

Stef Conner
John Barleycorn



2024

Music
Stef Conner (b. 1983)

Words and melody
Trad. (Roud 164)

For lower-voice choir or solo-voice ensemble (TBB)

Duration c. 3'

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John Barleycorn

Words and melody: trad. (Roud 164), adapted and arranged by Stef Conner, 2024

Full score (without piano reduction)

Duration: c. 3 minutes

For choir or solo-voice ensemble: Tenor
Bass 1
Bass 2

Words:

1. There were three men came out of the west,
Their fortunes for to try,
And these three men made a solemn vow,
John Barleycorn should die.
They ploughed, they sowed, they harrowed him in,
Threw clods upon his head.
Then these three men made a solemn vow,
John Barleycorn was dead.
2. They let him lie for a very long time,
Till the rain from heaven did fall.
Then little Sir John, he raised up his head
And soon amazed them all!
They let him lie till the long midsummer
Till he looked both pale and wan.
Then little Sir John grewed a long, long beard
And so became a man.
3. They hired men with scythes so sharp
To cut him off at the knee!
They rolled him and tied him by the waist,
And served him most barb'rously!
They hired men with sharp pitchforks
Who pierced him to the heart!
But the loader, he served him worse than that,
He bound him to the cart!
4. They rode him around and around the field,
Till they came into a barn,
And there they made a solemn mow
Of poor John Barleycorn.
They hired men with crab-tree sticks,
Who cut him skin from bone!
But the miller, he served him worse than that,
He ground him between two stones!
5. Here's little Sir John in the nut-brown bowl
And brandy in a glass,
And little Sir John in the nut-brown bowl
Proved the stronger man at last!
For the hunter, he can't hunt the fox,
Nor loudly blow his horn!
And the tinker, he can't mend his kettles or his pots
Without a little John Barleycorn!

John Barleycorn

for TBB voices *a cappella*

TRAD. (ROUD 164)
ARR. STEF CONNER

Boisterous, ♩ = c. 120

Tenor Bass

mf 1. There were three men came out of the west, Their for - tunes for to_ *p* scary! 3. They hired_ men with_ scythes so_ sharp, To_ cut him_ off at the

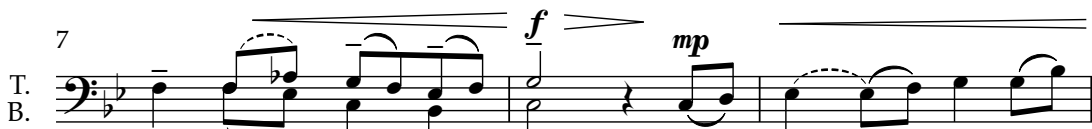
4

T. B.

try, And these three_ men made a sol - emn_ vow, John
knee! They rolled him and tied him_ by the_ waist, And

7

T. B.



Bar - ley - corn should_ die. They_ ploughed, they_ sowed, they_
served him most barb - 'rous - ly! They_ hired_ men with_

10

T. B.



har - rowed him in, Threwd_ clods up - on_ his head. Then_
sharp_ pitch - forks Who_ pierced him to_ the heart! But the

13

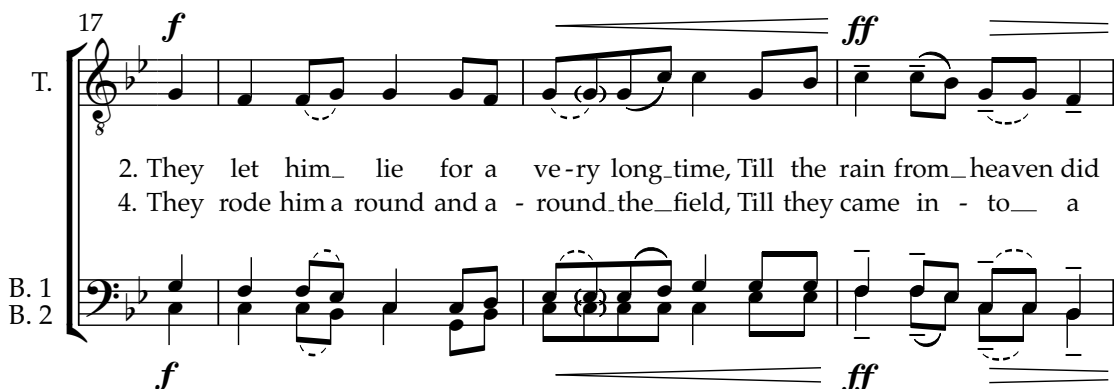
T. B.



