Seven Songs

arranged for voice and piano

Donald Cobb



Billy Boy
The Curtains of Night
The Old Ship of Zion
Colorado Trail
A Life on the Ocean Wave
Brave Wolfe
Polly Wolly Doodle



Brave Wolfe

BILLY BOY is a song of centuries old Celtic and English derivation, and common in many community song books from the 1930s and 1940s in this country.

CURTAINS OF NIGHT is a sentimental, or parlour song from the 19th Century. No composer is listed in the many song collections in which it appears. It's found in cowboy song books, in a Mormon song collection, and comes in many melodic variants.

THE OLD SHIP OF ZION derives from the American shape-note tradition of the 19th Century. This hymn is found in an "Original Sacred Harp" volume, Denison edition; also in "American Hymns, Old and New", Columbia University Press.

COLORADO TRAIL is a traditional cowboy song, and found in many folk and cowboy collections.

A LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE was a popular song composed in 1838 in New York City by the English composer Henry Russell. The song is in many community song collections, including one published by Fischer in 1918 called "The Book of One Thousand Songs." "Woodman, Spare that Tree" is also by Russell.

BRAVE WOLFE is traditional, composer unknown, with ties to events in the battle between the French and English for Quebec City. It was published as a broadside in the colonies.

POLLY WOLLY DOODLE is a frequent song in many older community song collections. Often its origin is not described. In one collection it is identified as a college song, in another a minstrel song, and at times simply as an American song. Its first known printed appearance, in 1880, was in a Harvard College song book.

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ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATIONS:

Thomas Eakins, realist painter, (1844-1916), friend of Walt Whitman, portrayed a striking range of American musical life in his works: a concert singer, zither player, cowboy singer with guitar, banjo player and dancer, cellist, oboist, violinist and, as on the cover of this volume, Frances Eakins, the artist's sister, pianist.

Credits:

Cover, page 6

Thomas Eakins Frances Eakins, ca. 1870

NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART, Kansas City, Missouri. Purchase: William Rockhill Nelson Trust, 44-55/2.

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Thomas Eakins Home Ranch

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WILLIAMS, 1929

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Thomas Eakins Negro Boy Dancing 1878

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Thomas Eakins Negro Boy Dancing: Perspective Study ca. 1877-78

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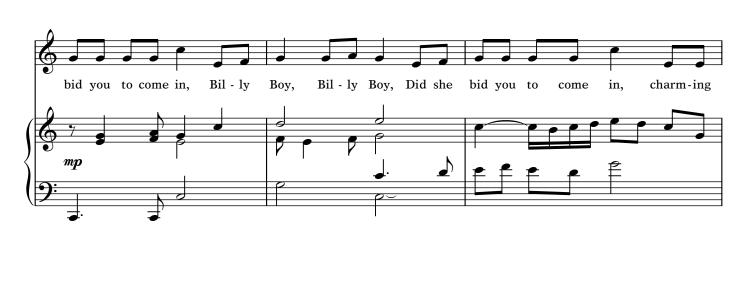
SEVEN SONGS
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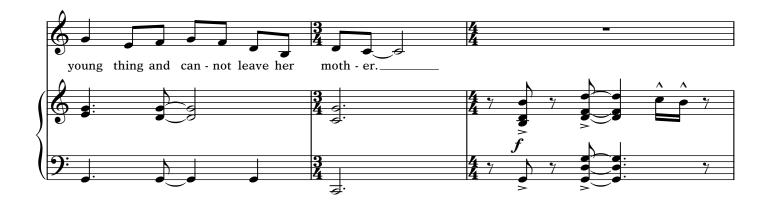
Billy Boy



