The Goose

J. Frederick Bridge
(1844-1924)

Sir John Frederick Bridge (1844-1924) was born in central England. At age 6, he was admitted as "practising boy" (probationer) to the choir at Rochester Cathedral when his father was appointed a vicar-choral. At age 14, he left the cathedral choir to apprentice with the organist of Rochester Cathedral. While still a student, he was appointed organist of the village church of Shorne and then Strood Parish Church. He studied composition with John Goss, of the Royal Academy of Music, and earned his Bachelor of Music degree at Oxford. He became organist of Holy Trinity Church, Windsor, then at Manchester Cathedral, and earned his Doctor of Music degree at Oxford. He then became organist and master of the choristers at Westminster Abbey. He was in charge of music for great state occasions, including Queen Victoria's jubilee (1887), the Coronation of King Edward VII (1902), the national memorial service for Edward VII (1910), George V's coronation (1911), and the re-inauguration of Henry VII's Chapel as the chapel of the Order of the Bath (1913). For those, he organized and composed some and organized the music. He was professor of harmony and counterpoint at Royal College of Music, professor of music at Gresham College, and professor of music at the University of London. He was also the conductor of the Royal Choral Society, introducing many new works, including those by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Parry.

I knew an old wife, lean and poor,
    Her rags scarce held together;
There strode a stranger to the door,
    And it was windy weather.

He held a goose upon his arm;
    He uttered rhyme and reason:
"Here, take the goose, and keep you warm;
    It is a stormy season."

She caught the white goose by the leg;
    A goose—'twas no great matter.
The goose let fall a golden egg
    With cackle and with clatter.

She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf,
    And ran to tell her neighbours;
And blessed herself, and cursed herself,
    And rested from her labours.

And feeding high, and living soft,
    Grew plump and able-bodied,
Until the grave Church-warden doffed,
    The parson smirked and nodded.

So sitting, served by man and maid,
    She felt her heart grow prouder.
But, ah! the more the white goose laid,
    It clacked and cackled louder.

It cluttered here, it chuckled there,
    It stirred the old wife's mettle;
She shifted in her elbow-chair,
    And hurled the pan and kettle.

"A quinsy choke thy cursèd note!"
    Then waxed her anger stronger:
"Go, take the goose, and wring her throat;
    I will not bear it longer!"

Then yelped the cur, and yawled the cat,
    Ran Gaffer, stumbled Gammer.
The goose flew this way, and flew that,
    And filled the house with clamour.

As head and heels upon the floor
    They floundered all together,
There strode a stranger to the door,
    And it was windy weather.

He took the goose upon his arm,
    He uttered words of scorning:
"So keep you cold, or keep you warm,
    It is a stormy morning."

The wild wind rang from park and plain,
    And round the attics rumbled,
Till all the tables danced again,
    And half the chimneys tumbled.

The glass blew in, the fire blew out,
    The blast was hard and harder.
Her cap blew off, her gown blew up,
    And a whirlwind cleared the larder.

And while on all sides breaking loose,
    Her household fled the danger,
Quoth she, "The Devil take the goose,
    And Heaven forget the stranger!"

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

The Goose

J. Fredrick Bridge

Allegro vivace ♩= 80

Lyrics (all voices S, A, T, B):

I knew an old wife, lean and poor, Her rags scarce held to-

geth - er; There strode a stran - ger to the door, And it was wind - y

SHORCHOR

The Goose

S: wea - ther. He held a goose_____ up - on his arm; and

A: wea - ther. He held a goose_____ up - on his arm; He ut - ter'd rhyme and

T: wea - ther. He held a goose_____ up - on his arm; and

B: wea - ther. He held a goose_____ up - on his arm; and

a tempo

S: rea - son: It is a

A: rea - son: It is a

T: rea - son: It is a

B: rea - son: SOLO *ad lib.* "Here, take the goose, and keep you warm; *a tempo* TUTTI It is a

S: storm - y sea - son." She caught the white goose by the leg; A goose— 'twas no great

A: storm - y sea - son." She caught the white goose by the leg; A goose— 'twas no great

