

The Folk Song Tradition
In Masterworks for Wind Band

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The MidWest Clinic

McCormick Place Convention Center

Chicago, Illinois

December 15, 2011

*Dr. Rapp appears courtesy of the Hal Leonard Corporation
and Meredith Music Publications*

In his Recorder Tutor *The Fontegara (1535 Venice)*, Sylvestro Ganassi states: “Be it known that all musical instruments in comparison to the human voice are inferior to it. For this reason, we should endeavor to learn from it and imitate it.” Since that time, it has often been said that the human voice is the most perfect of all the instruments. Pedagogically, there has been a renewed emphasis on using the voice in the teaching of instrumental music. Pitch discrimination, ear training and interpretive phrasing are all achieved more easily with the voice, and subsequently can be transferred to instruments.

Throughout history, vocal/choral pieces have been used as source material for wind band works. This presentation has grown out of research that originally investigated the relationship of vocal/choral music to selected wind band masterworks of Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Percy Aldridge Grainger. While my text includes nine wind band masterworks, this presentation focuses on one representative work from each composer.

For those who enjoy the works of Holst, Vaughan Williams, and Grainger there is an appreciation for the tireless work of these composers in their quest to use folk song sources in several of their compositions. While Holst, Vaughan Williams, and Grainger all spent some time collecting folk songs, it is also important to recognize some of the individuals who, either directly or indirectly, were of great assistance to this process.

Lucy Etheldred Broadwood (1858-1929) A collector of English Folk Songs, Lucy was the niece of the Rev. John Broadwood (1798-1864), a pioneer folk song collector of Lyne in Sussex. Lucy collected folk songs in Surrey, Sussex, southern Ireland and the highlands of Scotland. She was a founder-member and subsequently secretary and editor of the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society*.

Maud Karpeles (1885-1976) At age twenty-four, while attending the Shakespeare festival at Stratford-on-Avon, she and her sister Helen encountered the Morris Dance being taught by Cecil Sharp. This was the beginning of an association that lasted until Sharp’s death in 1924 and led to a lifetime of collecting and studying songs and dances, writing books and serving in national and international organizations. In 1911 Sharp founded the **English Folk Dance Society** and the Karpeles sisters became key figures in its organization.

Cecil James Sharp (1859-1924) An English folk music collector and editor, he was educated at Uppingham and Clare College, Cambridge. He began working in Australia, and in 1892 returned to England and became music master at Ludgrove Preparatory School; then in 1896 principal of the Hamstead Conservatory, a post he held until 1905. He quickly realized the potential significance and value of the traditional arts, and thereafter devoted his life with missionary fervor to their preservation and propagation.

REPRESENTATIVE WIND BAND MASTERWORKS

Ralph Vaughan Williams: English Folk Song Suite

Composed: 1923, Copyright 1924 by Boosey & Co., London.

First Performance: 4 July 1923 Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall.

Arrangement: Orchestral version by Gordon Jacob,
Copyright 1924 by Boosey & Co., London.

New Critical Edition: Boosey Edition 2008, published by Hal Leonard Corporation
This edition contains measure numbers in the score and parts.

Gustav Holst: Second Suite in F for Military Band, Opus 28 No. 2

Composed: 1911, Copyright 1922 by Boosey & Co., London.

First Performance: 30 June 1922 Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall,
Royal Albert Hall, London.

Revised Edition: by Colin Matthews 1984, published by Boosey & Co. Ltd.

New Critical Edition: by Frederick Fennell 2006, published by Ludwig Music

Percy Grainger: Lincolnshire Posy

Collected: 1905-06 (first five songs noted down directly from their
folksingers)

Composed: 1937, Copyright 1940 by G. Schirmer, Inc.

First Performance: 7 March 1937 Milwaukee, WI at the 8th Annual Convention
of the American Bandmasters Association.

