

Billy in the Darbies

Words by Herman Melville
(from "Billy Budd")

Music by Richard Cumming

darbies: handcuffs (Brit. coll.)

Not fast; relaxed; think sailor's song

Handwritten musical score for the first system. It consists of three staves: a vocal line in G major (one flat) and 8/8 time, and a piano accompaniment in the same key and time. The lyrics are: "Good of the chaplain to enter Lone Bay And". The piano part begins with a dynamic marking of *ppp.* and features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The vocal line has a melodic contour that rises and then falls.

Handwritten musical score for the second system. It consists of three staves: a vocal line in G major (one flat) and 8/8 time, and a piano accompaniment in the same key and time. The lyrics are: "down on his marrow bones here and pray for the likes just o' me Billy". The piano part continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The vocal line continues the melodic line from the first system.

Handwritten musical score for the third system. It consists of three staves: a vocal line in G major (one flat) and 8/8 time, and a piano accompaniment in the same key and time. The lyrics are: "Budd, Billy Budd, for the likes just o' me Billy Budd. But". The piano part continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The vocal line concludes with a final note on "Budd" and a fermata over "But".

8
6

look, thru the port comes a moonshine astray It tips the guard's cutlas and

silvers this nook But 'twill die in the dawning of Billy's last day, in the

dawning of Billy's last day. A jewel block they'll make of

me tomorrow — Pen-dant pearl from the yard-arm end.

Like the cardrop I gave to Bristol Molly. O'tis me not the sentence

they'll suspend. Ay, ay, all is up, and I must up, too,

Early in the morning a-loft from below. On an empty stomach, all a-

drift to go. The drumroll to grog and Billy never know.

For they'll lash me in hammock, drop me deep, Fathoms

down, fathoms down, how I'll dream fast a -

sleep. I feel it stealing now. Sentry, are you

rit. - - - - -

there? — Just ease this dar-bies at my wrist and

long hold *p dolce; slower tempo*

long hold *pp*

roll - me o - ver fair. I - am sleepy and the oo - zy

weeds about me twist, the oozy weeds about me twist.