T: storm - y sea - son." She caught the white goose by the leg; A goose— 'twas no great

B: storm - y sea - son." She caught the white goose by the leg; A goose— 'twas no great

S: mat - ter. The goose let fall _____ a gold - en egg

A: mat - ter. The goose let fall _____ a gold - en egg With

T: mat - ter. The goose let fall _____ a gold - en egg With

B: mat - ter. The goose let fall _____ a gold - en egg

S: With cac - kle and with clat - ter, with cac - kle, cac - kle and

A: cac - kle and with clat - ter, with cac - kle and with clat - ter, cac - kle and

T: cac - kle and with clat - ter, with cac - kle and with clat - ter, cac - kle and

B: With cac - kle and with clat - ter, with cac - kle and with

S: clat - ter. She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf, And ran to tell her

A: clat - ter. She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf, And ran to tell her

T: clat - ter. She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf, And ran to tell her

B: clat - ter. She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf, And ran to tell her

The Goose

S: neigh - bours; And bless'd her - self, and curs'd her -
A: neigh - bours; And bless'd her - self, and curs'd her -
T: neigh - bours; And bless'd her - self, and curs'd her -
B: neigh - bours; And bless'd her - self, and curs'd her -

S: self, And rest - ed from her la - - bours.
A: self, And rest - ed from her la - - bours.
T: self, And rest - ed from her la - - bours.
B: self, And rest - ed from her la - - bours.

S: And feed - ing high, and liv - ing soft, Grew
A: And feed - ing high, and liv - - ing soft, Grew
T: And feed - ing high, and liv - - ing soft, Grew
B: And feed - ing high, and liv - - ing soft, Grew

S: plump and a - ble-bo - died, Until the grave Church - war - den

A: plump and a - ble-bo - died, the grave Church - war - den

T: plump, grew plump, Un - til the grave Church - war - den

B: plump, plump and a - ble-bo - died,

S: doff'd, The par - son smirk'd and nod - ded,

A: doff'd, doff'd, The par - son smirk'd and

T: doff'd, doff'd, The par - son smirk'd and

B: the grave Church - war - den doff'd, The

S: nod - ded, the grave Church - war - den doff'd, The

A: nod - ded, and nod - ded, The par - son smirk'd, the

T: nod - ded, and nod - ded, The par - - son

B: par - son smirk'd and nod - ded, The par - - son

S par - son smirk'd, smirk'd and nod - ded.

A par - son smirk'd, smirk'd and nod - ded.

T smirk'd, smirk'd and nod - ded.

B smirk'd, smirk'd and nod - ded.

Tempo 1mo.

S So sit - ting, serv'd by man and maid, She felt her heart grow

A So sit - ting, serv'd by man and maid, She felt her heart grow

T So sit - ting, serv'd by man and maid, She felt her heart grow

B So sit - ting, serv'd by man and maid, She felt her heart grow

S proud - er. But, ah! the more the white goose laid, It clack'd and cac - kled

A proud - er. But, ah! the more the white goose laid, clack'd and cac - kled

T proud - er. But, ah! the more the white goose laid, clack'd and cac - kled

B proud - er. But, ah! the more the white goose laid, clack'd and cac - kled

S: loud - er. It clut - ter'd here, it chuc - kled there, It

A: loud - er. It clut - ter'd here, it chuc - kled there, It

T: loud - er. It clut - ter'd here, it chuc - kled there, It

B: loud - er. It clut - ter'd here, it chuc - kled there,

S: stirr'd the old wife's met - tle; She shift - ed in her el - bow - chair, And

A: stirr'd the old wife's met - tle; She shift - ed in her el - bow - chair, And

T: stirr'd the old wife's met - tle; She shift - ed in her el - bow - chair, And

B: She shift - ed in her el - bow - chair, And

S: hurl'd the pan and ket - tle. "A quin - sy choke thy

A: hurl'd the pan and ket - tle. "A quin - sy choke thy

T: hurl'd the pan and ket - tle. "A quin - sy choke thy

B: hurl'd the pan and ket - tle. "A quin - sy choke thy

The Goose

Measures 76–79 (S/A/T/B):
curs - èd note!" Then wax'd her an - ger strong - er: "Go, take the goose, and