Revised Edition: by Frederick Fennell 1987, published by Ludwig Music

EXCERPTS OF FOLK SONG TEXTS FROM EACH MASTERWORK

(Complete texts can be found in *The Wind Band Masterworks of Holst, Vaughan Williams, & Grainger*, © 2005 Meredith Music Publications)

SEVENTEEN COME SUNDAY

English Folk Song Suite Mvt. I meas. 4-30

As I rose up one May morning,
One May morning so early,

I overtook a pretty fair maid
 Just as the sun was dawning.
 with me rue rum ray,
 fother diddle ay,
 wok fol air diddle i-do.

Her stockings white and her boots were bright
 And her buckles shone like silver,
 She had a dark and rolling eye
 And her hair hung down her shoulders.
 With me . . .

Where are you going, my pretty fair maid,
 Where are you going my honey?
 She answered me right cheerfully:
 On an errand for my mammy.
 With me . . .

How old are you, my pretty fair maid,
 How old are you, my honey?
 She answered me right cheerfully:
 I am seventeen come Sunday.

PRETTY CAROLINE

English Folk Song Suite Mvt. I meas. 32-63 & 97-129

One morning in the month of May,
 How lovely shone the sun,
 All on the banks of daises gay
 There sat a lovely one.
 She did appear as goddess fair
 And her dark brown hair did shine
 It shaded her neck and bosom
 Of my pretty Caroline.

LAZARUS

English Folk Song Suite Mvt. I meas. 64-97

So Lararus laid him down and down,
 Ev'n down at Diverus' door;
 "Some meat, some drink, brother Diverus,
 Do bestow upon the poor."
 "Thou are none of mine, brother Lazarus,
 Lying begging at my door,
 No meat, no drink will I give thee,
 Nor bestow upon the poor."

Then Lararus laid him down and down,
 Ev'n down at Diverus' wall;
 "Some meat, some drink, brother Diverus,
 Or surely starve I shall."
 "Thou art none of mine, brother Lazarus,
 Lying begging at my wall,
 No meat, no drink will I give thee,
 And therefore starve thou shall."

MY BONNIE, BONNIE BOY English Folk Song Suite Mvt. II meas. 2-40 & 77-97

I once loved a boy, a bonnie, bonnie, boy,
 I loved him, I'll vow and protest;
 I loved him so well, and so very, very well,
 That I built him a berth on my breast,
 That I built him a berth on my breast.

GREEN BUSHES English Folk Song Suite Mvt. II meas. 43-76

As I was a-walking one morning in May
 For to hear the birds whistle and the nightingales sing,
 I sawed a young damsel, so sweet-a-lie sang she
 Down by the green bushes when she thinks to meet me.

I'll buy you fine beaver and fine silken gowns,
 I'll buy you fine petticoats flounced down the the ground,
 If you will prove loyal and constant to me,
 And forsake your own true love and get married to me.

BLOW AWAY THE MORNING DEW

English Folk Song Suite Mvt. III meas. 5-28 & 45-68

There was a farmer's son
 Kept sheep all on the hill;
 And he walked out one May morning,
 To see what he could kill.
 Chorus. And sing blow away the morning dew,
 The dew, and the dew,
 Blow away the morning dew,
 How sweet the winds do blow.

HIGH GERMANY

English Folk Song Suite Mvt. III meas. 29-44

O Polly, Love, O Polly, the rout has now begun
 And we must march away at the beating of the drum:
 Go dress yourself all in your best and come along with me,
 I'll take you to the cruel wars in High Germany.

THE TREE SO HIGH

English Folk Song Suite Mvt. III meas. 73-88

The trees that do grow high and the leaves they do grow green,
 The time is gone and past, my love, when you and I had seen.
 One cold winter's night, my love, when you and I alone had been.
 The bonny lad is young but he's growing.

JOHN BARLEYCORN

English Folk Song Suite Mvt. III meas. 89-113

There was three men come from the North
 The vic'try for to try
 Then these three men did vow and declare
 John Barleycorn should die
 To my rite folle rol lol liddle for le rol
 Rite fol le rol li day.

SWANSEA TOWN

Second Suite in F Mvt. I meas. 46-110

Oh! Farewell to you my Nancy
 ten thousand times adieu,
 I'm bound to cross the ocean, girl,
 once more to part with you;
 Once more to part from you, fine girl,
 you're the girl that I adore,
 But still I live in hopes to see old Swansea Town once more.

