

THREE FOLK SONG ARRANGEMENTS

SATB Unaccompanied

1. THE WATER IS WIDE
2. THE ASH GROVE
3. SIMPLE GIFTS

Martin Chambers
(2012)
Revised 2017

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THE WATER IS WIDE

The song was originally titled **O *Waly, Waly***, but in the 19th century it came to be known as ***The Water is Wide***. The song was first published in 1724.

The ***Water Is Wide*** is a [folk song](#) of Scottish ancestry with certain English influences based on a composite of lyrics many of which date to the 1600s.

This song also became popular in Appalachian America in the late 19th century.

“Waly “ is an expression of grief, woe.

THE WATER IS WIDE

Martin Chambers
b. 1944

Moderato (♩ = c. 95)

mf

Solo Male

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano for rehearsal only

The

p u: - - - - - *mp*

p u: - - - - - a: -

p u: - - - - - *mp*

Solo

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bass

Pno

wat - er is wide, I can - not get o'er, and neith - er have

8

Solo *8* I wings to fly. Give me a boat that will carry

Sop *8*

Alto

Ten *8*

Bass

Pno *8*

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score, measures 8 through 11. It features five vocal staves (Solo, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment staff. The Solo part has the lyrics: "I wings to fly. Give me a boat that will carry". The Soprano, Tenor, and Bass parts are silent, indicated by a horizontal line with a bar. The Alto part has a vocal line with a fermata over the word "a:". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves with a treble and bass clef, showing a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

12

Solo *8* two, and both shall row, my love and I. *p*

Sop *12* *p* u: -

Alto *p* u: -

Ten *8* u: -

Bass

Pno *12* *p*

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of a musical score, measures 12 through 15. It features the same five vocal staves and piano accompaniment staff as the first system. The Solo part has the lyrics: "two, and both shall row, my love and I." and is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Soprano and Alto parts have the lyrics "u: -" and are also marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Tenor part has the lyrics "u: -". The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

16 *f*

Solo *f* A ship there is

Sop

Alto *mf*

Ten *p* *mf* a:

Bass *p* *mf* a:

Pno *p* *mf*

20

Solo and she sails the sea. She's load - ed deep, as deep can

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bass

Pno

24

Solo be; but not so deep as the love I'm in. I

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bass

Pno

28

Solo know not if I sink or swim.

Sop

Alto

Ten

Bass

Pno

32 *f*
Solo 8
leaned my back _____ up a - gainst some

32 *mf*
Sop
a: -

Alto
mf a: -

Ten
mf a: -

Bass
mf a: -

Pno
mf a: -

36
Solo 8
oak, think - ing that he _____ was a trust - y tree; but

36
Sop
a: -

Alto
a: -

Ten
8
a: -

Bass
a: -

Pno
36
a: -

40 *slower*

Solo 8 first he bend - ed and then he broke, and so did my

Sop *slower*

Alto *slower* a: - - - -

Ten *slower* a: - - - -

Bass *slower* a: - - - -

Pno *slower* a: - - - -

44

Solo 8 false love to me.

Sop 44

Alto u: - - - -

Ten 8 u: - - - -

Bass u: - - - -

Pno 44 u: - - - -

48

Solo

Sop *f* O love is hand - some and love is kind, and

Alto *f* O love is hand - some and love is kind, and

Ten *f* O love is hand - some and love is kind, and

Bass *f* O love is hand - some and love is kind, and

Pno

52

Solo

Sop *suddenly slower*, *mp* love's a jew'l while it is new; but when it is old,

Alto *mp* love's a jew'l while it is new; but when it is old,

Ten *mp* love's a jew'l while it is new; but when it is old,

Bass *mp* love's a jew'l while it is new; but when it is old,

Pno *suddenly slower*, *mp*

56

Solo

Sop *deliberate* *p* *slowly*
it grow - eth cold, and fades a - way like morn - ing

Alto
it grow - eth cold, *p* and fades a - way like morn - ing

Ten
it grow - eth cold, *p* and fades a - way like morn - ing

Bass
it grow - eth cold, and fades a - way like morn - ing

Pno *deliberate* *p* *slowly*

60

Solo

Sop *slowly* *pp*
dew. u: - - - - -

Alto *pp*
dew. u: - - - - -

Ten *pp*
dew. u: - - - - -

Bass *pp*
dew. u: - - - - -

Pno *slowly* *pp*