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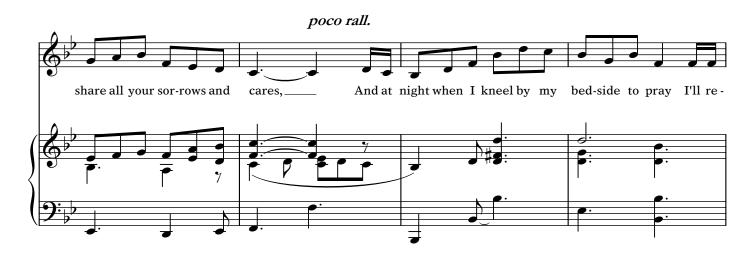


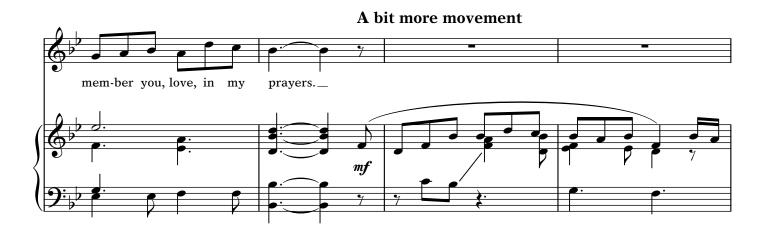


Thomas Eakins, *Frances Eakins* NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART

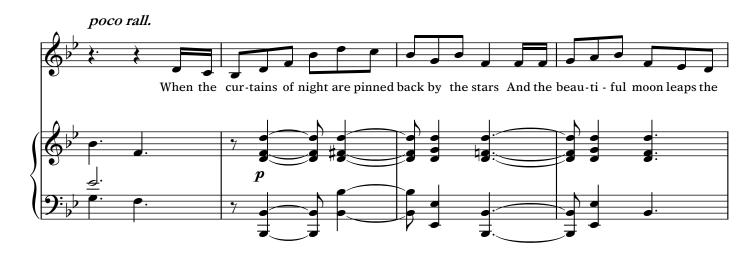
Curtains of Night Parlor song (19th C.)













The Old Ship of Zion

Shape-note hymn









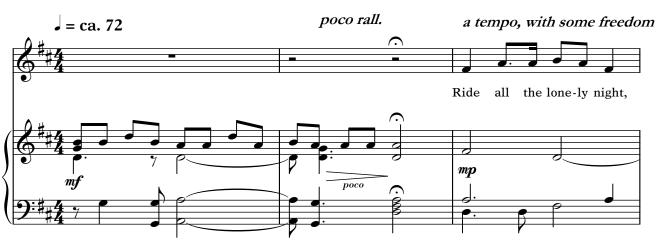


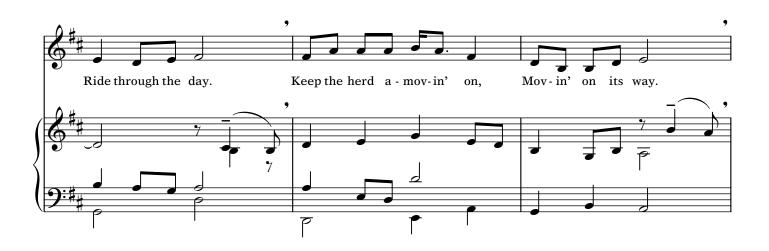
Thomas Eakins *Home Ranch* PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART

