

VIOLA PART

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)

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2015 mj348

$\text{♩} = 112$

Baritone Solo



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



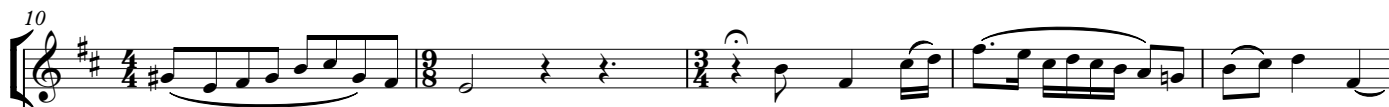
in the morn - ing. He is bound to do what - ev - er he is bid.



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



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



2 20

p

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 - - len out of the

36

meno mosso *tempo primo*

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

44

mf

Win - ters, poor har - vests, see us shrink in - to our selves, like

49



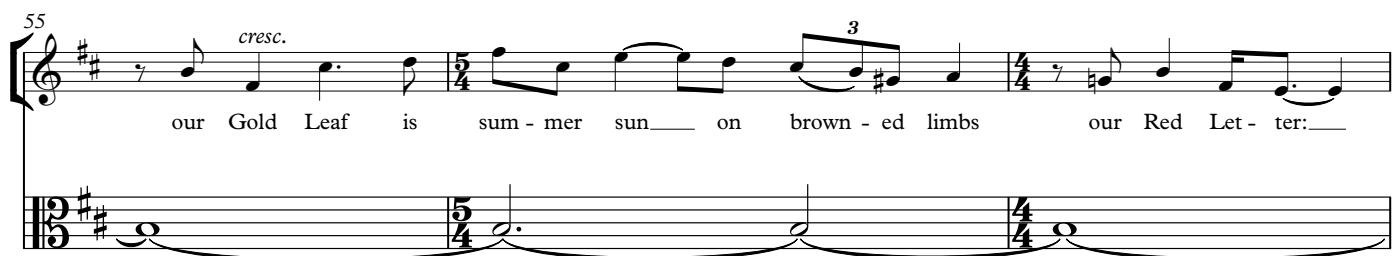
un - ripe grapes on the vine; a good year finds us thank - ful for small Mer - cies.

53



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

55



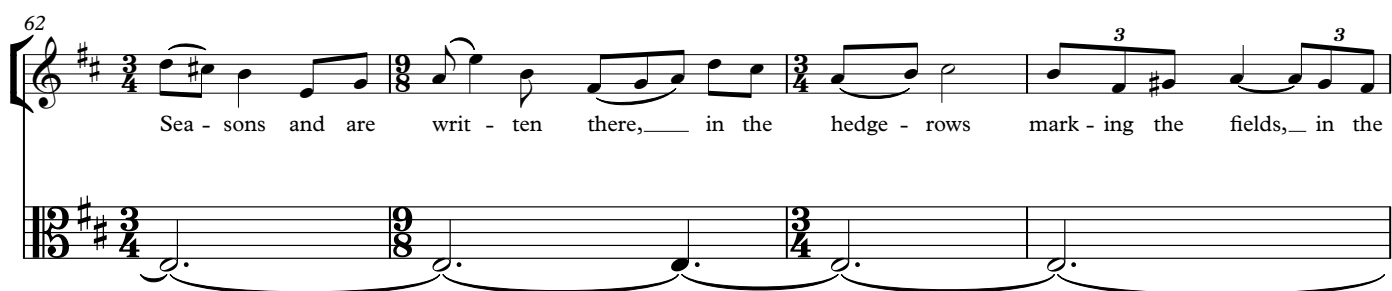
our Gold Leaf is sum - mer sun on brown - ed limbs our Red Let - ter:

58



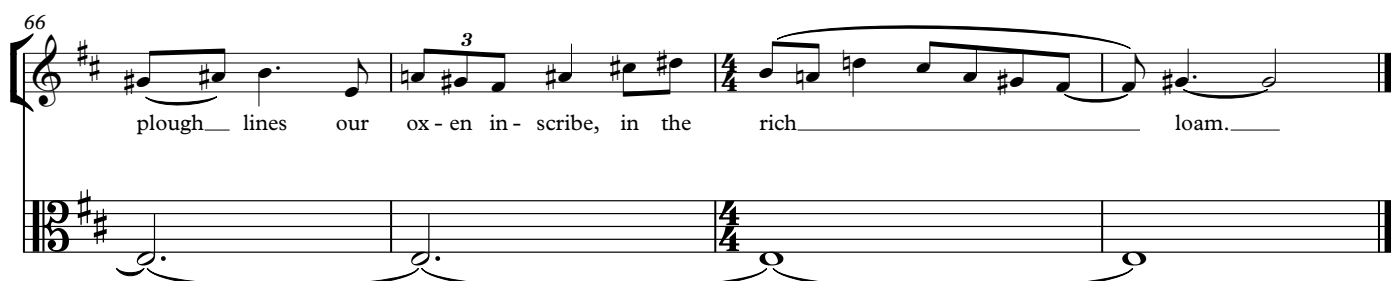
au - tumn sun - set on rud - dy fa - ces, but we read the great Book of the

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.