-1906) and taught music briefly at Winchester College (1907). He had dreams of being a concert pianist but is mostly known as a composer. His works included compositions in a variety of genres, including two symphonies. Many of his scores are lost and only a very limited amount of his music survives. As a conductor, he promoted contemporary British and colonial composers; particularly Bax, Holst, Grainger, Quilter, and Scott. He financed these concerts himself and was generous with his personal fortune; he paid for a private benefit performance of *The Planets* for Gustav Holst in 1918 and purchased Frederick Delius's house at Grez-sur-Loing to enable him to continue living in it at the end of his life. He gave up composing in 1925: in part, from self-criticism and the belief that he could not flourish as a composer in the post-war culture. He was the great-uncle of the conductor Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

I saw a ship a-sailing, a-sailing, a-sailing,
With emeralds and rubies and sapphires in her hold;
And a bosun in a blue coat bawling at the railing,
Piping through a silver call that had a chain of gold;
The summer wind was failing and the tall ship rolled.

I saw a ship a-steering, a-steering, a-steering,
With roses in red thread worked upon her sails;
With sacks of purple amethysts, the spoils of buccaneering,
Skins of musky yellow wine, and silks in bales.
Her merry men were cheering, hauling on the brails.

I saw a ship a-sinking, a-sinking, a-sinking,
With glittering sea-water splashing on her decks,
With seamen in her spirit-room singing songs and drinking,
Pulling claret bottles down, and knocking off their necks,
The broken glass was clinking as she sank among the wrecks.

John Edward Masefield (1878-1967)
Poet Laureate of the UK from 1930-1967

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