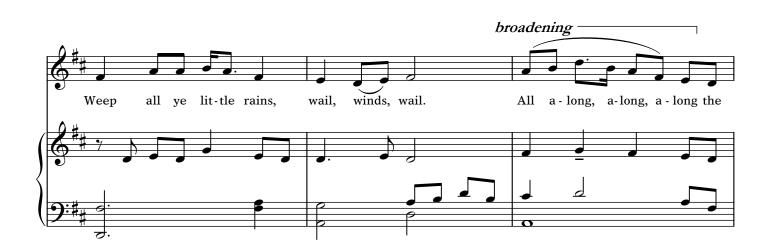
Colorado Trail

Cowboy song

Donald Cobb







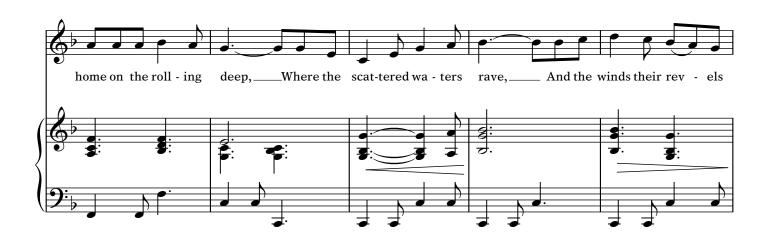


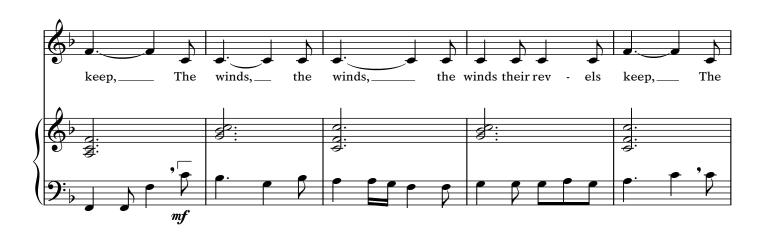


A Life on the Ocean Wave

Henry Russell - 1838











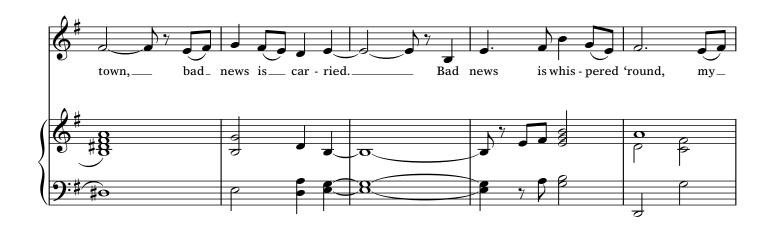


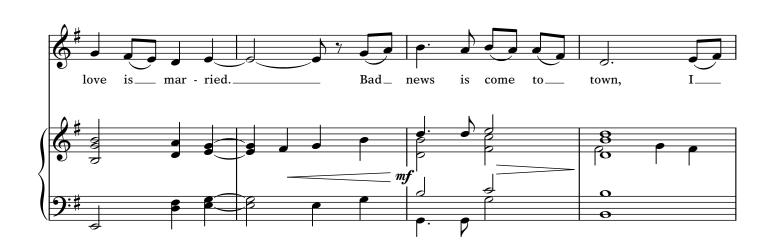


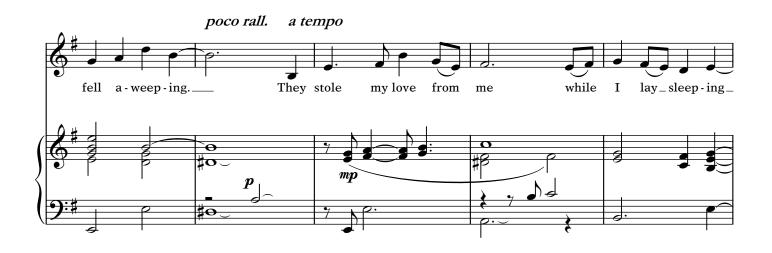
Brave Wolfe

English-American song (18th C.)

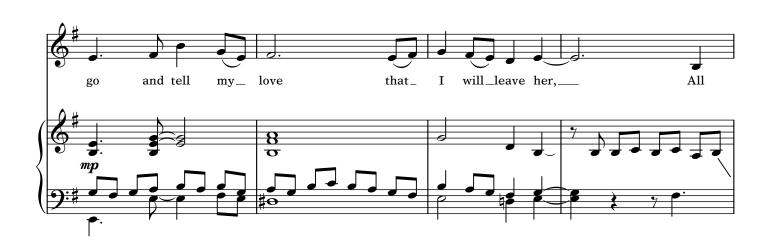
Donald Cobb poco rall. Bad news is come to mf freely mp

















Thomas Eakins *Negro Boy Dancing* METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