these three_ men made a sol - emn vow, John Bar - ley - corn was dead.
load - er he served him_ worse than that, He bound him to_ the cart!


17

T. B. 1 B. 2





2. They let him_ lie for a ve - ry long_ time, Till the rain from_ heaven did
4. They rode him a round and a - round the_ field, Till they came in - to_ a

21 *f* *ff*


T. 

fall. Then lit-tle Sir John, he raised up his head And soon a - mazed them
barn, And there they made a so - lemn mow of poor John Bar - ley -


B. 1 


B. 2 

25 *mp*

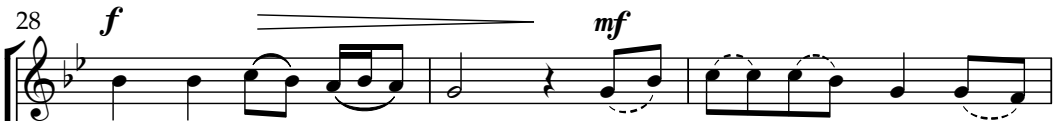
T. 

all! They let him lie till the long mid - sum - mer, Till he
- corn. They hired men with crab - tree sticks, Who


B. 1 


B. 2 

28 *f* *mf*

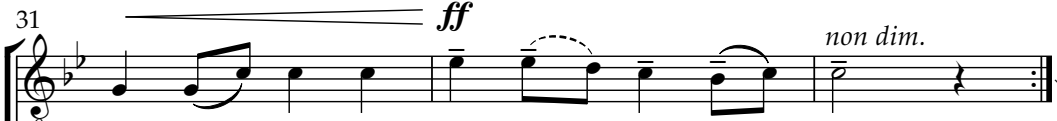
T. 

looked both pale and wan. Then lit-tle Sir John growed a
cut him skin from bone! But the Mil - ler, he served him


B. 1 


B. 2 

31 *ff* *non dim.*

T. 

long, long beard, And so be - came a man.
worse than that, He ground him bet-ween two stones!

B. 1 

B. 2 

34 *pp* knowing *mp*

T.  *pp* *mp*

B. 

5. Here's lit-tle Sir John in the nut-brown bowl And bran-dy in the

38 *pp* *mf*

T.  *pp* *mf*

B. 

glass, And lit-tle Sir John in the nut-brown bowl Proved the

41 *f* *mp* *ff*

T.  *f* *mp* *ff*

B. 1 

B. 2 

strong-er man at last! For the hunt-er, he can't hunt the fox, Nor

f *mp* *ff*

45 *rit.* *non dim.* *p sub.*

T.  *rit.* *non dim.* *p sub.*

B. 1 

B. 2 

loud-ly blow his horn! And the tin-ker, he can't

non dim. *p sub.*

48 *mp* *p* *rit.* *♩ = c. 100*

T.  *mp* *p* *rit.* *♩ = c. 100*

B. 1 

B. 2 

mend his pots, With-out a lit-tle John Bar-ley-corn, with-out a

mp *p*

51 *rit.* *pp* *♩ = c. 60*

T.  *rit.* *pp* *♩ = c. 60*

B. 1 

B. 2 

lit-tle John Bar-ley-corn, with-out a lit-tle John Bar-ley-corn!

pp