Measures 80–83 (S/A/T):
wring her throat; I will not bear it long - er!" and

Measure 80–83 (B):
wring her throat; I will not bear it long - er!" Then yelp'd the cur,

Measures 84–87 (S):
yawl'd the cat, stum - bled Gam - mer. The goose flew this way,

Measures 84–87 (A):
yawl'd the cat, stum - bled Gam - mer. The goose flew this way,

Measures 84–87 (T):
yawl'd the cat, stum - bled Gam - mer. The goose flew this way,

Measures 84–87 (B):
Ran Gaf - fer, stum - bled Gam - mer. The goose flew this way,

S: and flew ___ that, And ___ fill'd ___ the ___ house with ___ cla - mour. As

A: and flew that, And fill'd the house with cla - mour. As

T: and flew ___ that, And ___ fill'd ___ the ___ house with ___ cla - mour. As

B: and flew that, And fill'd the house with cla - mour. As

S: head and heels up - on the floor They floun - der'd ___ all ___ to -

A: head and heels up - on the floor They floun - der'd ___ all ___ to -

T: head and heels up - on the floor They floun - der'd ___ all ___ to -

B: head and heels up - on the floor They floun - der'd all to -
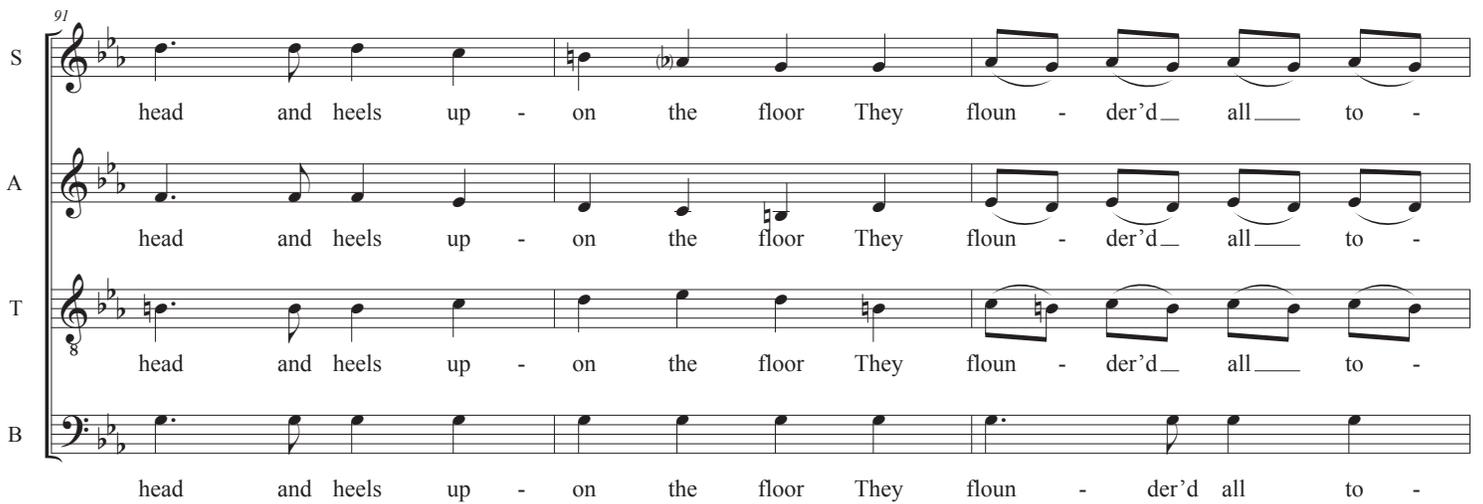
lunga pausa **p** **Lento**

