

The Blades of Strawblane

New Brunswick Folk Song
(origin: Scotland)

For S.A.T.B. Choir with Piano Accompaniment

Collected by Helen Creighton
Arranged by Gary Ewer

Performance Notes:

• This song originates in Scotland, under various titles. It was first published as *The Braes of Strathdon* in 1866, with the following text:

*As I was a-walking one morning in May
Doon by a bonnie braeside I fondly did stray
I spied a bonnie lassie, she wis standing her lane
She wis bleaching her claes on the braes o' Strathdon*

*I stepped up tae her as I seemed for tae pass
Ye're bleaching yer claes, my bonnie young lass
It's twelve months and mair since I've had ye on my mind
Jist for tae get married if you are inclined*

*Tae marry, tae marry, I'm three time o'er young
Besides a' you young men have flattering tongues
My faither and my mither they would baith angry be
If I was tae marry a rover like ye*

*Come a' ye pretty fair maids, take a warning frae me
And never slight a young man for his poverty
For slighting of a young man I'm afraid ye'll get nane
And single ye'll wander the braes o' Strathdon*

• The spoken parts can be done in either one of two ways: 1) Consider the rhythms of the spoken text fragments to be approximate, with the choir not striving to perform them exactly as written. This will give an interesting "chaotic" effect which, I believe, will properly convey the emotional turmoil of the "fair maid"; or 2) Perform the rhythms of the spoken text fragments exactly as written. The conductor could also decide to perform some text *ad lib* and other fragments as written. In other words, feel free to experiment.

• The spoken words at the end of verse 2 ("*All 'round my hat I will wear the green willow / Green willow for my true love that's far, far away*") are adapted from the English folk song *All Round My Hat*. In folklore, wearing the willow symbolizes sadness or desertion.

• The chosen tempo should not be slower than $mm=72$, nor faster than $mm=84$.

The Blades of Strawblane

S.A.T.B. Choir with Piano Accompaniment

New Brunswick Folk Song
 (origin: Scotland)
 Collected by Helen Creighton
 Arranged by GARY EWER

Pensively ♩ = 72 - 84

Sopranos

whisper: (opt. ad lib.) "Come back to me"

5 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

lad-die and say you'll be mine For the last words you've spo-ken have al-tered my mind."

S.A. *Altos*

pp Oo

8

S.A.

8

T.B.

mp

(Unis.)

(oo) 1. One mor - ning, one mor - ning, one mor - ning in June, It was
(2.) I was walk - ing a - long the gras - sy way, I

8

8

13

S.A.

oo oo

13

T.B.

down by a green bank I hap - pened to go, I spied a pret - ty
stepped up to this fair one and to her did say, "Oh for six months or

13

13