



# The Cremation of Sam McGee

for Treble Choir and piano

*(Also available in SATB and TTB voicings)*

Ken Berg's work is commissioned for Florida Singing Sons by Classical Movements, Inc.  
as part of the Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program.

**Ken Berg**

copyright 2011

**Bella Voce Press**

**[www.bellavocepress.com](http://www.bellavocepress.com)**

**BVP 613**

Ken Berg's work is commissioned for Florida Singing Sons by Classical Movements, Inc.  
as part of the Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program.

*For the fantastic Florida Singing Sons  
and their awesome Music Director, Craig Denison*

## **The Cremation of Sam McGee**

for Treble Choir and Piano  
(duration, app. 5:50)  
Also available in SATB and TTB voicings.

**BVP 613**

Robert W. Service (1874 - 1958)

Ken Berg (b. 1955)

$\text{♩} = 94$

Piano

6 **Refrain**

Tr.

*There are strange things done in the*

Pno.

10

Tr. *mid-night sun by themen who moil for gold; The Arc-tic trails have their*

Pno.

14

Tr. *se - cret tales that wouldnake your blood run cold; The\_*

Pno.

17

Tr. *North-ern Lights have seen queer sights, but the queer-est they ev - er did*

Pno.

4 Ken Berg's work is commissioned for Florida Singing Sons by Classical Movements, Inc. as part of the Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program.

20

Tr. *see was the night on the marge of Lake Le- barge*

Pno.

23

Tr. *I cre - mat - ed Sam Mc - Gee!*

Pno.

26

Tr. Verse 1  
*Now*

Pno.

29

Tr. Same Mc - Gee was from Ten - nes - see, where the cot - ton blooms and

Pno.

32

Tr. blows. Why he left his home in the South to roam 'round the

Pno.

35

Tr. Pole, God on - ly knows. He was al - ways cold, but the

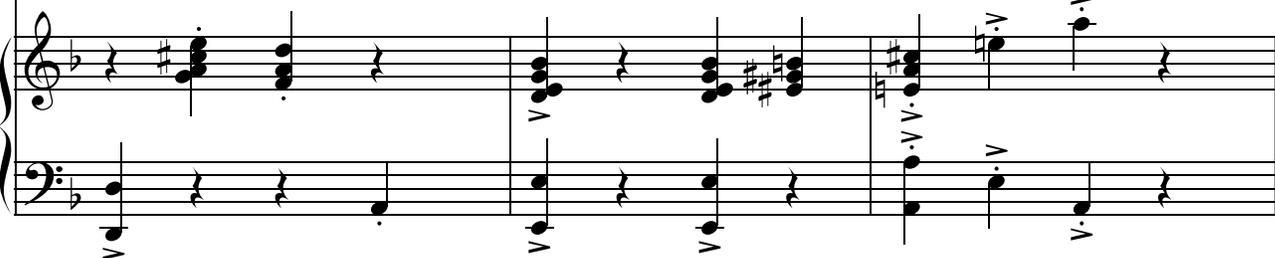
Pno.

6 Ken Berg's work is commissioned for Florida Singing Sons by Classical Movements, Inc. as part of the Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program.

38

Tr. 

land of gold seemed to hold him like a spell; Tho' he'd

Pno. 

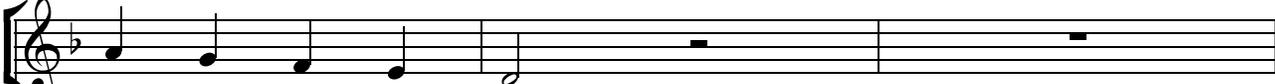
41

Tr. 

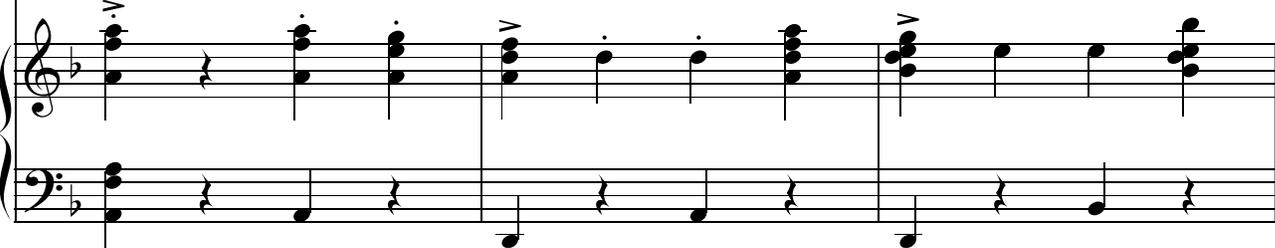
of - ten say in his home - ly way \_\_\_\_\_ he'd

Pno. 

44

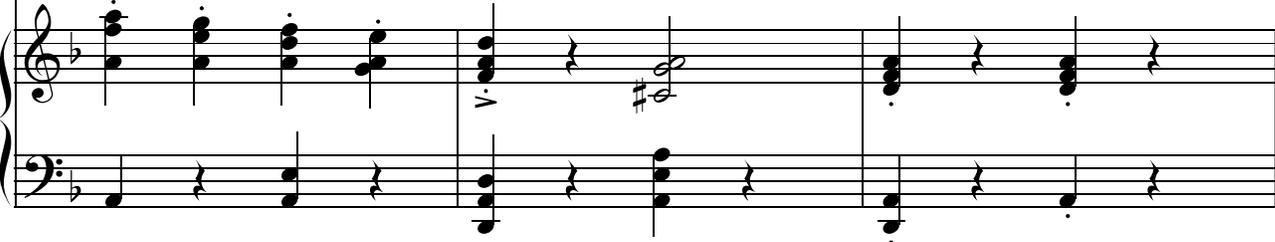
Tr. 

