

Harp Song of the Dane Women

for soprano or mezzo and piano

with music by

F L Dunkin Wedd

Poem © 1906 Rudyard Kipling

Music © 1996 F L Dunkin Wedd

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Harp Song of the Dane Women

What is a woman that you forsake her,
And the hearth-fire and the home-acre
To go with the old grey Widow-maker?

She has no house to lay a guest in -
But one chill bed for all to rest in,
That the pale suns and the stray bergs nest in.

She has no strong white arms to fold you
But the ten-times-fingering weed to hold you -
Out on the rocks where the tide has rolled you.

Yet, when the signs of summer thicken,
And the ice breaks, and the birch-buds quicken,
Yearly you turn from our side, and sicken -

Sicken again for the shouts and the slaughters.
You steal away to the lapping waters,
And look at your ship in her winter-quarters.

You forget our mirth, and talk at the tables,
The kine in the shed and the horse in the stables -
To pitch her sides and go over her cables.

Then you drive out where the storm-clouds swallow,
And the sound of your oar-blades, falling hollow,
Is all we have left through the months that follow.

Ah, what is Woman that you forsake her,
And the hearth-fire and the home-acre
To go with the old grey Widow-maker?

Rudyard Kipling

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Harp Song of the Dane Women

Words - Rudyard Kipling

Music - F L Dunkin Wedd 1997

Broadly

♩ = 45

mf

mp

mp

10

What is a wo man that you for sake her? And the hearth fire and the home ac - re

mf

To go with the old grey Wi dow ma - ker? She has no house to

f *mf* 20

lay a guest in But one chill bed for all to rest in That the pale suns

p *p*

and the stray bergs nest in. She has no strong white

arms to fold you But the ten times fing' ring weed to hold you

Bound on the rocks where the tide has rolled you

30
Yet, when the signs of summer thicken And the ice melts, and the

birch buds quickly Yearly you turn from our side and

sicken Sicken again for the shouts and the slaughters

40

And steal a way to the lap ping wa ters And look at your ship in her win ter

This system contains the first two measures of the piece. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a 7/8 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in the same time signature and key signature. A fermata is placed over the first measure of the vocal line. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a bracket and the number '3' in the second measure of the vocal line. A similar triplet appears in the piano accompaniment in the second measure.

quar ters

This system contains the next two measures. The vocal line has a whole rest in the first measure and a quarter rest in the second. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines in both hands.

This system contains the next two measures. The vocal line has whole rests in both measures. The piano accompaniment features a more active melody in the right hand, with many beamed eighth and sixteenth notes.

50

You for get our mirth and talk at the ta - bles, The kine in the

This system contains the final two measures. The vocal line has a whole rest in the first measure and a quarter rest in the second. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a bracket and the number '3' in the second measure of the vocal line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in both hands.

shed, and the horse in the sta - bles To pitch her sides and go

The first system of the musical score consists of a vocal line on a single treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clefs). The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

ov er her ca - bles! Then you drive out where the storm clouds wal low

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line includes a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above the notes, followed by a measure with a fermata and a measure with a measure rest. The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

And the sound of your oar blades fal ling hol - low Is all we have

The third system shows the vocal line with a series of eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a bass line.

left in the months that fol - low.

The fourth system concludes the page. The vocal line has a measure rest followed by a quarter note. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord and a fermata.

ff 70

Ah, what is Wo man that you for sake her? And the hearth fire and the

home ac re To go with the old grey Wi dow

p

ma ker? Ah, what is Wo man that you for sake her? And the hearth fire and the

80

home ac - re To go with the old grey Wi dow ma - ker?

app 3'40'