Oh! It's now that I am out at sea,
 and you are far behind,
 Kind letters I will write to you
 of the secrets of my mind;
 The secrets of my mind, fine girl,
 you're the girl that I adore,
 But still I live in hopes to see old Swansea Town once more.

CLAUDY BANKS

Second Suite in F Mvt. I meas. 111-159

As I roved out one evening all in the month of May,
 Down by the Banks of Claudy I carelessly did stray,

There I beheld a young maid in sorrow did complain,
Lamenting of her true Love who had crossed the raging main.

Io, Io, he is my darling boy,
He is the darling of my heart upon the walls of Troy.

I LOVE MY LOVE

Second Suite in F Mvt. II

Abroad as I was walking, one evening in the spring,
I heard a maid in Bedlam so sweetly for to sing;
Her chains she rattled with her hands, and thus replied she:
“I love my love, because I know my love loves me!”

Oh! cruel were his parents who sent my love to sea,
And cruel was the ship that bore my love from me;
Yet I love his parents since they're his although they've ruined me:
“I love my love, because I know my love loves me!”

SONG OF THE BLACKSMITH

Second Suite in F Mvt. III

Kang kang kang ki ki kang
kang kang ki ki kang kang

For the blacksmith courted me,
nine months and better;
And first he won my heart,
till he wrote to me a letter.
With his hammer in his hand,
for he strikes so mighty and clever,
He makes the sparks to fly
all round his middle.

GREENSLEEVES

Second Suite in F Mvt. IV meas. 58-88

Alas my love you do me wrong,
To cast me off discourteously;
And I have loved you for so long,
Delighting in your company.

Chorus. Greensleeves was all my joy,
Greensleeves was my delight,
Greensleeves was my heart of gold,
And who but my lady Greensleeves.

LISBON

Lincolnshire Posy Mvt. I

'Twas on one Whit-sun Wednesday
 The fourteenth day of May;
 We untied our anchor
 And so we sailed away
 Where the sun do shine most glorious,
 To Lisbon we are bound,
 Where the hills and hills are dainted
 With pretty maidens round.

HORKSTOW GRANGE

Lincolnshire Posy Mvt. II

In Horkstow Grange there lived an old miser,
 You all do know him as I've heard say.
 It's him and his man (that was) named John Bowlin'
 They fell out one market day.

Pity them who see him suffer,
 Pity poor old Steeleye Span;
 John Bowlin's deeds they will be remembered;
 Bowlin's deeds at Horkstow Grange.

With a blackthorn stick John Bowlin' struck him,
 Oftens had threatened him before;
 John Bowlin' turned round all in a passion,
 He knocked old Steeleye onto t'floor.

Pity them who see him suffer, [etc.]

RUFFORD PARK POACHERS

Lincolnshire Posy Mvt. III

They say that forty gallant poachers there was a mess;
 They'ad often been attacked when the number it was less.

Chorus. So poacher bold, as I unfold, keep up your gallant heart,
 And think about those poachers bold, that night at Rufford Park.

A buck or doe, believe it so, a pheasant or an 'are
 Was sent on earth for ev'ry one quite equal for to share.

So poacher bold, as I unfold, keep up your gallant heart,
 And think about those poachers bold, that night at Rufford Park.

THE BRISK YOUNG SAILOR

Lincolnshire Posy Mvt. IV

A fair maiden walkin' all in her garden,
 A brisk young sailor she chanced to spy;
 He skipped up to her thinking to woo her,
 Cried thus: "Fair maid, can you fancy I?"
 She tells him that she has a true love of her own,
 who has been away seven years.
 "But seven more I will wait of him,
 For if he's alive he'll return to me."

LORD MELBOURNE

Lincolnshire Posy Mvt. V

I am an Englishman born by birth,
 Lord Melbourne is my name,
 In Devonshire I first drew breath,
 That place of noted fame.
 I was beloved by all my men,
 My kings and princes likewise;
 I never failed in anything,
 But one great victory.

