

PFRUSAJ

SCORE

THE BUTCHER'S BOY
for mixed choir & hammer

HENRIK DAHLSEN
(2022)

PROGRAMME NOTES

This piece was written for the University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir in Scotland and their conductor Sam Paul.

Henrik Dahlgren

TEXT

*In London town where I did dwell
Lived a butcher's boy I loved so well*

*He stole from me my heart away
But with me now he will not stay*

*There is a house in London town
Where my love goes and sits him down*

*And he takes a strange girl on his knee
And he tells to her what he won't tell me*

*It's grief to me, I'll tell you why
Because she has more gold than I*

*But gold will melt, and silver fly
In time of need she'll be poor as I (but truehearted love will never die)*

*Must I go bound as he goes free
Must I love a boy who doesn't love me*

*Oh, mother, mother, you do not know
What grief and pain and sorrow, woe*

*Go get a chair to sit me down
And pen and ink to write it down*

*Go dig my grave, both long and deep
Place a marble stone at my head and feet*

*And over my grave place a snow-white dove
To show the world I died for love*

Excerpts from a traditional American folk song, probably from the 19th century. Freely put together by the composer.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- The sound of the hammers should be a fairly high-pitched, “clinking” sound. This could be obtained by beating the heads of two hammers against each other. Any other form of striking against metal could very well work as a substitute. This part should be played in a visually dramatic way that is clearly visible to the audience.
- The soloist is free to expand on the given melody in a fitting manner, especially in m. 1-28, and m. 113-17. Focus should be on telling the story.
- All glissandos should be done moderately, and a relaxed, well-blended sound is preferred.
- Staggered breathing should be implemented on all the long notes, to keep a sustained and well-balanced tone.

..... = No breath (or gap between the notes).

↙ = Glissando (for the duration of the note value).

→ = Gradually move from one vocal to the next.

↘ = Fast fall off (the duration of the note) to an undefined pitch.

Composed

2022

Duration

c. 6 minutes

First performance

University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir | conducted by Sam Paul
25 February 2023 | St. Andrew Cathedral, Aberdeen, UK

More information

www.henrikdahlgren.com

Written for Sam Paul, & the University of Aberdeen Chamber Choir

THE BUTCHER'S BOY

for mixed chorus and hammers

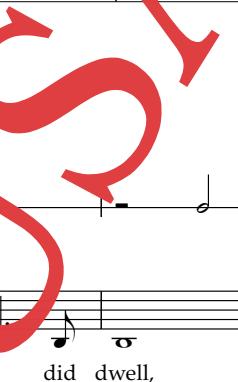
TRADITIONAL

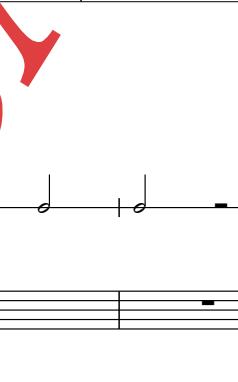
American folk song from the 19th century

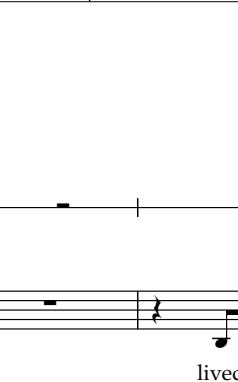
HENRIK DAHL BRENT (2022)

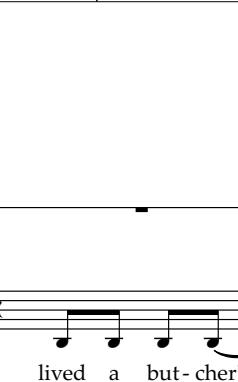
Ominous ($\downarrow = c. 92$)

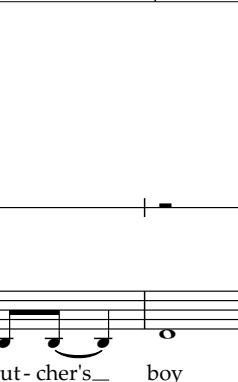
HAMMERS (see preface) 

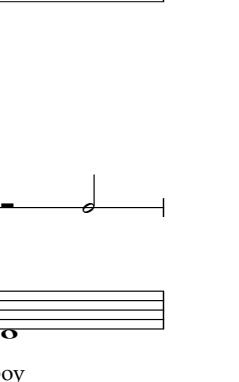
SOLO 
mp mto rubato
In Lon-don town nn

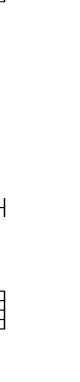
SOPRANO 

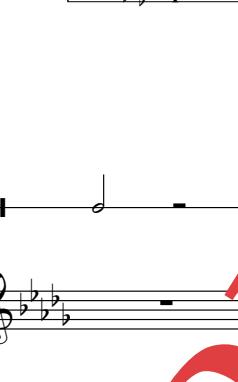
ALTO 
p == pp
In Lon-don town. nn

TENOR 
p == pp
In Lon-don town. nn

BASS 

for rehearsal only 

8 H. 

Solo 
where I did dwell, lived a but-cher's boy

A. 