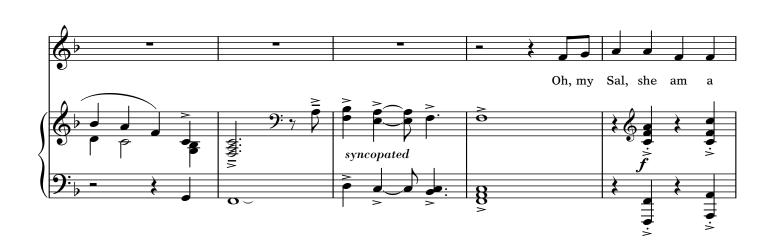
Polly Wolly Doodle Minstrel/college song





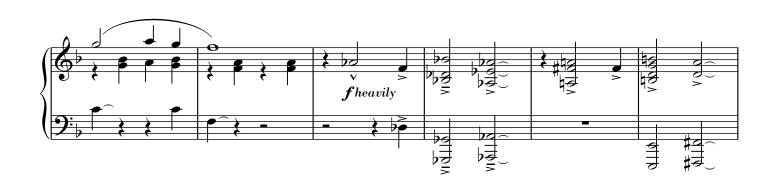




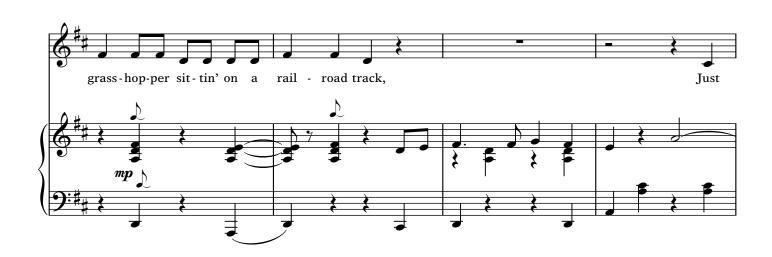






















Thomas Eakins $\ensuremath{\textit{Negro Boy Dancing: Perspective Study}}$ Pennsylvania academy of the fine arts

BILLY BOY

Oh, where have you been Billy Boy, Billy Boy, Oh, where have you been charming Billy? I have been to seek a wife, she's the joy of my life, She's a young thing and cannot leave her mother.

Did she bid you to come in Billy Boy, Billy Boy, Did she bid you to come in charming Billy? Yes she bade me to come in, there's a dimple in her chin, She's a young thing and cannot leave her mother.

Can she make a cherry pie, Billy Boy, Billy Boy, Can she make a cherry pie, charming Billy? She can make a cherry pie, quick's a cat can wink her eye, She's a young thing and cannot leave her mother.

Did she set for you a chair, Billy Boy, Billy Boy, Did she set for you a chair, charming Billy? Yes, she set for me a chair, she has ringlets in her hair, She's a young thing and cannot leave her mother.

How old is she, Billy Boy, Billy Boy, How old is she, charming Billy? She's three times six, four times seven, twenty-eight and eleven, She's a young thing and cannot leave her mother.

THE CURTAINS OF NIGHT

When the curtains of night are pinned back by the stars And the beautiful moon leaps the sky, And the dew-drops of heaven are kissing the rose, It is then that my memories fly.

Go where you will on land or by sea, I'll share all your sorrows and cares, And at night when I kneel by my bedside to pray I'll remember you, love, in my prayers.

THE OLD SHIP OF ZION

What ship is this that will take us all home O__ glory hallelujah,
But she is able to land us all home,
O__ glory hallelujah.

'Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelu, hallelu, 'Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelujah.

The winds may blow and the billows may foam, O__ glory hallelujah,
And safely land us on Canaan's bright shore?
O__ glory hallelujah.

'Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelu, hallelu, 'Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelujah.

She landed all who have gone before, O__ glory hallelujah,
And yet she is able to land still more,
O__ glory hallelujah.

'Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelu, hallelu, 'Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelujah.

If I arrive there, then, before you do, O__ glory hallelujah, I'll tell them that you are coming up too, O__ glory hallelujah.

'Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelu, hallelu, 'Tis the old ship of Zion, hallelujah.

COLORADO TRAIL

Ride all the lonely night, Ride through the day. Keep the herd a-movin' on, Movin' on its way. Weep all ye little rains, Wail, winds, wail. All along, along, along, The Colorado Trail.

Eyes like the morning star, Cheeks like a rose. Laura was a pretty girl, God Almighty knows Weep all ye little rains, Wail, winds, wail. All along, along, along, The Colorado Trail.

Ride through the stormy night, Dark is the sky. Wish I'd stayed in Abilene, Nice and warm and dry. Weep all ye little rains, Wail, winds, wail. All along, along, along, The Colorado Trail.

A LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE (HENRY RUSSELL 1838)

A life on the ocean wave, And a home on the rolling deep, Where the scattered waters rave, And the winds their revels keep! Like an eagle caged I pine On the dull unchanging shore, Oh give me the flashing brine, The spray and the tempest roar.

> A life on the ocean wave, And a home on the rolling deep, Where the scattered waters rave, And the winds their revels keep, The winds, the winds, the winds their revels keep, The winds, the winds, the winds their revels keep.

Once more on the deck I stand Of my own swift-gliding craft, Set sail? Farewell to the land, The gale follows far abaft: We shoot through the sparkling foam, Like an ocean bird set free; Like the ocean birds, our home We'll find far out on the sea!

> A life on the ocean wave, And a home on the rolling deep, Where the scattered waters rave, And the winds their revels keep, The winds, the winds, the winds their revels keep, The winds, the winds, the winds their revels keep.

BRAVE WOLFE

Bad news is come to town, bad news is carried. Bad news is whispered 'round, my love is married. Bad news is come to town, I fell a-weeping. They stole my love from me while I lay sleeping.

I'll go and tell my love that I will leave her, All in the wars of France I'm bound forever, All in the wars of France where the cannon does rattle, There I'll myself advance and face the battle.

Love, here's a diamond ring, if you'll accept it, 'Tis for your sake alone, long time I've kept it. When you this posy read, think on the giver, Madam, remember me, or I'm undone forever.

POLLY WOLLY DOODLE

Oh, I went down South for to see my Sal, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day. My Sal she am a spunky gal, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.

Fare thee well, fare thee well, fare thee well my fairy fay, For I'm goin' to Louisiana, For to see my Susianna, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.

Oh, my Sal, she am a maiden fair, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day. With curly eyes and laughing hair, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.

Fare thee well, fare thee well, fare thee well my fairy fay, For I'm goin' to Louisiana, For to see my Susianna, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.

Oh, a grasshopper sittin' on a railroad track, (Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.) Just pickin' his teeth with a carpet tack, (Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.)

Fare thee well, fare thee well, fare thee well my fairy fay, For I'm goin' to Louisiana, For to see my Susianna, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.

Behind the barn upon my knees, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day. I thought I heard a chicken sneeze, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.

Fare thee well, fare thee well, fare thee well my fairy fay, For I'm goin' to Louisiana, For to see my Susianna, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.

He sneezed so hard he couldn't cough, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day. He sneezed his head and tail clear off, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day. Fare thee well, fare thee well, fare thee well my fairy fay, For I'm goin' to Louisiana, For to see my Susianna, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.

Fare thee well, fare thee well, fare thee well my fairy fay, For I'm goin' to Louisiana, For to see my Susianna, Sing Polly wolly doodle all the day.

DONALD COBB, composer, was born in 1936 in Oakland, California. His music-making began in the family home, and at age 15 in a hotel summer band. He studied with composers Richard Donovan, Leon Kirchner and Darius Milhaud. He has taught and led musical ensembles in many schools and colleges, including Mills College, the Athenian School, Wildshaw School in San Francisco and Friendsville Academy in Tennessee. Community and traditional song has been an abiding study. In the 1970's, he was musical director of the Oakland Museum Spring Concerts, highlighting music of American and California composers.

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