S: geth - er, There strode a stran - ger to the door,

A: geth - er, There strode a stran - ger to the door,

T: geth - er, There strode a stran - ger to the door,

B: geth - er, There strode a stran - ger to the door,
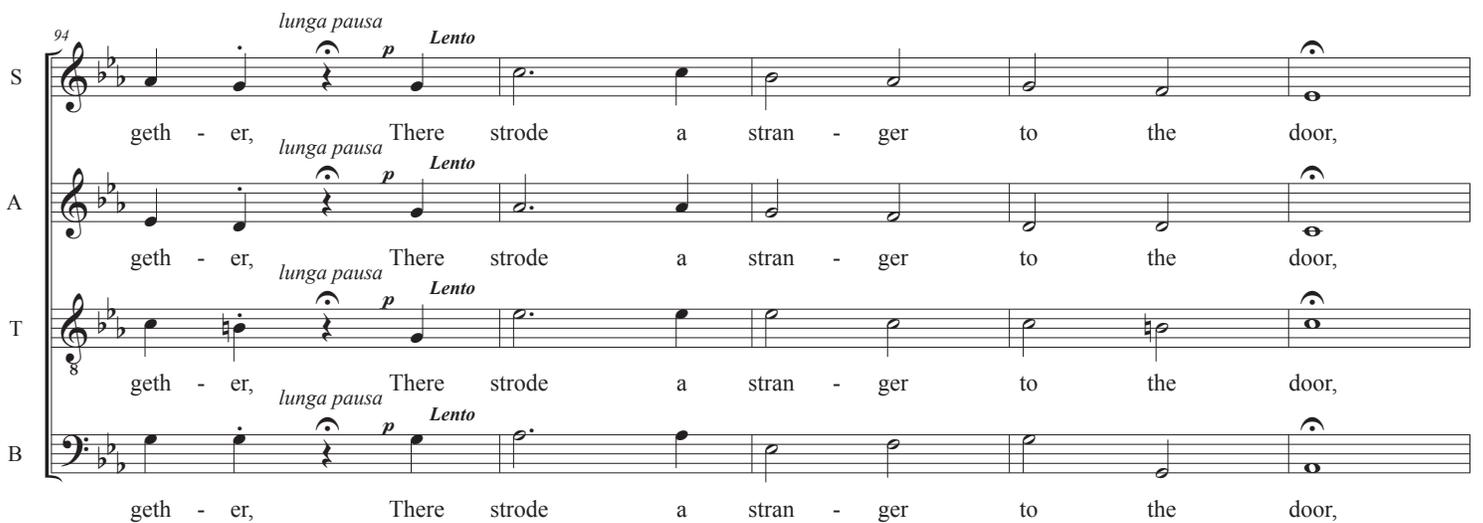
The Goose

Tempo 1mo.

S: And it was wind - y wea - ther. He took the goose___ up - on his

A: And it was wind - y wea - ther. He took the goose___ up - on his

T: And it was wind - y wea - ther. He took the goose___ up - on his

B: And it was wind - y wea - ther. He took the goose___ up - on his

S: arm, of scorn - ing:

A: arm, He ut - ter'd words of scorn - ing:

T: arm, of scorn - ing:

B: arm, of scorn - ing: SOLO ad lib. "So keep you

S: a tempo It is a storm - y morn - ing." The

A: a tempo It is a storm - y morn - ing." The

T: a tempo It is a storm - y morn - ing." The

B: a tempo TUTTI cold, or keep you warm, It is a storm - y morn - ing." The

S: wild wind rang from park and plain, And round the __ at - tics rum - bled, Till

