

Sea Fever

For SATB Chorus and Piano

Music by John M. Tarrh

Words by John Masefield

Vocal Score



Instrumentation

SATB Chorus
Piano

Performance Notes

Performance time: approximately 5 minutes

Program Notes

Sea Fever (2024), setting John Masefield's well-known and much-loved poem of the same title, is in the style of a sea shanty. The piano accompaniment is intended to give one the feeling of being at sea, as is the frequent use of hemiolas (rhythms of three against two). Having grown up near the ocean, this poem has been a favorite of mine for many years.

John M. Tarrh

John Masefield

Sea Fever

John M. Tarrh

Rev. 5/30/24

Andante (♩. = 69)

Musical score for the first system of 'Sea Fever'. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of two staves. The tempo is marked 'Andante' with a quarter note equal to 69 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The piano accompaniment starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by mezzo-piano (*mp*) and mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamics. The piano part includes markings for 'Led.' and asterisks.

Musical score for the second system of 'Sea Fever'. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of two staves. The tempo is marked 'Andante' with a quarter note equal to 69 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The piano accompaniment starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic, followed by forte (*f*) and piano (*p*) dynamics. The piano part includes markings for 'Led.' and asterisks. The vocal staves contain the lyrics: "I must go down to the seas a - gain, to the".

10 14

S. *f*
lone-ly sea and the sky, And all I ask

A. *f*
lone-ly sea and the sky, And all I

T. *f*
lone-ly sea and the sky, And all I ask

B. *f*
lone-ly sea and the sky, And all I

Pno. *mf*
* Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

15

S. *mf*
is a tall ship and a star to steer her

A. *mf*
ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her

T. *mf*
is a tall ship and a star to steer her

B. *mf*
ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her

Pno. *mf*
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

20 22

S. *pp* *mp* *f*
by; And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shak - ing,___

A. *pp* *mp* *f*
by; And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shak - ing,___

T. *pp* *mp* *mf*
by; And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shak-

B. *mf*
by; and the white sail's shak-

Pno. *pp* *p* *mf*
Ped. * Ped. *

26 29

S. *pp* *mp*
shak - ing,___ And a grey mist on the sea's face,

A. *pp* *mp*
shak - ing,___ And a grey mist on the sea's face,

T. *pp* *mp*
- ing,___ shak - ing,___ And a grey mist on the sea's face,

B. *pp* *mp*
- ing,___ shak - ing,___ And a grey mist on the sea's face,

Pno. *pp* *p* *mp* *mf*
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

33

S. *f*
and a grey dawn break - - -

A. *f*
and a grey dawn break - - -

T. *f*
and a grey dawn break - - -

B. *f*
and a grey dawn break - - -

Pno. *f* *mp*
Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

39 **40**

S. -ing.

A. ing.

T. ing.

B. ing.

Pno. *p* *mp* *mf*
Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

44 45

S. *f* I must go down _____ to the seas a - gain, *p* for the

A. *f* I must go down _____ to the seas a - gain, *p* for the

T. *f* I must go down to the seas a - gain, *p* for the

B. *f* I must go down to the seas a - gain, *p* for the

Pno. *f* *p*

* Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

48 50

S. *f* call of the run-ning tide _____ is a wild call and a clear call that may not be de -

A. *f* call of the run-ning tide _____ is a wild call and a clear call that may not be de -

T. *f* call of the run-ning tide _____ is a wild call and a clear call that may not be de -

B. *f* call of the run-ning tide _____ is a wild call and a clear call that may not be de -

Pno. *mf*

* Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

53 55

S. nied; And all I ask is a win - dy day

A. nied; And all I ask is a win - dy

T. nied; And all I ask is a win - dy day

B. nied; And all I ask is a win - dy

Pno. *mp*

Lead. * Lead. * Lead. * Lead. * Lead. * Lead. *

58

S. with the white clouds fly - - ing, And the *pp*

A. day with the white clouds fly - - ing, And the *pp*

T. with the white clouds fly - - ing, And the *pp*

B. day with the white clouds fly - - ing,

Pno. *pp*

Lead. * Lead. * Lead. * Lead. *

63

S. *mp* flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea - gulls cry - - - ing, *f* cry - - - ing, *p* cry - - - ing, *pp*

A. *mp* flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea - gulls cry - - - ing, *f* cry - - - ing, *p* cry - - - ing, *pp*

T. *mp* flung spray and the blown spume, *mf* and the sea - gulls cry - - - ing, *p* cry - - - ing, *pp*

B. *mf* and the sea - gulls cry - - - ing, *p* cry - - - ing, *pp*

Pno. *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

70 *rit.* **77** Adagio (♩ = 75)

S. *pp* - ing. I must go down to the seas a - gain, to the

A. *ppp* - ing. I must go down to the seas a - gain, to the

T. *ppp* - ing. I must go down to the seas a - gain, to the

B. *ppp* - ing. I must go down to the seas a - gain, to the

Pno. *ppp*

Ped. * *Ped.* * *Ped.* *

85

81

S. *mp* va-grant sail - or's life, *p* To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a

A. *mp* va-grant sail - or's life, *pp* To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a

T. *mp* va-grant sail - or's life, *pp* To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a

B. *mp* va-grant sail - or's life, *pp* To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a

Pno.

90 *mf* *pp* 92 *mf*

S. whet-ted knife; And all I ask is a mer - ry yarn from a laugh - ing fel - low ro-ver,

A. *mf* whet-ted knife; *ppp* And all I ask is a mer - ry yarn from a laugh - ing fel - low ro-ver,

T. *mf* whet-ted knife; *ppp* And all I ask is a mer - ry yarn from a laugh - ing fel - low ro-ver,

B. *mf* whet-ted knife; *ppp* And all I ask is a mer - ry yarn from a laugh - ing fel - low ro-ver,

Pno.

101 *1st time: pp* *2nd time: mf* *1st time: mf* *2nd time: f* *f*

S. And a qui-et sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's* o - ver,

A. And a qui-et sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's* o - ver,

T. and a qui-et sleep and a sweet dream when the long__ trick's* o -

B. and a qui-et sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's* o -

Pno. *1st time: pp* *2nd time: mf* *1st time: mf* *2nd time: f* *mf*

rit. **110** *pp* **115** *Andante* ($\text{♩} = 69$) *pp*

S. o - ver, o - ver.

A. o - ver, o - ver.

T. - ver, o - ver, o - ver.

B. - ver, o - ver, o - ver.

Pno. *pp* *pp*

* A "trick" is defined by Masefield as "the ordinary two-hour spell at the wheel or on the look-out."

121

117

S. *f* I must go down,

A. *f* I must go down,

T. *f* I must go

B. *f* I must go

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mf*

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

122

S. I must go down_____ to the seas a - gain, to the lone - ly sea and the sky,_____

A. I must go down_____ to the seas a - gain, to the lone - ly sea and the sky,_____

T. down, I must go down to the seas a - gain, to the lone - ly sea and the sky,_____

B. down, I must go down to the seas a - gain, to the lone - ly sea and the sky,_____

Pno. Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

127 **128** *f* **accel.**

S. I must go down_____ to the seas a - gain, down to the

A. I must go down_____ to the seas, to the

T. I must go down_____ to the seas a - gain, to the

B. I must go down_____ to the

Pno. *Led.* * *Led.* * *Led.*

131 **marcato** *ff*

S. seas a - gain. I must go down to the seas a - gain.

A. seas a - gain. I must go down to the seas a - gain.

T. seas a - gain. I must go down to the seas a - gain.

B. seas a - gain. I must go down to the seas a - gain.

Pno. *ff* *fff*

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