"soon - er live in hell!"

Pno. 

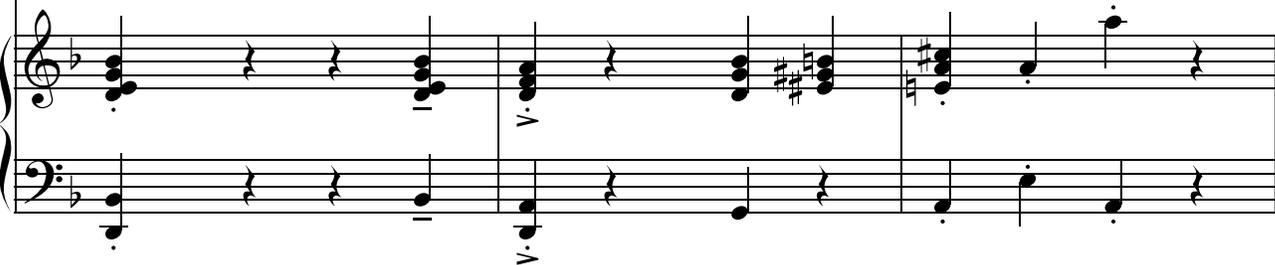
47 Verse 2

Tr.  On a Christ-mas day we were

Pno. 

50

Tr.  mush-ing our way o - ver the Daw - son Trail.

Pno. 

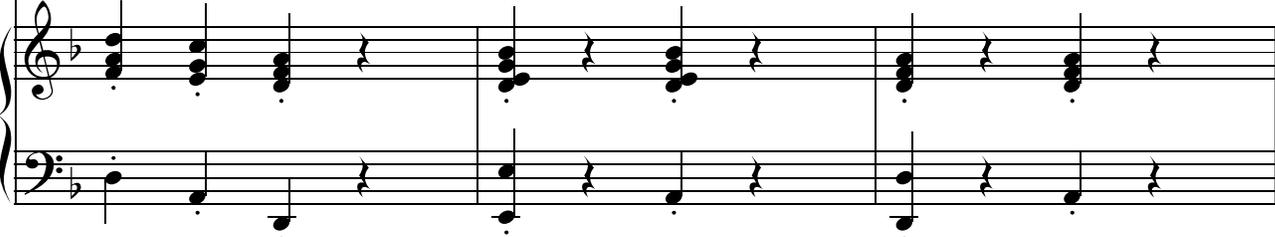
53

Tr.  Talk of your cold! Thru the par - ka's fold it stabbed like a driv - en

Pno. 

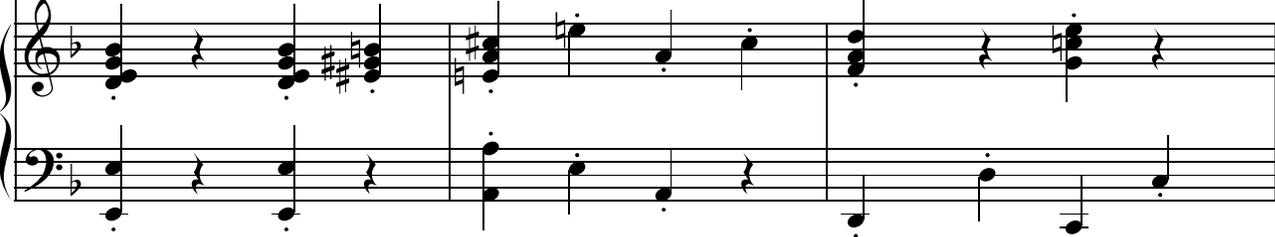
56

Tr.  nail. If our eyes we'd close, then the lash - es froze till some

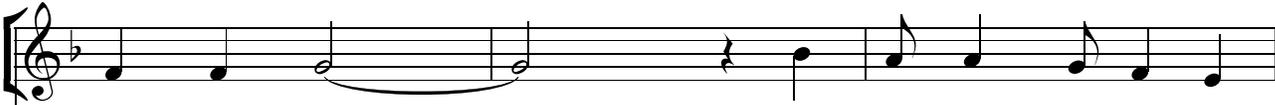
Pno. 

59

Tr.  times we could - n't see; It was - n't much fun but the

Pno. 

