

Billy's Farewell

Look! Through the port comes the moonshine astray!

BILLY BUDD

Words by
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Music by
BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Slowly moving ♩ = 72-88

(piccolo solo)

pp *pp* *ppp* (rubato)

4

pp *ppp* (rall.)

8

BILLY: *pp*

Look! ——— Through the port comes the moon-shine a-stray!

a tempo *pp* *poco* *pp* *ppp*

12

pp

It tips the guard's cut-lass and sil-vers this nook;

pp

bis - cuit ere I go. Sure, — a mess-mate will reach me the last part - ing

cup; But turn - ing, turn - ing, turn-ing heads a -

way From the hoist and the be - lay. Hea - ven knows who will have the run-ning of me up!

No pipe to those hal-yards—

40 *pp*

But ain't it all sham? A blur's in my eyes; it is dream-ing that I

43 *pp espr.* *cresc.*

am. But Don-ald he has prom-ised to stand by the

46 *dim.*

plank, So I'll shake a friend-ly hand ere I sink. But no! no!

49 *pp* *più p*

It is dead then I'll be, come to think. They'll

lash me in ham-mock, drop — me deep,

più p *più pp*

55 *ancora più p*

Fa-thoms down, fa-thoms— how I'll dream fast a - sleep. I feel it steal-ing now; —

ppp

58

— roll me o - ver fair.

dolce pppp *ppp*

61 *sempre pp*

I'm sleep - y and — the oo - zy weeds a - bout me —

sempre pp

64

twist.

ppp

[long pause]

optional ending

Very lively ♩ = 144

legato

68

And fare - well to ye, old Rights o' Man!

p

with ped.

73

Ne - ver your joys no more. Fare - well to this grand rough

78

world! _____ Ne - ver more ship - mates, no more

mf

*Dansker's exchange with Billy is cut in this solo edition of the scene.

sea, No look - ing down from the heights to the depths. _____

p

But I've sight - ed a sail in the storm,

The far - shin - ing sail that's not fate, _____ And

cresc.

mf *cresc.*

I'm con - ten - ted, I've seen where she's bound for.

f *freely* 3 *a tempo*

fp *pp* *p*

103 *cresc.*

She has a land of her own where she'll an - chor for

cresc.

107 *freely*

e - ver. Oh, I'm con - ten - ted. Don't mat - ter now be - ing

fp pp ppp

113 **a tempo** *cresc.*

hanged, or be - ing for - got - ten and caught in the

p cresc.

118 *f*

weeds. Don't mat - ter now.

broadly

*ff**sempre f*

I'm strong, and I know it, and I'll stay strong,

I'll stay strong and that's all, all, all, and that's enough,

getting slower and slower

pp

that's enough, that's enough.

rall.

Rather lively (♩)