



Malcolm Hill

(1944 -)

Villeins' Song

Text by

Caroline Heaton

for

Soprano and Viola

(or hurdy-gurdy)

with optional Bass solo

mj348

2015

www.malcolm-hill.co.uk

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The Villeins' Song

for Soprano and viola/hurdy-gurdy
with optional preface for Baritone

Caroline Heaton
(Preface from Bracton on the
Laws and Customs of England C13)

Malcolm Hill
2015 mj348

♩=112

Baritone Solo

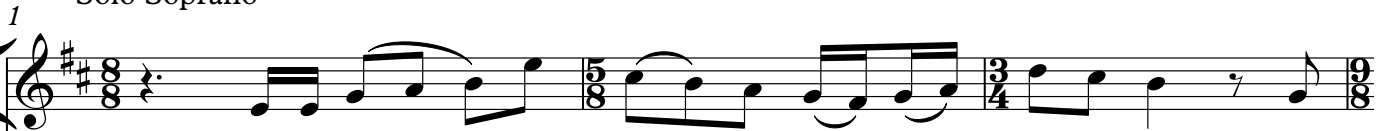


He can-not know in the eve - ning the ser-vice to be ren-der'd

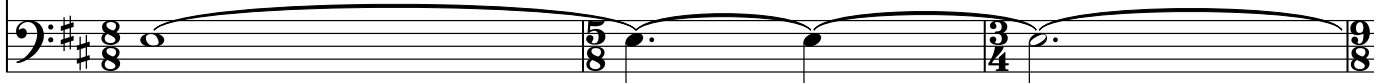


in the morn-ing. He is bound to do what-ev - er he is bid.

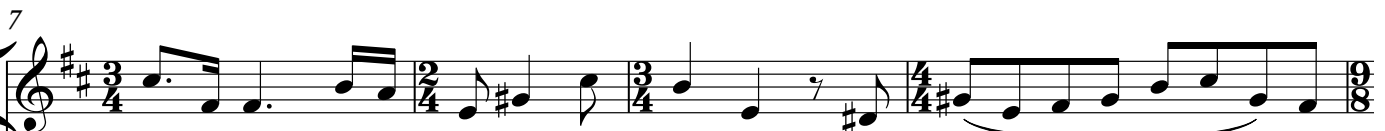
Solo Soprano



We are in the mar - gins of your Bre-via - ry, small



fi-gures bent dou - ble in our rus - sets, small fi-gures in the mar - gins of



his - to - ry, in the an-nals of har - vest, the farm - - ing



2 11

year. Vil-leins, we tend our half vir-gate

15

at fee from the ma - nor, our la-bour, our per-son, both bound in

20

te-nan-cy e-ven our fa-mi-lies un-free. O-ver-looked

24

in the Great Ones' Char-ter save as source of re - ve-nue, we

28

find our li-ber-ty else-where, in na-ture's fick le boun-ty:

32

a hand - ful of ex - tra grain, a fag-got of wood fal -

35

meno mosso

- len out of the lord's view, a va-grant rab-bit for the pot.

41

tempo primo

mf

Win - ters, poor har - vests, see us

46

shrink in - to our selves, like un - ripe grapes on the

50

vine; a good year finds us thank-ful for small Mer - cies.

4 53

The in - vi - si - ble script on the page, you must read us__ be - tween the lines:

55

our Gold Leaf is sum-mer sun__ on brown ed limbs our Red Let- ter:

58

au - tumn sun-set on rud - dy fa- ces, but we read the great Book__ of_ the

62

Sea-sons and are writ - ten there,__ in the hedge-rows mark-ing the fields, in the

66

plough lines our ox-en in-scribe, in the rich__ loam.__