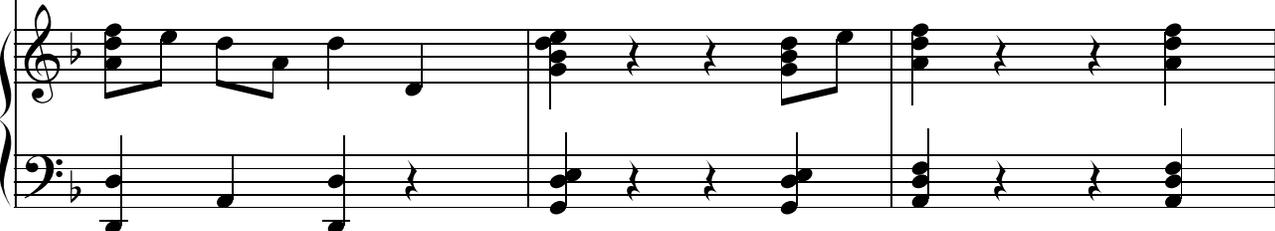
62

Tr.  on - ly one \_\_\_\_\_ to whim - per was Sam Mc -

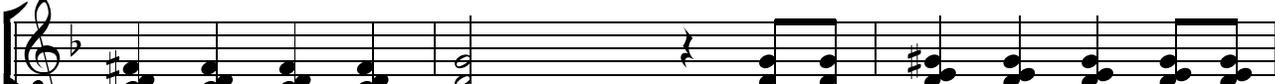
Pno. 

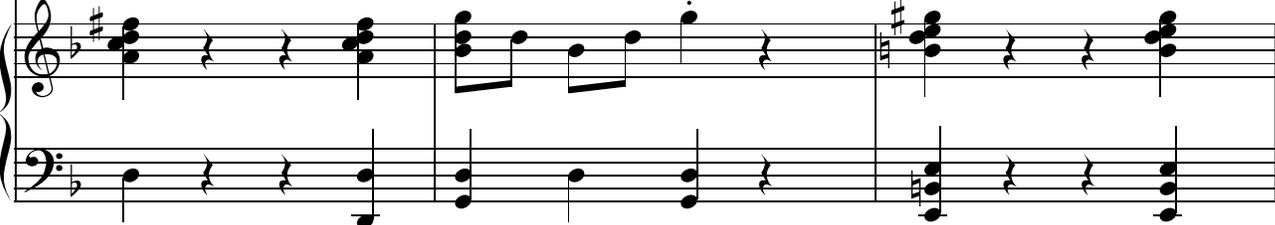
65 Verse 3

Tr.   
Gee! And that ve - ry night, as we lay packed tight in our

Pno. 

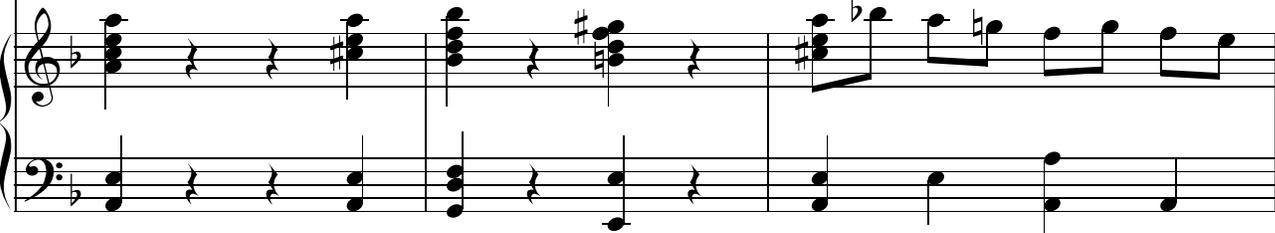
68

Tr.   
robes be - neath the snow, and the dogs were fed, and the

Pno. 

71

Tr.   
stars o'er-head were danc - ing heel and toe, he

Pno. 

74

Tr. turned to me, and "Cap," says he, "I'll cash in this trip, I

Pno.

77

Tr. guess; and if I do, I'm ask-in' that you

Pno.

80

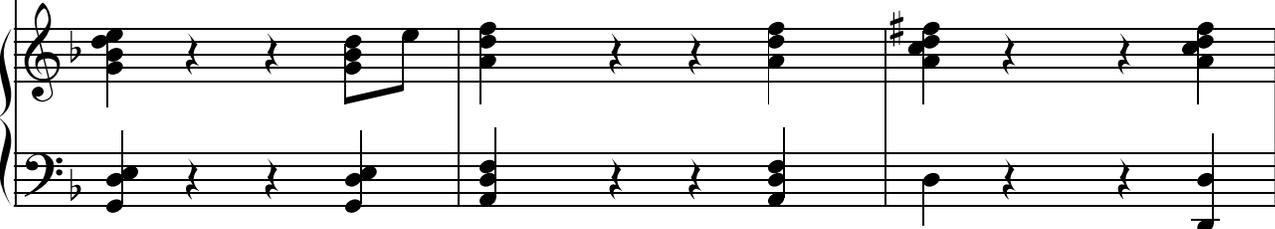
Tr. — won't re - fuse my last re - quest!" Well, he

Pno.