A: wild wind rang from park and plain, And round the at - tics rum - bled, Till

T: wild wind rang from park and plain, And round the at - tics rum - bled, Till

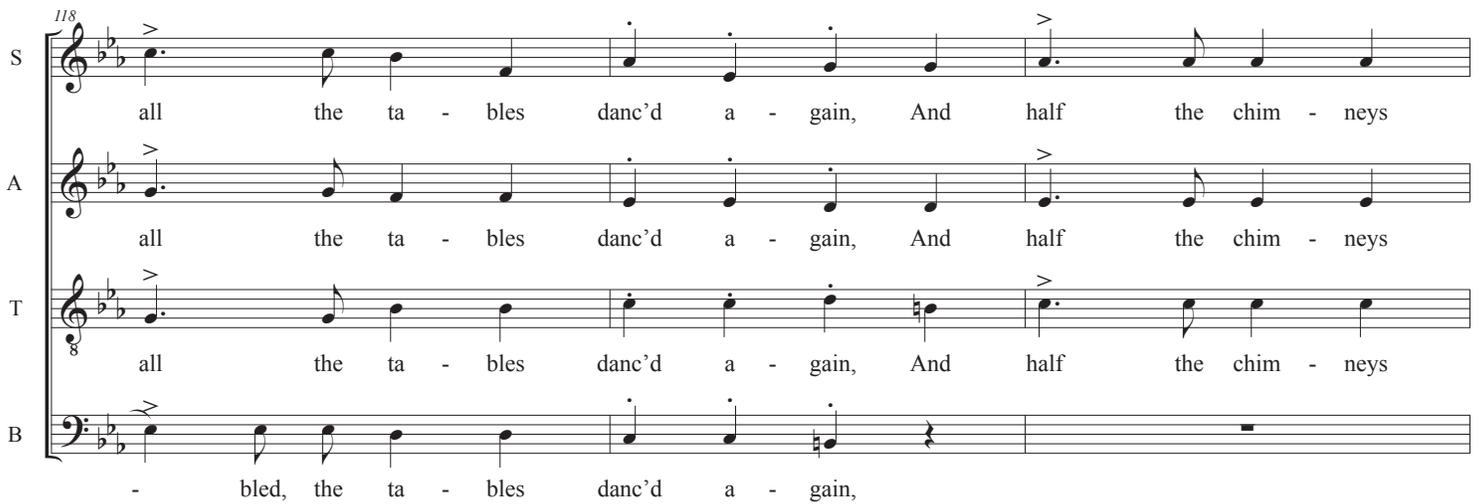**B:** wild wind rang from park and plain, And round the at - tics rum - - -
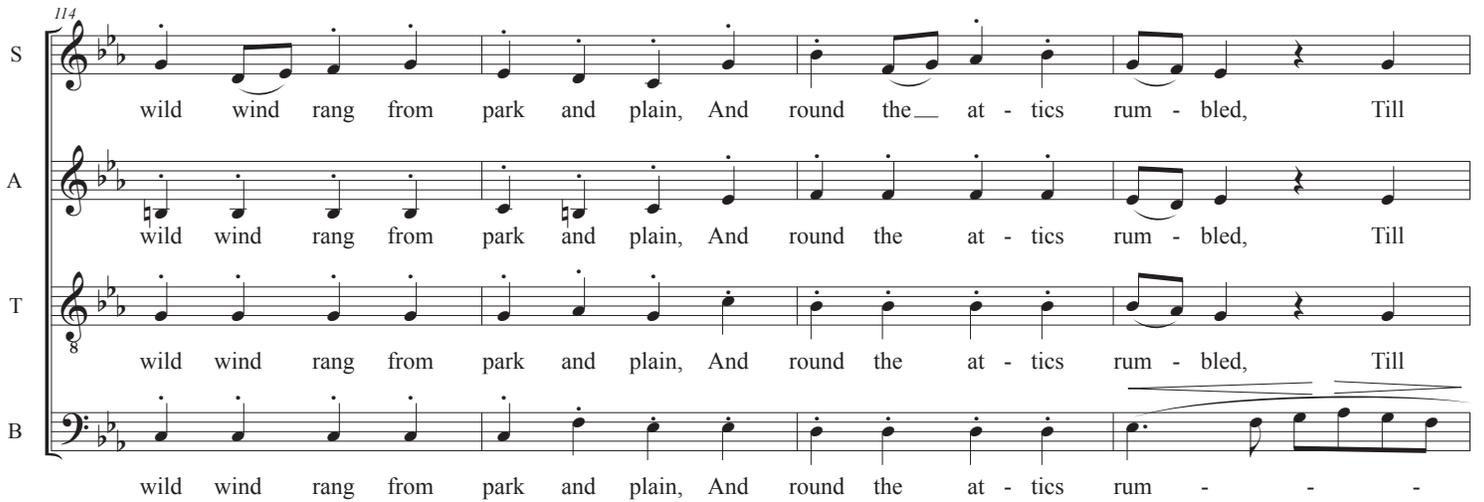
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S: all the ta - bles danc'd a - gain, And half the chim - neys

