

Stef Conner

The Water is Wide



2025

Arranged and harmonized by
Stef Conner (b. 1983)

Words and melody
Trad. (Roud 87)

For SSATB (or SAATB) choir or solo-voice ensemble

Duration c. 3'40"

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PERUSAL SCORE
NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

The Water is Wide

Stef Conner, 2025

Full score (without piano reduction)

Duration: c. 3 minutes and 40 seconds

For choir or solo-voice ensemble:

Soprano (1)
Soprano 2 (or Alto 1)
Alto (2)
Tenor
Bass

Text: traditional, adapted by Stef Conner

*The water is wide, I cannot get o'er,
And neither have I wings to fly,
Give me a boat that can carry two
And both shall row, my love and I.*

*A ship there is and she sails the sea,
She's loaded deep as deep can be,
But not so deep as the love I'm in,
I know not if I sink or swim.*

*I leaned my back against an oak,
Thinking it was a trusty tree,
But first it bowed and then it broke,
So did my love prove false to me.*

*O, love be handsome, love be kind,
Bright as a jewel while it is new,
But love grows old and waxes cold,
And fades away like morning dew.*

*'Tis not the frost that freezes fell,
Nor blowing snow's inclemency,
'Tis not such cold that makes me cry,
But my love's heart grown cold to me.*

*When cockle shells turn silver bells,
And mussels grown on every tree,
When roses bloom in winter's gloom,
Then will my love come back to me,
Then will my love come back to me.*

The Water is Wide

for S(S/A)ATB voices *a cappella*

TRAD. (ROUD 87)

Arranged by Stef Conner

Lilting, ♩ = c. 60

SOPRANO
(or SOP 1)

ALTO 1
(or SOP 2)

ALTO 2
(or ALTO)

TENOR

BASS

optional solo (free)

p

1. The wat-er is wide, I can-not get o'er, And nei-ther have I wings to__

optional solo

p

mf

p

poco rit. . . .

Give me a boat that can car-ry two And both shall row...

mf

p

fly, Give me a boat that can car-ry two And both shall row, my love and I.

a tempo

tutti

p

mf

2. A ship there is and she sails the sea,

tutti

p

mf

p

2. A ship there is and she sails the sea, She's load-ed deep as deep can

tutti

p

mf

p

2. A ship there is and she sails the sea, She's load-ed deep as deep can

13

S. (/S. 1) *mp* *mf* *p*
But not so deep as the love I'm in, I know not if I sink or swim.

A. 1 (/S. 2) *mf* *p*
be, But not so deep as the love I'm in, I know not if I sink or swim.

A. 2 (/A.) *mf* *p*
be, But not so deep as the love I'm in, I know not if I sink or swim.

T. *mp* *mf* *p*
But not so deep as the love I'm in, I know not if I sink or swim.

18

S. (/S. 1) *mp* *mf*
3. I leaned my back ag - ainst an oak, Think-ing it was a trust y
4. Oh love be hand-some, love be kind, Bright as a jewel while it is

A. 1 (/S. 2) *mp* *mf*
3. I leaned my back ag - ainst an oak, Think-ing it was a trust y
4. Oh love be hand-some, love be kind, Bright as a jewel while it is

A. 2 (/A.) *mp* *mf*
3. I leaned my back ag - ainst an oak, Think-ing it was a trust y
4. Oh love be hand-some, love be kind, Bright as a jewel while it is

T. *mp* *mf*
3. I leaned my back ag - ainst an oak, Think-ing it was a trust y
4. Oh love be hand-some, love be kind, Bright as a jewel while it is

B. *mp* *mf*
3. I leaned my back ag - ainst an oak, Think-ing it was a trust y
4. Oh love be hand-some, love be kind, Bright as a jewel while it is

22

f *mp*

S.
(/S. 1)

tree, But first it bowed and then it broke, So did my love prove false to me.
new, But love grows old and wax-es cold, And fades a - way like morn-ing dew.

A. 1
(/S. 2)

tree, But first it bowed and then it broke, So did my love prove false to me.
new, But love grows old and wax-es cold, And fades a - way like mor - ningdew.

A. 2
(/A.)

tree, But first it bowed and then it broke, So did my love prove false to me.
new, But love grows old and wax-es cold, And fades a - way like mor-n-ing dew.

T.

tree, But first it bowed and then it broke, So did my love prove false to me.
new, But love grows old and wax-es cold, And fades a - way like morn-ing dew.

B.

tree, But first it bowed and then it broke, So did my love prove false to me.
new, But love grows old and wax-es cold, And fades a - way like morn-ing dew.

27

Freely; a little slower

optional solo *p*

A. 1
(/S. 2)

optional solo (fragile) *p*

Nor blow-ing snow's in-clem-en -

A. 2
(/A.)

5. 'Tis not the frost that freez-es fell, Nor blow-ing snow's in-clem-en -

T.

31 *tutti* *mp* *mf* *p*

S. 1
(/S. 1) 'Tis not such cold that makes me cry, But my love's heart grown cold to me.

A. 1
(/S. 2) -cy, 'Tis not such cold that makes me cry, But my love's heart grown cold to me.

A. 2
(/A.) -cy, 'Tis not such cold that makes me cry, But my love's heart grown cold to me.

T. 8 'Tis not such cold that makes me cry, But my love's heart grown cold to me.

B. that makes me cry, But my love's heart grown cold to me.

Tempo 1 (♩ = c. 60)

36 *mf* *mp*

S. 1
(/S. 1) 6. When cock-le shells turn sil-ver bells, And mus-sels grow on ev-'ry

A. 1
(/S. 2) 6. When cock-le shells turn sil-ver bells, And mus-sels grow on ev-'ry

A. 2
(/A.) 6. When cock-le shells turn sil-ver bells, And mus-sels grow on ev-'ry

T. 8 6. When cock-le shells turn sil-ver bells, And mus-sels grow on ev-'ry

B. 6. When cock-le shells turn sil-ver bells, And mus-sels grow on ev-'ry

40

f *mp*

S. (/S. 1)

tree, When ros - es bloom in win-ters gloom, Then will my love come back to__

A. 1 (/S. 2)

tree, When ros - es bloom in win-ters gloom, Then will my love come back to__

A. 2 (/A.)

tree, When ros - es bloom in win-ters gloom, Then will my love come back to

T.

tree, When ros - es bloom in win-ters gloom, Then will my love come back to

B.

tree, When ros - es bloom in win-ters gloom, Then will my love come back to

44

rit. *p*

S. (/S. 1)

me

A. 1 (/S. 2)

me Then will my love come back to__ me

A. 2 (/A.)

me Then will my love come back to me Then will my love come back to__ me

T.

me Then will my love come back to me

B.

me Then will my love come back to me