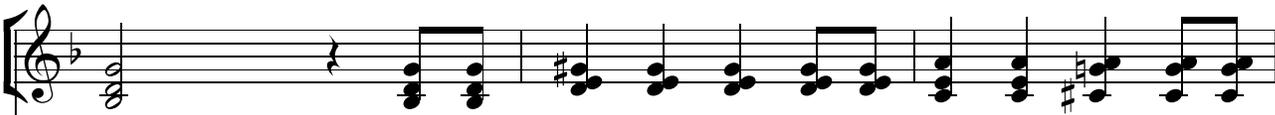
Verse 4

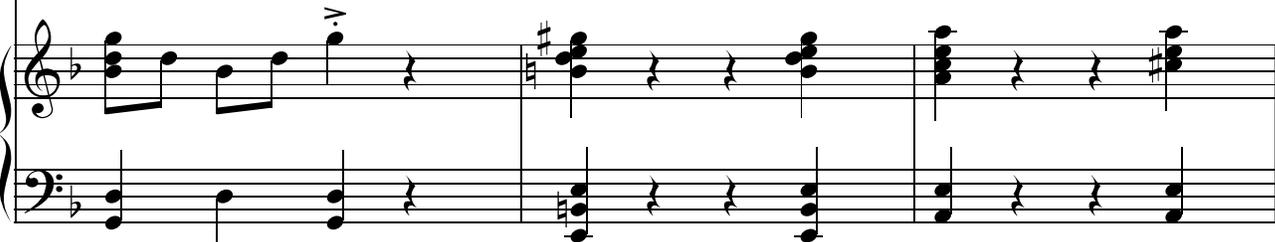
83

Tr.  seemed so low that I could-n't say no; then he says with a sort of

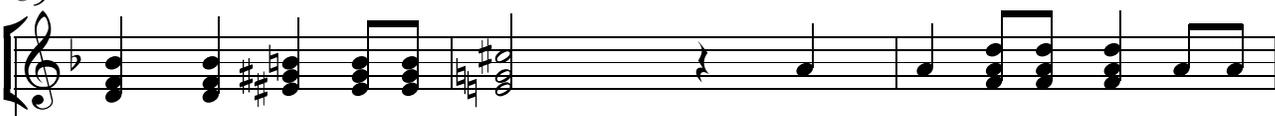
Pno. 

86

Tr.  moan: "It's the curs - ed cold, and it's got right hold till I'm

Pno. 

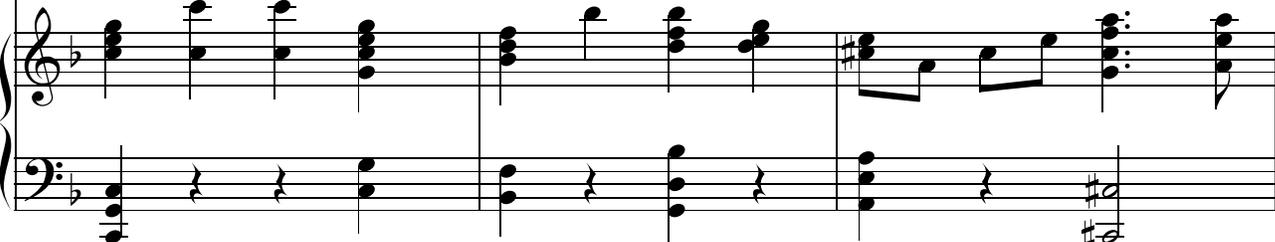
89

Tr.  chilled clean thru to the bone. Yet 'tain't be-in' dead, it's my

Pno. 

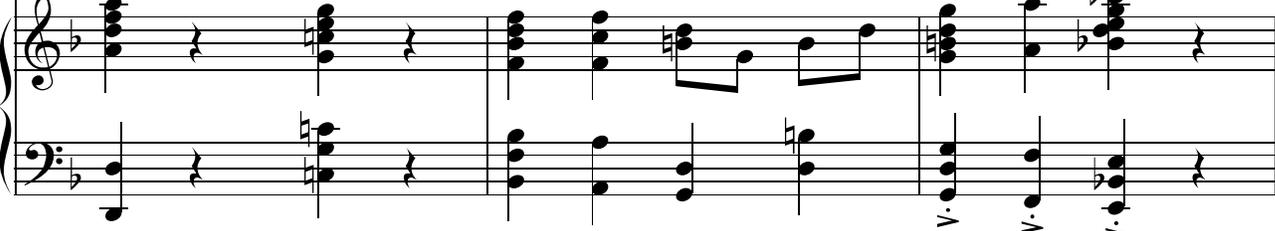
92

Tr.  aw - ful dread of the i - cy grave that pains; So I

Pno. 

95

Tr.  want you to swear that, foul or fair, \_\_\_\_\_ you'll

Pno. 

98

**Refrain**

Tr.  cre-mate my last re - mains! *There are strange things done in the*

Pno. 

101

Tr. *mid-night sun by the men who toil for gold; The*

Pno.

104

Tr. *Arc - tic trails have their se - cret tales that would make your blood run*

Pno.

107

Tr. *cold; The\_ North-ern Lights have seen queer sights, but the*

Pno.

110

Tr. *queer-est they ev-er did see was the night on the marge of*

Pno.

113

Tr. *Lake Le barge I cre-mat-ed Sam Mc - Gee!*

Pno.

117

Tr. Solo

Pno.

**Meno mosso**

Verse 5; solo a recitativo

A

121  $\text{♩} = 55$

Tr. Solo

pal's last need is a thing to heed, so I swore I would not

Tr.

000

000

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 55$

124

Tr. Solo

fail; And we start-ed on at the streak of dawn; but

Tr.

oh,

Pno.

LH

RH

LH

127

Tr. Solo

God! he looked ghast-ly pale! He crouched on the sleigh and he

Tr.

ooo

hmm

Pno.