A: all the ta - bles danc'd a - gain, And half the chim - neys

T: all the ta - bles danc'd a - gain, And half the chim - neys

B: - bled, the ta - bles danc'd a - gain,

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S: tum - bled. The glass blew in, the fire blew out, The

A: tum - bled. The glass blew in, the fire blew out, The

T: tum - bled. The glass blew in, the fire blew out, The

B: The glass blew in, the fire blew out, The
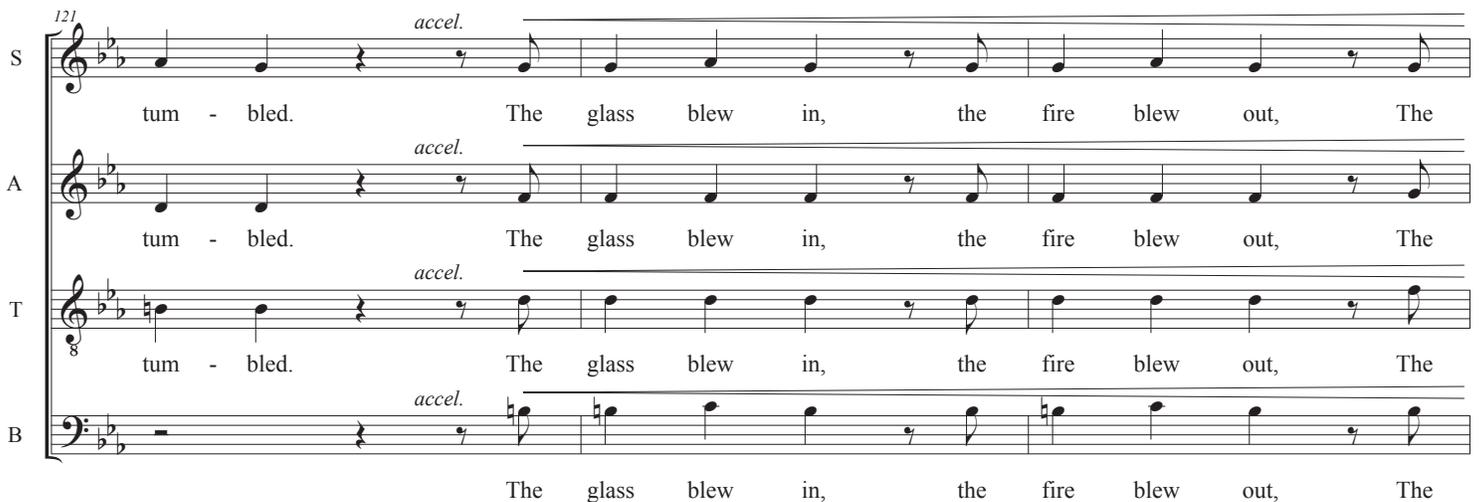
The Goose

S: blast was hard and hard - er. Her cap blew off,

A: blast was hard and hard - er. her

T: blast was hard and hard - er. Her cap blew off, her

B: blast was hard and hard - er.

S: And a whirl - wind___ clear'd the ___ lar - der. And

A: gown blew up, And a whirl - wind___ clear'd the ___ lar - der. And

T: gown blew up, And a whirl - wind___ clear'd the ___ lar - der. And

B: And a whirl - wind___ clear'd the ___ lar - der. And

S: while on all sides break - ing___ loose, Her house - hold fled the

A: while on all sides break - ing loose, Her house - hold fled the

T: while on all sides break - ing loose, Her house - hold fled the

B: while on all sides break - ing loose, Her house - hold fled the

dan - ger, Quoth she, "The De - vil take the

goose, And Heav'n for - get the stran - ger!"