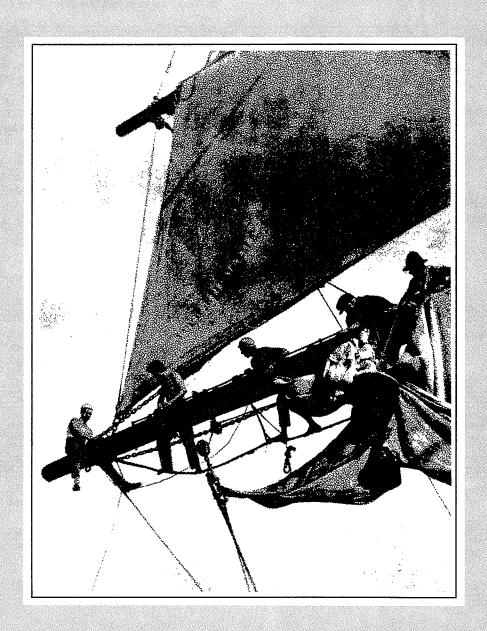
Two Sea Songs

For Men's Voices & Optional Piano



Sole Selling Agent: Theodore Presser Company • Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

1. Jack the Sailor

Text: Traditional

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)



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2. We Be Three Poor Mariners



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RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (real last name Williams) was born in Down Ampney,



Ralph Vaughan Williams

Gloucestershire, October 12, 1872, and died in London, August 26, 1958. Son of a clergyman, he was educated at Charterhouse School (London), Trinity College (Cambridge), and the Royal College of Music (London). He studied for a year with Max Bruch in Berlin (1897-98) and worked

briefly with Maurice Ravel in Paris (1909). In 1904 he joined the English Folk Song Society, and became profoundly interested in native English music. He served with the British Army in Macedonia and France during World War I. and became an officer in the artillery. After the war he became professor of composition at the Royal College of Music. In 1922, 1932. and 1954 he toured the United States as conductor and lecturer. Following the death of his first wife in 1951 he married his secretary, Ursula Wood. His considerable compositional output includes chamber music. radio and film music, ballets, hymntunes, stageworks, orchestral, instrumental, vocal, and choral works. Many of these are based on folk songs or hymn tunes, while some are arrangements or editions of works by other composers.

SEA SONGS (chanties, shanties) are songs which were sung particularly on the English and American sailing ships. Many were in no way different from those sung on land. But there were also working songs, rhythmically fitted to seafaring duties when sailors were engaged in pulling ropes or other work which required concerted effort. The verse, often extemporized, was sung by a "shanty-man" while the repeated refrain was sung by the rest of the crew. Sometimes these songs commented on conditions aboard ship, or on subjects generally considered unprintable. Since the chorus or refrain could be heard all over the ship, such commentary was limited to the solo verses.

HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE: About the time Vaughan Williams finished writing these settings of sea songs (ca. 1918), the following occurred: World War I was nearing its end; women over 30 were permitted to vote in Britain; Austria and Poland became republics; the U.S. Post Office burned installments of James Joyce's Ulvsses: controversies over the new psychology of Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung arose; Leonard Bernstein and Billy Graham were born; Stravinsky wrote Histoire du Soldat, Béla Bartók's Bluebeard's Castle was premiered; the New York Philharmonic banned compositions by living German composers; first airmail service was established between New York City and Chicago (10 hours); the United Lutheran Church was established in U.S.: Claude Debussy and world heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan died; and Babe Ruth hit a 587-foot home run for the Boston Red Sox.



Also Published:

Ralph Vaughan Williams

FIVE SEA SONGS

for Mixed Voices

Catalog No. 392-03002

1. The Golden Vanity

2. Just As the Tide Was Flowing
3. The Arethusa
4. Full Fathom Five
5. We Be Three Poor Mariners

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No. 392-03009

Short homophonic setting of Psalm 116, verse 7. May be paired with *Thou Hast Given Him* • Unaccompanied SATB or with strings doubling voices • Duration 2½ Minutes

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No. 392-03008

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No. 300 00003

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VAUGHAN WILLI

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