130

Tr. Solo

raved all day of his home in Ten-nes - see; and be-fore night fall a

Tr.

hmmm

hmm

Pno.

134 **Meno mosso**  $\text{♩} = 94, \text{A tempo}$

Tr. Solo

corpse was all \_\_\_\_\_ that was left of Sam Mc - Gee!

**Meno mosso**  $\text{♩} = 94, \text{A tempo}$

Pno.

138 Verse 6

Tr.

There was

Pno.

141

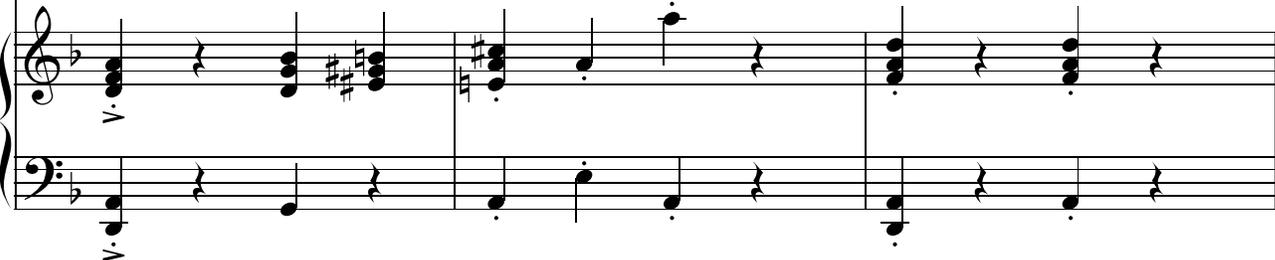
Tr.

not a breath in that land of death, and I

Pno.

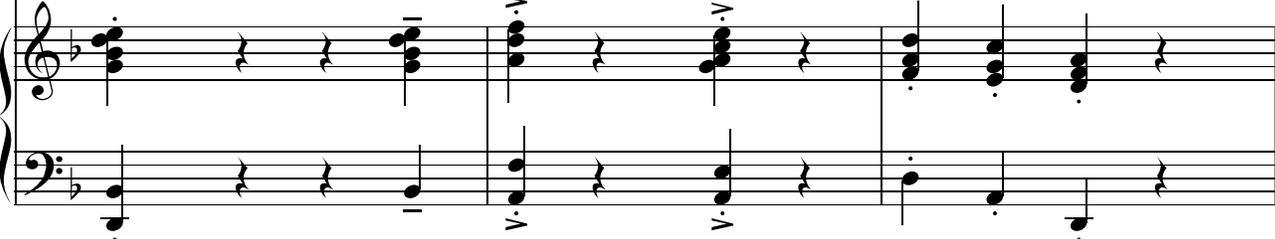
143

Tr.   
hur - ried, hor - ror - driv'n with a corpse half hid that I

Pno. 

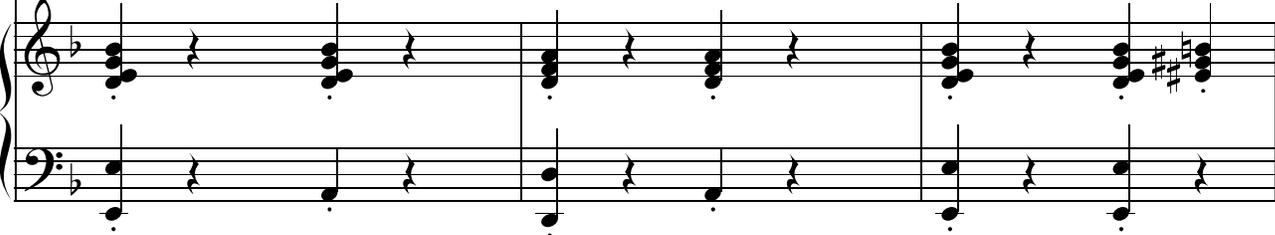
146

Tr.   
could-nt get rid, be - cause of a prom - ise giv'n; It was

Pno. 

149

Tr.   
lashed to the sleigh and it seemed to say: "You may tax your brawn and

Pno. 

152

Tr. brains, but you pro-mised to and it's up to you\_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

155

Tr. — to crem - ate my last re -

Pno.

157

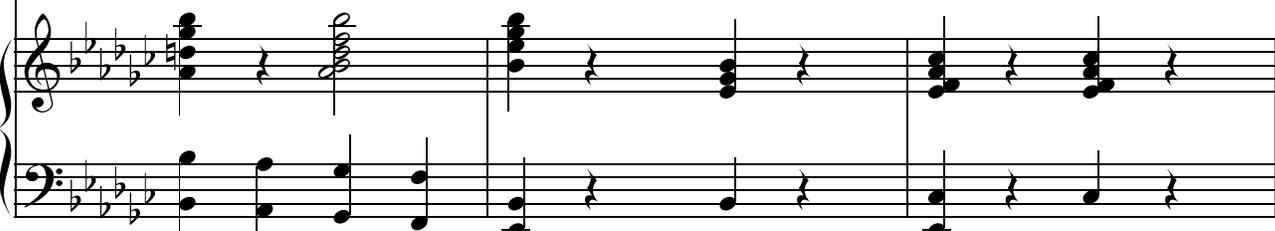
Tr. mains!

