



Five English Folk Songs

No. 4

The Lover's Ghost

or

“Well met, my own true Love”

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872–1958)

Note in original publication:

NOTE– The words of this song (which is from the collection of the late H. E. D. Hammond) have been amplified from two broad-side versions.

Well met, well met my own true love;
Long time I have been absent from thee,
I am lately come from the salt sea,
And 'tis all for the sake, my love, of thee.

I have three ships all on the salt sea,
And one of them has brought me to land,
I've four and twenty mariners on board,
You shall have music at your command.

The ship wherein my love shall sail
Is glorious for to behold,
The sails shall be of shining silk,
The mast shall be of the fine beaten gold.

I might have had a King's daughter,
And fain she would have married me,
But I forsook her crown of gold,
And 'tis all for the sake, my love, of thee.

Traditional

The Lover's Ghost

RVW

Lento ma non troppo $\text{♩} = 54$

S *p* Well met, well met my own true love; Long

A *p* Well met, well met my own true love; Long

T *p* Well met, well met my own true love; Long

B *p* Well met, well met my own true love; Long

S ⁴ time I have been ab - sent from thee, I am late - ly come

A time I have been ab - sent from thee, I am late - ly come

T time I have been ab - sent from thee, I am late - ly come

B time I have been ab - sent from thee, I am late - ly come

The Lover's Ghost

8

S from the salt sea, And 'tis all for the sake, my love, of thee.

A from the salt sea, And 'tis all for the sake, my love, of thee.

T from the salt sea, And 'tis all for the sake, my love, of thee.

B from the salt sea, And 'tis all for the sake, my love, of thee.

S I have three ships all on the salt sea, And

A I have three ships all on the salt sea, And

T I have three ships all on the salt sea,

B

16

S one of them has brought me to land, I've four and twen - ty

A one of them has brought me to land, I've four and twen - ty

T I've four and twen - ty

B

The Lover's Ghost

20

S *pp*
mar - i - ners on board, You shall have mu - sic at your com -

A *pp*
mar - i - ners on board, You shall have mu - sic, mu - sic

T *pp*
mar - i - ners on board, You shall have mu - sic, mu - sic

B

24

S *mf*
mand. The ship where -

A *mf*
at your com - mand. The ship where -

T *mf*
at your com - mand. The ship where - in my love shall

B *mf*
The ship where - in my love shall sail Is

28

S *cresc.*
in my love shall sail, The sails shall be of

A *cresc.*
in my love shall sail Is glo - rious for to be - hold, The sails shall

T *cresc.*
sail Is glo - rious for to be - hold, The sails shall be of

B *cresc.*
glo - rious for to be - hold, The sails shall be of

The Lover's Ghost

32

S *f* shin - - - ing silk, The mast shall be of the

A *f* be of shin - - - ing silk, The mast of the

T *f* shin - - - ing silk, The mast shall

B *f* shin - ing silk, The mast shall be of the

35

S *dim.* fine beat - en gold. *pp*

A *dim.* fine beat - en gold. *pp* I might have had a

T *dim.* be of the fine beat - en gold. *pp*

B *dim.* fine beat - en gold. *pp*

39

S *pp* And fain she would have mar - ried

A *pp* King's daugh - ter, And fain she would have mar - ried me, But

T *pp* And fain she would have mar - ried me, But

B *pp* And fain she would have

The Lover's Ghost

43 *cresc. poco a poco*

S me, But I for-sook her crown of gold, And 'tis

A *cresc.* I for-sook her crown of gold, *mf* And 'tis all for the

T *cresc.* I for-sook her crown of gold, her crown of

B *cresc.* mar - ried me, But I for - sook her crown of gold, I for -

47 *mf cresc.*

S all for the sake, my love, of

A *f cresc.* sake, my love, of thee, my love, of thee, my love,

T *f cresc.* gold, And 'tis all for the sake, my love, of

B *f* sook her crown of gold, 'Tis all for the

50 *f cresc.* *rall.* *ff*

S thee, for the sake of thee, my love, of thee.

A *rall.* of 'tis thee, my love, of thee. *ff*

T *f* thee, all for the sake, my love, of thee. *rall. 3* *ff*

B *f* sake, my love, my love, of thee. *rall. 3* *ff*

TERMS OF USE

These editions are available as a service to the choral community, offering inexpensive access to public domain literature. Choir resources can purchase other literature still under copyright, especially to support those creating and publishing new compositions and arrangements. These editions have been created using public domain sources under U. S. copyright law. Out of respect to the research, time and effort invested:

please print and issue an edition in its entirety, retaining notices, attributions, and logos.
please do not consider this edition a source for creating another edition.

If recorded, notification and attribution would be appropriate professional courtesies.

For a full description of these requests and more scores, visit:
www.shorchor.net

