

# The Drunken Sailor

Traditional Chanty

arranged by Stuart P. O'Neil

Strong and energetic  $\text{♩} = 116-120$ 

Piano

The piano introduction is in 2/4 time, marked 'Strong and energetic' with a tempo of 116-120. It features a right hand with chords and a left hand with a simple bass line. The music is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

A

5 *mp*

T  
8 What shall we do with a drunk-en sail - or, what shall we do with a drunk-en sail - or,

B  
*mp*  
What shall we do with a drunk-en sail - or, what shall we do with a drunk-en sail - or,

*detached, but not overly short*

*mp*

The first line of the song (measures 5-8) is for the vocalists (Tenor and Bass) and piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are marked *mp* and feature a simple melody. The piano accompaniment is marked *mp* and features a simple bass line. The tempo is marked 'detached, but not overly short'.

9

T  
8 what shall we do with a drunk - en sail - or ear - lye in the morn - in'?

B  
what shall we do with a drunk - en sail - or ear - lye in the morn - in'?

The second line of the song (measures 9-12) continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal parts are marked *mp* and feature a simple melody. The piano accompaniment is marked *mp* and features a simple bass line. The tempo is marked 'detached, but not overly short'.

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**B**

13 *mf*

T Weigh heigh an' up she ris - es, weigh heigh an' up she ris - es,

B Weigh heigh an' up she ris - es, weigh heigh an' up she ris - es,

*more connected*

*mf*

17

T weigh heigh an' up she ris - es ear - lye in the morn - in'.

B weigh heigh an' up she ris - es ear - lye in the morn - in'.

**C**

21

T Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai, Lai lai

B Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai, Lai lai

*For Perusal Only*

25

T  
8  
lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.

B  
lai lai lai lai lai.

*mp*

# For Perusal Only

29

**D**  
*mp*

T  
8  
Put him in the long - boat 'til he's so - ber, put him in the long - boat 'til he's so - ber,

33

T  
8  
put him in the long - boat 'til he's so - ber ear - lye in the morn - in'.

**E**

37

T Give him a taste of salt 'n' wa - ter, give him a taste of salt 'n' wa - ter,

41

T give him a taste of salt 'n' wa - ter ear - lye in the morn - in'.

**F**

45

T *f* Weigh heigh an' up she ris - es, weigh heigh an' up she ris - es,

B *f* Up she ris - es, up she ris - es,

49

T  
8 weigh heigh an' up she ris - es ear - lye in the morn - in'.

B  
up she ris - es ear - lye in the morn - in'.

53

T  
8 Put him in the scup-pers with a hose-pipe on him,

B

**For Perusal Only**

*G*  
*mp*

57

T  
8 put him in the scup-pers with a hose-pipe on him, put him in the scup-pers with a

B

60

**H**  
*mp*

T  
hose - pipe on him ear - lye in the morn - in'. Hoist him up to the

B  
*mp*  
oo

*simile*

64

T  
top - sail yard - arm, hoist him up to the top - sail yard - arm, hoist him up to the

B  
oo oo

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68

**I**  
*f*

T  
top - sail yard - arm ear - lye in the morn - in'. Weigh heigh an' up she ris - es,

B  
*f*  
ear - lye in the morn - in'. Up she ris - es,

73

T  
weigh heigh an' up she ris - es, weigh heigh an' up she ris - es

B  
up she ris - es, up she ris - es

77 *poco dim* *cresc poco a poco*

T  
ear - lye in the morn - in',

B  
ear - lye in the morn - in'.

*poco dim* *cresc poco a poco*

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83

T  
Oh,

B  
Oh,

**J**

87 *f*

T  
Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai, Lai lai lai lai lai

B  
Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai, Lai lai lai lai lai

*f*

92

T  
lai lai lai, (,) Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai

B  
lai lai lai, (,) Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai

*f*

**For Perusal Only**

97

T  
lai lai lai lai lai, Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai

B  
lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai



102 *poco dim*

T  
8  
lai, Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.

B  
lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.

*poco dim*

*mp*

**K**  
107 *mp*

T  
8  
Hoist him by the leg in a run - nin' bow-line\*, hoist him by the leg in a run - nin' bow-line,

B

**For Perusal Only**

111

T  
8  
hoist him by the leg in a run - nin' bow - line ear - lye in the morn - in'.

B

\* (bo' lin) A running bowline is a specific type of knot.

115 **L**

T 8 Send him up the crow's nest 'til he falls down, send him up the crow's nest

B *mp* oo oo

*simile* *f* *mp*

119

T 8 'til he falls d

B oo ear-lyc in the

*f* *mp*

© protection

124 **M** *f*

T 8 morn - in'. Weigh heigh an' up she ris - es, weigh heigh an' up she ris - es,

B *f* morn - in'. Up she ris - es, weigh heigh an' up she ris - es,

129

T  
weigh heigh an' up she ris - es ear - lye in the morn - in'.

B  
up she ris - es, ear - lye in the morn - in'.

#### About the music

Despite the popularity of *The Drunken Sailor*, little is known definitively of the origin of this famous sea chanty. The song most likely comes from early nineteenth-century England or America, and while there is some evidence suggesting that it was used by crews to accompany various tasks on sailing ships, it seems to have been especially popular with mainstream audiences during the twentieth century, perhaps providing a somewhat romanticized notion of life on the ocean. Drawing on the improvisational, call-and-response structure typical to the traditional work song, there are many variations of the text, all of which answer the question "What shall we do with a drunken sailor?" with numerous means of rousing or disciplining him.

This piece should be sung with a full, robust, and strong sound. Diction should be clear and natural, and overly crisp final consonants should be avoided. The verse passages (m29, m37, m55, m63, 107, m115) may be performed by a soloist, a group of alternating soloists, or a small ensemble singing in unison, the goal being to provide textural and dynamic contrasts.

Listen to a recording at [SBMP.com](http://SBMP.com).

#### About the arranger

Stuart P. O'Neil (b. 1969) has taught vocal and instrumental music for Kansas public schools since 1993. He received a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nebraska and a Master of Music Theory from the University of Kansas. In addition to his work as a teacher and composer, Mr. O'Neil also serves as an arranger, accompanist, adjudicator, and conductor. He currently lives in Lawrence, KS. with his family.

#### Arrangements by Stuart P. O'Neil

SBMP 1247 Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier SATB

SBMP 1485 My Lord What a Morning SATB

SBMP 1523 Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair TTB