Pno.

160 Verse 7

Tr. 

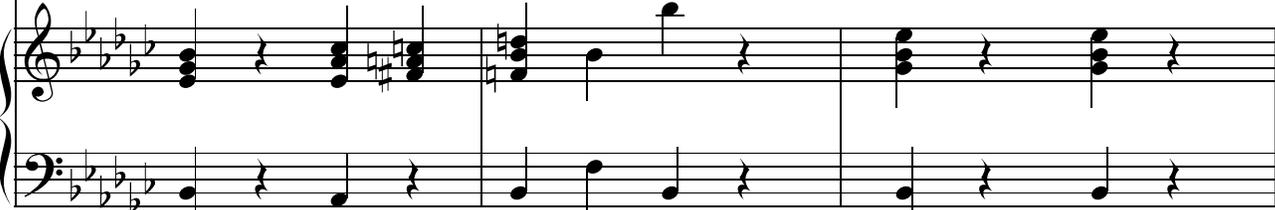
I came to the marge of the Lake Le- barge, and a

Pno. 

163

Tr. 

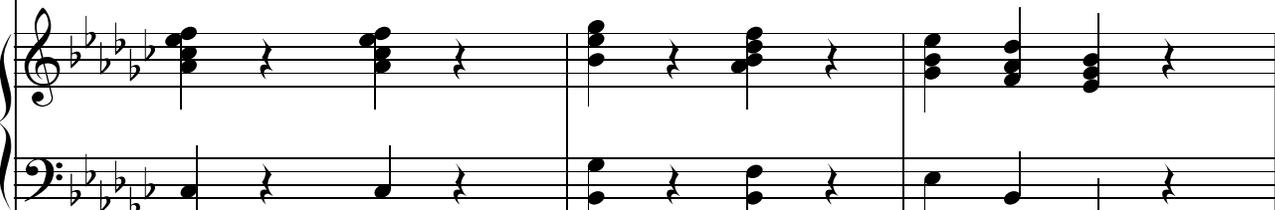
de - re - lict there lay; It was jammed in the ice, but I

Pno. 

166

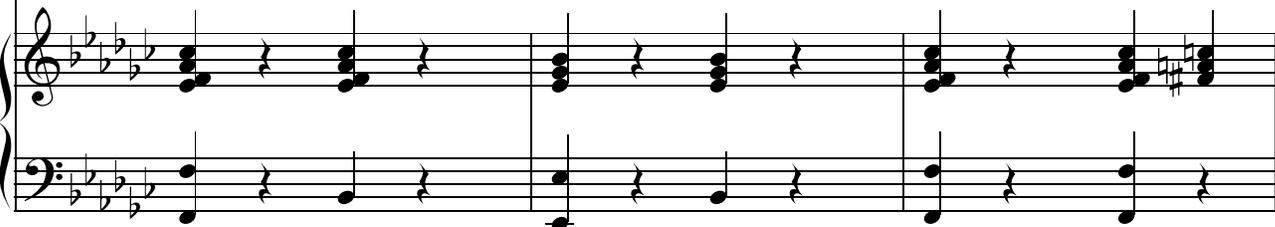
Tr. 

saw in a trice it was called the "Al - ice May." And I

Pno. 

169

Tr.  looked at it, and I thought a bit, and I looked at my fro - zen

Pno. 

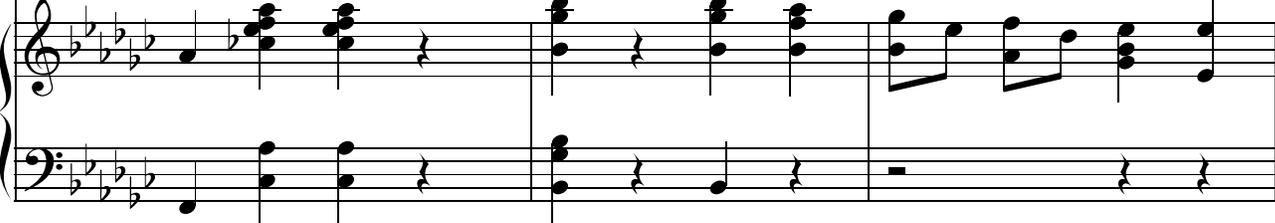
172

Tr.  chum; Then "Here", said I, with a sud - den cry, —

Pno. 

175 Verse 8

Tr.  — "is my cre - ma - to - ri - um!" Some

Pno. 

178

Tr. planks I tore from the ca - bin floor, and I lit the boil - er

Pno.

181

Tr. fire; Some coal I found that was ly - ing a - round, and I

Pno.

184

Tr. heaped the fu - el higher; The flames just soared, and the

Pno.

187

Tr. fur-nace roared, such a blaze you sel-dom see; and I

Pno.

190

Tr. bur-rowed a hole in the glow-ing coal, \_\_\_\_\_ and I

Pno.

193

Tr. stuffed in Sam Mc - Gee. Then I made a hike, for I

Pno.

Verse 9

196

Tr.

did - n't like to hear him siz - zle so; and the

Pno.

199

Tr.

heav - ens scowled, and the husk - ies howled, and the wind be - gan to

Pno.

202

Tr.

blow. I was sick with dread, but I brave - ly said, "I'll just

Pno.