T. 

14

H. Solo A. T.

I loved so well. He stole from me. *pp*

He stole from me. *pp*
He stole from me.

20

H. Solo A. T.

my heart a - way, but with me now

26

H. Solo S. A. T.

he will not stay. *p* *gliss.* (b) o ng

PERFECT
PERFECT
PERFECT

32

H. -

Solo: *non rubato*
There is a house in Lon-don

S.: *simile*, *gliss.* (b) o ng
mp

A.: -

T.: *p* oo

B.: -

REVERSE

SOLO

SCENE

38

H. -

Solo: town, where love goes and sits him down.

S.: (b) o ng *gliss.* (b) o ng

A.: town, where my love goes and sits him down.

T.: -

B.: *simile* oo oo oo

REVERSE

REVERSE

REVERSE

43

H. Solo S. A. T. B.

And he takes a strange girl on his knee and he tells to

ng gliss. (b) ng

And he takes a strange girl on his knee and he tells to

oo oo oo oo

48

H. Solo S. A. T. B.

her what he won't tell me. Tell me. *mf*

gliss. (b) n Tell me. *mf*

her what he won't tell me. Tell me. *p* *mf*

oo Tell me. *p* *mf* gliss.

PERFECT
SINGING
PERFECT
RESONANCE

It's grief to me,

53

H. Solo S. A. T. B.

Tell me.

I'll tell you why, be - cause she has more gold than

I'll tell you why, be - cause she has more gold than

I'll tell you why, be - cause she has more gold than

I'll tell you why, be - cause she has more gold than

PERIODS

Piano

58

H. Solo S. A. T. B.

I. But gold will melt, and sil - ver fly,

I. But gold will melt, and sil - ver fly,

I. But gold will melt, and sil - ver fly,

I. But gold will melt, and sil - ver fly,

PERIODS

Piano

63

H. in time of need she'll be poor as I.

S. but true-heart-ed love will ne - ver

A. in time of need she'll be poor as I. True-heart-ed

T. in time of need she'll be poor as I.

B. in time of need she'll be, as I

Piano/Bass (B):

Very dramatic

67

H. f Must I go bound as he goes

S. f marcato Must I go bound as he goes

A. f marcato Must I go bound as he goes

T. f marcato Must I go bound, mo - ther,

B. f marcato Must I go bound, mo - ther,

Piano/Bass (B):

71

H. 

S. free? Must I love a boy who does - n't love

A. free? Must I love a boy

T.  mother, I love a boy.

B.  mother, I love a boy.

75

H.

S. 1
me. *ff sostenuto* Mo - ther.

S. 2
me. *ff sostenuto* Mo - ther. Mo - ther.

A.
me. *ff sostenuto* Mo - ther.

T.
Mo - ther. *ff sostenuto e legato* Mo - ther. oh mo - ther,

B.
oh *ff sostenuto e legato* mo - ther. oh mo - ther,

PER

79

H. - - - - - rit.

S. 1 Mo - ther, you do not

S. 2 Mo - ther, you do not

A. Mo - ther. Mo - ther, you do not

T. oh mo - ther, oh mo -

B. oh mo - ther.

poco meno mosso ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 72$)

83

H. - - - - -

S. know, what grief and pain and sor - row..

A. know, what grief and pain mp gliss. Woe.

T. Sor - row.. mp pp Sor - row.. oo mp gliss. Woe.

B. Sor - row.. oo mp pp Sor - row.. oo

88

H. - - - - -

S. *pp* simile
Sor - row. oo Sor - row. oo

A. *pp* simile
Woe. oo gliss. Woe. oo

T. *pp* simile
Woe. oo gliss. (b) o Woe. oo

B. *p pesante*
Go get a chair to sit me

93

H. - - - - -

S. Sor - row. oo Sor - row. oo

A. — oo gliss. Woe. oo

T. — oo gliss. Woe. oo

B. down and pen and ink to write it down.

rit. 108 *poco meno mosso (♩ = c. 60)* *tempo primo (♩ = c. 92)*

Solo
And o - ver my grave,
f *mp*
gliss. *pp*
mm

S.
aa
mp *mf*
p

A.
And o - ver my grave,
mp *mf*
p place a snow - white dove.

T.
And o - ver my grave,
mp *mf*
place a snow - white dove.

B. 1
oo aa
pp *mf*
pp *gliss.* *pp*
mm

B. 2
oo aa
pp *gliss.* *pp*
oo *niente*
mm

* = Sung by a few singers only. The glissando should be extremely soft and delicate, and disappear to nothing.

113

H.
to show the world
rubato *mp*

Solo
I died for love.

H.
17

Solo