

The Wren-Boys' Song

For TTBB Chorus and Piano

Irish Carol

from *The Minstrelsy of Ireland* (1897)

Arr. Bruce Trinkley

Allegro spiritoso $\text{♩} = 72$

Piano

ff *mf*

6

mp *cresc.*

The wren, the wren, the king of all

mp *cresc.*

The wren, the wren, the king of all

mp *cresc.*

The wren, the wren, the king of all

mp *cresc.*

The wren, the wren, the king of all

NOTES

1. *wren-boys* (Note from F.W. Horncastle's *Music of Ireland*, 1844): "On the anniversary of St. Stephen's Day groups of young villagers carry about a holly bush adorned with ribbons and with several wrens depending from it. This is conveyed from house to house with much ceremony, the wren-boys chanting several verses. . . . Contributions are, of course, levied and the evening spent in merriment."
2. Saint Stephen's Day, December 26, celebrating the first Christian martyr
3. *furze*, a spiny evergreen shrub, common throughout Europe

2 ¹² *mf* *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

birds, Saint Ste - phen's Day ____ was caught in a furze. Al - though he is

mf *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

birds, Saint Ste - phen's Day ____ was caught in a furze. Al - though he is

mf *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

birds, Saint Ste - phen's Day was caught in a furze. Al - though he is

mf *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

birds, Saint Ste - phen's Day was caught in a furze. Al - though he is

¹² *mf* *dim.* *mp* *cresc.*

¹⁸ *mf* *dim.*

lit - tle, his fam - i - ly's great; I pray you, good land - la - dy, give us a

mf *dim.*

lit - tle, his fam - i - ly's great; I pray you, good land - la - dy, give us a

mf *dim.*

lit - tle, his fam - i - ly's great; I pray you, good land - la - dy, give us a

mf *dim.*

lit - tle, his fam - i - ly's great; I pray you, good land - la - dy, give us a

¹⁸

24 *f* *mp*

treat. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

24 *f* *mp*

treat. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

24 *f* *mp*

treat. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

24 *f* *mp*

treat. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

24 *f* *mp*

treat. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

29 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

29 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

29 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

29 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

29 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

4 34

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

34

cure mel - an - chol-y.

cure mel - an - chol-y.

cure mel - an - chol-y.

cure mel - an - chol-y.

39

cure mel - an - chol-y.

ff

mf

*solo or unison tenors**mf*

46

My box would speak if it had but a

46

mp

52

tongue, and two or three shil - lings would do it no wrong. So show us some

52

mp

58

pit - y in or - der that we may drink you good health for your kind cha - ri -

58

mp

6 64 *tutti f* *mp*

ty. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

f *mp*

Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

f *mp*

Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

f *mp*

64 Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

f

69 *cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

cresc. *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

cresc. *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

cresc. *f*

69 *mp cresc.* *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

mp cresc. *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

mp cresc. *f*

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. Sing hey! sing

mp cresc. *f*

74

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

74

ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would

79

cure mel - an - chol - y.

79

cure mel - an - chol - y.

79

ff

8 84

mp cresc. And if you
mp cresc. And if you
mp cresc. And if you
mp cresc. And if you

84 *mf* *mp cresc.*

90 *mf* *dim.*
draw it of the best, I hope in hea - ven your soul it may

mf *dim.*
draw it of the best, I hope in hea - ven your soul it may

mf *dim.*
draw it of the best, I hope in hea - ven your soul it may

mf *dim.*
draw it of the best, I hope in hea - ven your soul it may

90 *mf* *dim.*

96 *mp* *cresc.*

rest. But if you draw it of the small, it won't a -

rest. But if you draw it of the small, it won't a -

rest. But if you draw it of the small, it won't a -

rest. But if you draw it of the small, it won't a -

96 *mp* *cresc.*

102 *f*

gree with the wren - boys at all! Sing hey! sing ho! Sing

gree with the wren - boys at all! Sing hey! sing ho! Sing

gree with the wren - boys at all! Sing hey! sing ho! Sing

gree with the wren - boys at all! Sing hey! sing ho! Sing

102 *f*

10 107

mp *cresc.*

hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an -

mp *cresc.*

hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an -

mp *cresc.*

hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an -

mp *cresc.*

hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an -

mp *cresc.*

112

ff

chol - y. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

ff

chol - y. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

ff

chol - y. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

ff

chol - y. Sing hey! sing ho! Sing hol - ly, sing hol - ly! A

112

ff

117

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. A

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. A

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. A

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. A

117

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. A

121

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____

8va - - - - -

121

drop just to drink, it would cure mel - an - chol - y. _____