205

Tr. take a peep in - side. I guess he's cooked, and it's

Pno.

208

Tr. time I looked;" \_\_\_\_\_ then the door I o - pened

Pno.

211

Verse 10

Tr. wide. And there sat Sam, look - ing cool and calm, in the

Pno.

214

Tr. heart of the furn-ace roar; And he wore a smile you could

Pno.

217

Tr. see a mile and he said, "Please close that

Pno.

219

Tr. door! It's fine in here, but I great - ly fear you'll

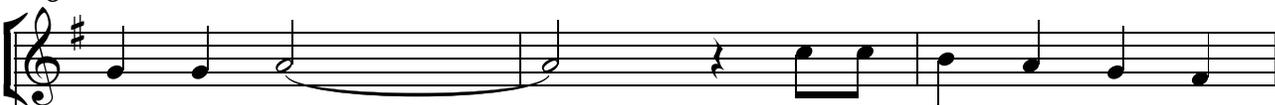
Pno.

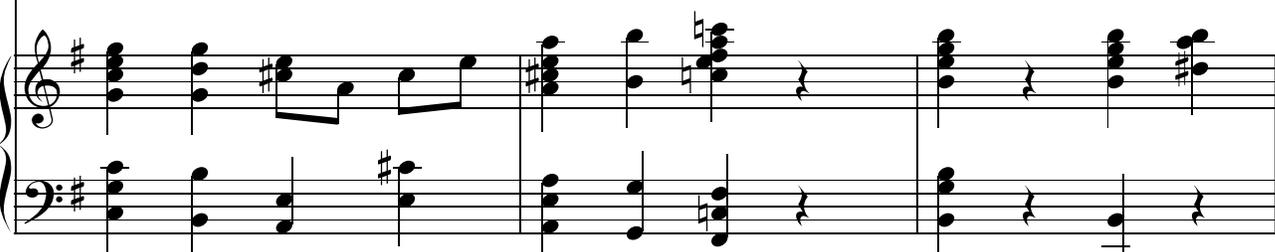
222

Tr.  let in the cold and storm. Since I left Plum-tree, down in

Pno. 

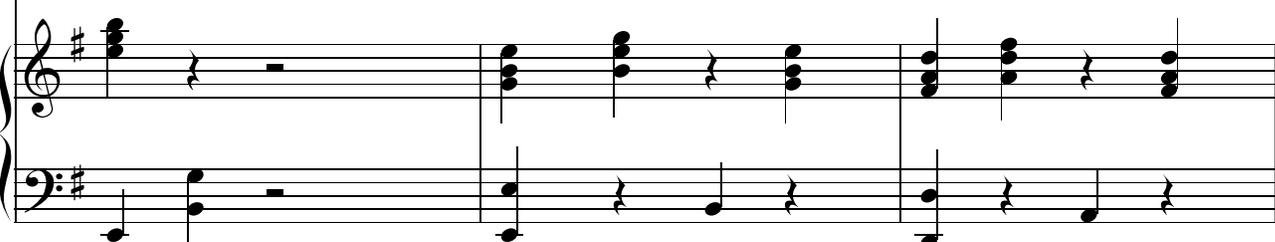
225

Tr.  Ten - nes - see \_\_\_\_\_ it's the first time I've been

Pno. 

228 **Refrain**

Tr.  warm! *There are strange things done in the mid-night sun by the*

Pno. 

231

Tr. *men who toil for gold; The Arc - tic trails have their*

Pno.

234

Tr. *se - cret tales that would make your blood run cold; The\_*

Pno.

237

Tr. *North-ern Lights have seen queer sights, but the queer-est they ev - er did*

Pno.

240

Tr. *see was the night on the marge of*

Pno.

242

Tr. *Lake Le - barge I*

Pno.

244

Tr. *cre - mat - ed Sam Mc - Gee! The*

Pno.

30 Ken Berg's work is commissioned for Florida Singing Sons by Classical Movements, Inc. as part of the Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program.

246

Tr.

night on the marge of the Lake Le - barge

Pno.

248

Tr.

*I*

Pno.

250

Tr.

cre - ma - ted

Pno.

252

Tr.

*Sam* \_\_\_\_\_ *Mc* -

Pno.

254

Tr.

*Gee!* \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

256

Tr.

Pno.

**CHORAL AND SOLO LITERATURE by Ken Berg for School/Church/All levels & voicings**

All titles are available from [jwpepper.com](http://jwpepper.com) or direct from the Bella Voce Press website. ([www.bellavocepress.com](http://www.bellavocepress.com))

For more information, please visit us at [www.bellavocepress.com](http://www.bellavocepress.com) Commissioning is easy.

Contact Ken Berg, ([ken@bellavocepress.com](mailto:ken@bellavocepress.com)) Or if you find a piece you like, but need it in a different voicing, we can work that out!

