

# SIXTEEN TONS

for S.A.B. voices, a cappella\*

Arranged by  
**KIRBY SHAW**

Words and Music by  
**MERLE TRAVIS**

Swing (♩ = ca. 152) (♩♩ =  $\overset{3}{\text{♩}}$ )

*finger snaps through m. 13*

**SOPRANO**  
*mf*  
Du du du du du du du du.

**ALTO**  
*mf*  
Du du du du du du du du.

**BARITONE**  
*mf*  
Du du du du du du du doom\*\* doom

Swing (♩ = ca. 152) (♩♩ =  $\overset{3}{\text{♩}}$ )

**PIANO**  
(for rehearsal only)  
*mf*

\* Also available for S.A.T. B. (41893) and T.B.B. (41895).

\*\* "Doom" - go directly to "m"

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Some \_\_\_\_\_

Some \_\_\_\_\_

*sim.*

doom doom — ba doom doom doom doom doom

peo-ple say a man is made out - ta mud, a poor man's made out - ta

peo-ple say a man is made out - ta mud, a poor man's made out - ta

doom doom doom doom — ba doom doom doom

11

mus-cle and blood, mus-cle and blood\_ and skin and bones,\_ a  
 mus-cle and blood, mus-cle and blood\_ and skin and bones,\_ a  
 doom doom\_ ba doom doom doom doom du\_

14 (end finger snaps)

*finger snaps through m. 22*

mind that's weak and a back that's strong. You load six - teen tons,  
 mind that's weak and a back that's strong. You load six - teen tons,  
 doot Doom doom

17

18



wha-da ya get? An - oth - er day old - er and deep - er in debt. Saint



wha-da ya get? An - oth - er day old - er and deep - er in debt. Saint



doom doom \_ ba doom doom doom doom \_ ba doom



20

(end finger snaps)



Pe - ter, don't 'cha call me 'cuz I can't go. I owe my soul to the



Pe - ter, don't 'cha call me 'cuz I can't go. I owe my soul to the



doom doom doom du \_ doot to the



23

com - pa - ny store. Du du du du du du du

com - pa - ny store. Du du du

com - pa - ny store. Du du du

*finger snaps through m. 35*

26

du oo

du oo

doom doom doom doom ba doom doom doom

28

du du du du du doot

I was born one morn - in' when the sun did - n't shine,

doom doom ba doom doom doom doom doom ba doom

du du du du du doot

picked up my shov - el and I walked to the mine, I load - ed

doom doom doom doom ba doom

34

*(end finger snaps)*

du du du du doot

six - teen tons of num-ber nine coal and the straw boss said,

doom doom doom du — doot “A well - a

*opt. SOLO*

37

*finger snaps through m. 43*

You load six - teen tons, wha-da ya get? An -

You load six - teen tons, wha-da ya get? An -

bless my soul!’’ Doom doom doom doom — ba doom

oth - er day old - er and deep - er in debt. Saint Pe - ter, don't 'cha call me 'cuz

oth - er day old - er and deep - er in debt. Saint Pe - ter, don't 'cha call me 'cuz

doom doom doom doom\_\_ ba doom doom doom

(end finger snaps)

I can't go... I owe my soul to the com - pa - ny store.

I can't go... I owe my soul to the com - pa - ny store.....

doom du\_\_ doot to the com - pa - ny store.....



46

finger snaps through m. 58

Du du du du du du du du oo

Du du du du oo

Du du du doom doom doom doom ba doom

50

With intensity

If you see me com-in' bet-ter

If you see me com-in' bet-ter

doom doom doom doom doom doom

With intensity

54

*grad. cresc.*

— step a - side, — a lot - ta men did - n't, a

*grad. cresc.*

— step a - side, — a lot - ta men did - n't, a

*grad. cresc.*

doom doom — ba doom doom doom

56

lot - ta men died. — One fist of iron, — the

lot - ta men died. — One fist of iron, — the

doom doom — ba doom doom doom

58

(end finger snaps)

oth - er of steel. — You load

oth - er of steel. — You load

*opt. SOLO* (end solo)

doom doom — If the right one don't get-'cha then the left one will.

*finger snaps through m. 65*

61

*opt. DESCANT*

Du — du du du du —

S.  
six - teen tons, wha - da ya get? An -

A.  
six - teen tons, wha - da ya get? An -

B.  
Doom doom doom doom — ba doom

(rejoin section)

— doot du du du doot

oth - er day old - er and deep - er in debt. Saint

oth - er day old - er and deep - er in debt. Saint

doom doom doom doom ba doom

(end finger snaps)

Slowly

*f*

Pe - ter, don't 'cha call me 'cuz I can't go. I

A. Pe - ter, don't 'cha call me 'cuz I can't go. I

B. doom doom 'cuz I can't go. I

Slowly

*f*

67

*quick fall-off* **Tempo I** *mf*

owe my soul to the

owe my soul to the

owe my soul to the

**Tempo I** *mf*

70

*finger snaps* **Slowly** (*end finger snaps*) *quick fall-off*

com - pa - ny store. Du du du du du du du du

com - pa - ny store. Du du du du

com - pa - ny store. Du du du du

**Slowly**