



# THE KEEL ROW

Old Border folksong

THOMAS F. DUNHILL  
(1877-1946)

**Thomas Frederick Dunhill (1877-1946)** was born in Hampstead, London, England, and was educated at the North London High School for Boys and Kent College, Canterbury. In 1893 he entered the Royal College of Music, studying composition under Charles Villiers Stanford. He continued studying under Stanford after leaving the college, studying with him until 1901. Dunhill was assistant music master at Eton and professor of harmony and counterpoint at the Royal College of Music. He then became an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. He was in steady demand as musical examiner, lecturer, adjudicator, and teacher.

As I came down the Sandgate,  
I heard a lassie sing.  
O! merry may the keel row,  
The ship that my love's in!

My love he wears a bonnet,  
A snawy rose upon it,  
A dimple on his chin.  
O! merry may the keel row,  
The ship that my love's in!

And soon I learnt her lover,  
Had landed from the Rover,  
And joined her in the strain.  
O! merry may the keel row,  
The ship that my love's in!

Traditional

# THE KEEL ROW

Thomas F. Dunhill

$\text{♩} = \text{c.} .80$

Soprano (S) part: As I came down the Sand - gate, the Sand - gate, the Sand - gate, As  
Alto (A) part: As I came down the Sand - gate, the Sand - gate, the Sand - gate, As  
Tenor (T) part: As I came down the Sand - gate, the Sand - gate, the Sand - gate, As  
Bass (B) part: As I came down the Sand - gate, the Sand - gate, the Sand - gate, As

This system shows the vocal parts for the first verse. The music is in common time with a key signature of one sharp. The vocal entries are staggered, with each part entering on a different beat of the measure. The lyrics describe a person coming down a sand-covered path.

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Soprano (S) part: I came down the Sand - gate, I heard a las - sie sing. O!  
Alto (A) part: I came down the Sand - gate, I heard a las - sie sing. O!  
Tenor (T) part: I came down the Sand - gate, I heard a las - sie sing. O! \_\_\_\_\_  
Bass (B) part: I came down the Sand - gate, I heard a las - sie sing. O!

This system continues the song with a repeat of the first line. The lyrics now include a sound effect "las - sie" and an exclamation "O!" at the end. The bass part ends with a long dash, indicating it should continue into the next section.



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## THE KEEL ROW

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Soprano (S):  
mer - ry may the keel row, the keel row, the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row, O!

Alto (A):  
mer - ry may the keel row, the keel row, the keel row, O!

Tenor (T):  
—  
mer - ry may the keel row, the keel row, the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row,

Bass (B):  
mer - ry may the keel row, the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row, the keel row,

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S      love      he      wears      a      bon      -      net,      a      bon      -      net,      a      bon      -      net,      A

A      My      love      he      wears      a      bon      -      net,      A

T      My      love      he      wears      a      bon      -      net,      A

B      My      love      he      wears      a      bon      -      net,      A

## THE KEEL ROW

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S snow - y rose up - on it, A dim - ple on his chin. O!

A snow - y rose up - on it, A dim - ple on his chin. O!

T snow - y rose up - on it, A dim - ple on his chin. O!

B snow - y rose up - on it, A dim - ple on his

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S mer - ry may the keel row, the keel row, the keel row, O!

A mer - ry may the keel row, the keel row, the keel row, O!

T mer - ry may the keel row, the keel row, the keel row, O!

B chin. O! mer - ry may the keel row, the keel row, the keel row, O!

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S mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in!

A mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in!

T mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in! And

B mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in!

THE KEEL ROW

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S land - ed from the Ro - ver, And join'd her in the strain.

A land - ed from the Ro - ver, And join'd her in the strain.

T land - ed from the Ro - ver, And join'd her in the strain. O!

B land - ed from the Ro - ver, And join'd her in the strain. O!

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Soprano (S): O! mer - ry may the keel row, the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row, the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row, O!

Alto (A): O! mer - ry may the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row, the keel row, the keel row, O!

Tenor (T): <sup>8</sup> mer - ry may the keel row, the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row, the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row, O!

Bass (B): mer - ry may the keel row, the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row, the keel \_\_\_\_\_ row, O!

## THE KEEL ROW

45

S      mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in! O!

A      mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in! O!

T      mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in! O!

B      mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in! O!

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S      mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in!

A      mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in!

T      mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in!

B      mer - ry may the keel row, The ship that my love's in!

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