**BVP 700s:** \_\_\_\_\_ folksongs / spirituals for various voicings / accompaniments

701. "There Was A Frog": SSA choir and piano (Commissioned by MMEA Elementary All-State Choir)
702. "Somebody's Knockin'": 2-part Treble Choir and piano (Commissioned by the 2011 Tennessee Kids Choral Connection)
703. "Johnny Comes Marching Home": TTBB choir and piano (Commissioned by the Legionnaires of South Dakota)
704. "Around The Mountain": SSA choir and piano (Commissioned by the 2011 Wyoming ACDA Treble Honor Choir)
705. "On My Journey Home": SATB choir and piano (Commissioned by the 2009 BBC Concert Tour of Japan)
706. "Shenandoah": SSAA choir and piano (Commissioned by the 2011 NCSICA Middle School Choir)
707. "Johnny Has Gone For a Soldier": SSAA choir, piano, violin and sid drum (Commissioned for the 2012 SC All-State Women's Choir)
708. "When I Am Singing!": SATB and piano (Commissioned for the BBC to present at the 2012 ACDA Southern Division)
709. "The Rattlin' Bog": two versions available SSAA and piano OR 2-part treble choir and piano (Commissioned for the 2012 GMEA 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)
710. "How Can I Keep From Singing": TTB and piano and solo (Commissioned for the 2012 Arizona ACDA Men's Choir)
711. "Deep River" SATB and piano
712. "Great Gettin' Up Mornin'": SATB choir and piano and solo (Commissioned for the 2011 BBC Concert Tour)
713. "Jubilee!": SATB choir and piano 4-hands (Commissioned by the 2012 Kenai Peninsula Middle School Honor Choir, Kenai, Alaska)
714. "Saints Go Marchin' In": SATB choir and piano 4-hands: (For the NMACDA 2013 All State Youth Choir)
715. "King Jesus Is A-Listenin'": SATB Choir a capella
716. "A Cowboy's Life": SATB choir and piano (Commissioned for the 2011 BBC Concert Tour of Arizona/New Mexico)
717. "Night Herding Song": SATB choir and piano (Commissioned for the 2011 BBC Concert Tour of Arizona/New Mexico)
718. "The Long-Horned Cow": SATB choir and piano (Commissioned for the 2011 BBC Concert Tour of Arizona/New Mexico)
719. "Sizohamba!": Treble choir, piano and percussion
720. "Got a Jig In Ya?": Treble choir and piano
721. **MATERNAL:** "American The Beautiful": SATB choir with or without piano
722. "Music In The Air": Treble choir, piano and glockenspiel
723. "Ev'ry Time I Feel The Spirit": TTB choir and piano (For the 2012 Florida ACDA Male Honor Choir)
724. "Tumblin' Tumbleweed": TTB choir and piano (For the NMACDA 2013 All State Youth Choir)
725. "Ven Kan Segla": Unison treble choir and piano
726. "Shady Grove": SA choir with solo and piano (For the NMACDA 2013 All State Youth Choir)
727. "A Little More Faith": for Mixed Choir and solo, a capella
728. "Mango Walk": for Treble choir and piano
729. "Samba de las Escrituras": Treble Choir or TTB choir versions, with piano and rhythm
730. "A Tisket, A Tasket": Mixed Choir and piano (or Jazz trio)
731. "Join the Song": scored for both Treble choir and piano (BVP 731 - SSA) as well as TTB choir and piano (BVP 731 - TTB)
732. "Now Hear The Word of the Lord": Mixed Choir a capella
733. "La Guarria Morada": Men's Chorus and piano
734. "Freedom!": Mixed Choir and percussion
735. "Set Down, Servant!": Mixed Choir and jazz piano (available in SSA (BVP 735 - SSA) or TTB voicing (BVP 735 - TTB))
736. "Sing a Song of Six Pence": #1 from "Three Nursery Rhymes for Mixed Choir and Jazz Trio"
737. "Little Boy Blue": #2 from "Three Nursery Rhymes for Mixed Choir and Jazz Trio"
738. "Hey Diddle Diddle": #3 from "Three Nursery Rhymes for Mixed Choir and Jazz Trio"
739. "Bound for South Australia": Unison Choir and piano
740. "Angels Watchin'!": Mixed Choir and solo, a capella
741. "Bunt Sind Schon": Mixed Choir and piano
742. "Choir Canons": Mixed Choir and string bass
743. "The Birmingham Bam!": Mixed choir and piano
744. "Bound For Glory": Treble choir and piano
745. "Akatonbo": Mixed Choir and soloist, a capella (Japanese Folksong/Lullaby)
746. "Many, Many Marys": #1 from Three Nursery Rhymes for Jazz Choir, Set 2
747. "Heaven Only Knows": #2 from Three Nursery Rhymes for Jazz Choir, Set 2
748. "Live a-Humble!": for Three Part Men's Choir and Men's Trio, a capella
749. "Walk, Children! Walk!": under construction
750. "All Night, All Day!": for Treble Choir and Piano (optional Jazz Trio!)
751. "Every Night": for Treble Choir and Piano
752. "When I See The Silvery Moon": for Treble Choir and Piano
753. "Hol' De Light": For Treble Choir and Piano
754. "Father, I Stretch My Hand To Thee": For Men's Choir a capella
755. "Camaroon Marching Song": For Mixed Choir and percussion
756. "Star Of The County Down": for Treble Choir and Piano
757. "Danny Boy": Mixed Choir a capella
758. "Now We Would Like To Sing" for Treble Voices and Piano
759. "Hey, Silly Daddy!" Unison Choir and Piano
760. "I'm A-Goin' Home" Treble Choir and Piano
761. "Shove It Over" Treble Choir and Piano