

# OH, DEAR! WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?

SSA, accompanied

TRADITIONAL FOLK SONG  
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

Spirited! ♩. = 110

SOPRANO I

SOPRANO II

ALTO

PIANO

*f*

5

5

*mf*

*mf*

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9 *mf-p*

Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be?

*mf-p*

Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be?

*mf-p*

Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be?

9 *mf-p*

13 [1.]

Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the fair.

Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the fair.

Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the fair.

13 [1.]

*p*

17 [2.]

fair.

fair.

fair.

17 [2.]

21 *mf*

He

He

21 *mf*

25

prom-ised to buy me a bas - ket of po - sies,

prom-ised to buy me a bas - ket of po - sies,

*mf* a gar - land of lil - ies, a

25

28

He prom-ised he'd bring me a bunch of blue rib - bons to

He prom-ised he'd bring me a bunch of blue rib - bons to

wreath of red ros - es. He prom-ised he'd bring me a bunch of blue rib - bons to

28

31

tie up my bon - nie brown hair. He prom - ised he'd buy me a

tie up my bon - nie brown hair. He prom - ised he'd buy me a

tie up my bon - nie brown hair. Oo,

31

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 31 to 33. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are: 'tie up my bon - nie brown hair. He prom - ised he'd buy me a'. The piano accompaniment is in G major and 4/4 time, with the right hand playing a melody and the left hand providing harmonic support.

34

beau - ti - ful fair - ing, oo. A

beau - ti - ful fair - ing, oo. A

and col - or - ful lace that the las - sies are wear - ing. A

34

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 34 to 36. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The lyrics are: 'beau - ti - ful fair - ing, oo. A', 'beau - ti - ful fair - ing, oo. A', and 'and col - or - ful lace that the las - sies are wear - ing. A'. The piano accompaniment is in G major and 4/4 time, with the right hand playing a melody and the left hand providing harmonic support.

37

lit - tle straw hat to set off the blue rib-bons that tie up my bon-nie brown hair.

lit - tle straw hat to set off the blue rib-bons that tie up my bon-nie brown hair.

lit - tle straw hat to set off the blue rib-bons that tie up my bon-nie brown hair.

37

This block contains the first system of music, measures 37-40. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "lit - tle straw hat to set off the blue rib-bons that tie up my bon-nie brown hair." The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

41

Bon-nie brown hair. Oh, Dear!

Bon-nie brown hair. Oh, Dear!

Bon-nie brown hair. Oh, Dear!

41

This block contains the second system of music, measures 41-44. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Bon-nie brown hair. Oh, Dear!". The piano part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present at the beginning of measure 42 and at the end of measure 44.

45

What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear!

What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear!

What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear!

45

49

1. What can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the fair. Dear!

What can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the fair. Dear!

What can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the fair. Dear!

49

1.

*Agitato!*

52 [2.]  
John-ny's so long at the fair. I want to know, Dear!  
John-ny's so long at the fair. I want to know, Dear!  
John-ny's so long at the fair. I want to know, Dear!

52 [2.]



55  
What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear!  
What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear!  
What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear! What can the mat-ter be? Oh, Dear!

55





59

*f*

What can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the

*mf*

What can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the

*mp*

What can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the

59

63

fair, long at the fair. John-ny's so long, long at the fair!

fair, long at the fair. John-ny's so long, long at the fair!

fair, long at the fair. John-ny's so long, long at the fair!

63

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