

THE MERMAID

for T.B. voices and piano
with optional SoundTrax*

Traditional Sea Ballad
Arranged by JACK ZAINO

With spirit (♩ = ca. 112)

PIANO

f

3

5

TENOR

BASS

mf 6

'Twas Fri - day — morn when

mf

* Also available for 3-part mixed (48889) and 2-part (48891).
SoundTrax CD available (48892). Visit alfred.com for digital scores and audio.

“The Mermaid” is a traditional sea ballad that dates back to the mid 1700s, probably with roots in England or Scotland. Over the centuries, many different versions have spread across Ireland, Australia, and North America. The song tells the story of a ship’s captain who spots a mermaid in the distance. Since mermaids were thought to bring bad luck to sailors, the whole crew panics! Convinced that their ship will sink, everyone takes turns expressing their woe – often in a comedic way. Many folk musicians keep a tradition of improvising verses about friends and family in the audience. What would your character say if you were on the ship?

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7

we set sail, and we were not far from the

This block contains the first system of music, measures 7 and 8. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "we set sail, and we were not far from the".

This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 7 and 8, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

9

land when the cap - tain, he spied a

This block contains the second system of music, measures 9 and 10. The lyrics are: "land when the cap - tain, he spied a".

This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 9 and 10, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The accompaniment continues with a consistent rhythmic pattern.

11

mer - maid so fair with a comb and a glass in her

This block contains the third system of music, measures 11 and 12. The lyrics are: "mer - maid so fair with a comb and a glass in her".

This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 11 and 12, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The accompaniment concludes the section with sustained chords.

mp

hand.

And the o - cean waves do

mp

cresc.

roll,

and the storm - y winds do

cresc.

mf

blow,

and we poor sail - ors, we're

mf

19

skip - pin' at the top while the land - lub - bers* lie ___ down ___ be -

21

low, be - low, be - low, while the land - lub - bers lie ___ down ___ be -

23

low. Then

* A landlubber is a novice sailor.

25

up spoke the cap - tain of our gal - lant ship, and a *mf*

27

fine, brave cap - tain was _____ he. He said ...

29

f SOLO (Captain)
"This fish - y mer - maid has warned me of our doom. We shall

31

(end solo) ALL *mf*

sink to the bot - tom of ___ the sea!" And the

Piano accompaniment for measures 31-32, featuring a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

33 *mf*

And the o - cean waves do

o - cean waves do roll, and the

Piano accompaniment for measures 33-34, continuing the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment.

35

roll, and the storm - y winds do

storm - y winds do blow, and

Piano accompaniment for measures 35-36, concluding with a sustained chord in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand.

37

blow.* _____ We're skip-pin' at the top while the

we poor _____ sail - ors, we're skip-pin' at the top while the

39

land - lub-bers lie _____ down be - low, be - low, be - low, while the

41

land - lub-bers lie _____ down _____ be - low.

* Small slide, like the blowing wind.

44

43 *prim and proper mf*

Then up spoke the cook of our gal-lant ship, and a *prim and proper mf*

46

fan - cy, fine chef — was — he. He said ...

48 *f* SOLO (Chef)

"I care much more for my ket-tles and my pans than I

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*ad lib clamor and commotion during this interlude
(end solo)*

do for the bot - tom of ___ the sea!"

ALL *mf*

Then

f

up spoke the par - rot on our gal - lant ship, and a

mf

mf

57

cra - zy old bug - ger was he. He said ...

59

f SOLO (Parrot)

"I care much more for me crack - ers and me seeds than I

61

(end solo) ALL *f*

do for the bot - tom of the sea!" And the



63

f

And the o - cean waves do

o - cean waves do roll, and the

f

65

roll, and the storm - y winds do

storm - y winds do blow, and

67

blow. We're skip-pin' at the top while the

we poor sail - ors, we're skip-pin' at the top while the

69

land - lub - bers lie ___ down ___ be - low, be - low, be - low, while the

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are: "land - lub - bers lie ___ down ___ be - low, be - low, be - low, while the".

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 69-70. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music features chords and moving lines in both hands.

71

land - lub-bers lie ___ down ___ be - low.

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are: "land - lub-bers lie ___ down ___ be - low.".

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 71-72. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music features chords and moving lines in both hands.

74

8 Three times 'round spun ___ our gal - lant ship, and

This system contains two staves of music. The upper staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are: "8 Three times 'round spun ___ our gal - lant ship, and".

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 74-75. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music features chords and moving lines in both hands.

three times 'round spun she.

Three times 'round spun our gal - lant ship, and she

molto rit.

molto rit.

sank to the bot - tom of the sea.

mf

decesc.

mp

83

Cautiously (♩ = ca. 84)

82

p And the

p And the o - cean waves do

8va

Cautiously (♩ = ca. 84)

p

84

accel. poco a poco *cresc.*

o - cean waves do roll,

cresc.

roll, and the storm - y winds do

accel. poco a poco *cresc.*

87 Happily (♩ = ca. 116)

86

f and the storm - y winds do blow. We're

f blow, and we poor sail - ors, we're

Happily (♩ = ca. 116)

f

skip-pin' at the top while the land-lub-bers lie down be-

90 *rit.* low, be-low, be-low, while the land lub-bers

91 *mf* *a tempo* *mf*

93 *f (fall)* lie down be-low!* *f (fall)* lie down be-low!*

f

* Small slides, like the ship is still a bit unstable!