THE LOST LADY FOUND

Lincolnshire Posy Mvt. VI

'Twas down in a valley a fair maid did dwell,
 She lived with her uncle, as all knew full well,
 'Twas down in the valley. Where violets are gay,
 Three gypsies betrayed her and stole her away.

Long time she'd been missing and could not be found,
 Her uncle, he searched the country around,
 Till he came to her trustee, between hope and fear,
 The trustee made answer "She has not been here."
 The trustee spake up with a courage so bold,
 "I fear she's been lost for the sake of her gold;
 So we'll have life for life, sir," the trustee did say,
 "We shall send you to prison, and there you shall stay."

There was a young squire that loved her so,
 Oft times to the schoolhouse together they did go;
 "I'm afraid she is murdered; so great is my fear,
 If I'd wings like a dove I would fly to my dear!"

He travelled through England, through France and through Spain,
 He ventured his life on the watery main;
 Till he came to a house where he lodged for a night,
 And in that same house was his own heart's delight

When she saw him, she knew him, and flew to his arms,
 She told him her grief while he gazed on her charms
 "How came you to Dublin, my dearest, I pray?"
 "Three gypsies betrayed me, and stole me away."

"Your uncle's in England; in prison doth lie,
 And for your sweet sake is condemned for to die."
 "Carry me to old England, my dearest," she cried;
 "One thousand I'll give you, and will be your bride."
 When she came to old England, her uncle to see,
 The cart it was under the high gallows tree.
 "Oh, pardon! Oh, pardon! Oh, pardon! I crave!
 Don't you see I'm alive, your dear life for to save?"

Then straight from the gallows they led him away,
 The bells they did ring, and the music did play;
 Every house in the valley with mirth did resound
 As soon as they heard the lost lady was found.

TABLE OF FOLK SONG SOURCE MATERIALS

Title	Vocal	Piano	Publication
Swansea Town	Baccholian Singers EMI 7243 5 65123 2 0		J. Curwen & Sons © 1917
Claudy Banks			
I Love My Love (Bedlam)	Baccholian Singers EMI 7243 5 65123 2 0 John Renbourn Group		Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 41* Curwen © 1917
Song of the Blacksmith	Baccholian Singers EMI 7243 5 65123 2 0		J. Curwen & Sons © 1917
Greensleeves	Baccholian Singers EMI 7243 5 65123 2 0		Numerous
I'm Seventeen Come Sunday	Monteverdi Choir Philips 446 657-2 Joyful Company of Singers - Chandos 9499 John Roberts & Tony Barrand – GHM – 103		Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 61*
Pretty Caroline			

Lazarus (Dives and Lazarus)	The Purcell Singers, Imogen Holst, Cond. Everest 3137 & 6137		
My Bonnie Bonnie Boy			Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 52*
Green Bushes	Joseph Leaning 1906 <i>Unto Brigg Fair</i> Leader 4050		Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 40*
Blow Away The Morning Dew	The Deller Consort © 2008		Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 19*
High Germany	The Dubliners Luke Kelly		Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 56*
The Trees They Do Grow High (variant)	A.L. Lloyd © 2010		Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 25*
John Barleycorn			Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 84*
Admiral Benbow (Benbow, The Brother Tar's Song) (Arethusa)	Kimber's Men © 2010		Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 87*
Portsmouth	Mike Oldfield Ommadawn		
Lisbon (Dublin Bay)	Mr. Deene (Deen, Dean) 25 May 1908 Library of Congress John Roberts & Tony Barrand – GHM - 103	Penelope Thwaites Chandos 9919	
Horstow Grange	George Gouldthorpe 28 July 1906 <i>Unto Brigg Fair</i> Leader 4050 John Roberts & Tony Barrand – GHM - 103	Penelope Thwaites Chandos 9919	
Rufford Park Poachers	Joseph Taylor 4 August 1906 <i>Unto Brigg Fair</i> Leader 4050		
The Brisk Young Sailor	Mrs. Thompson 3 August 1906 Library of Congress	Penelope Thwaites Chandos 9919	Cecil J. Sharp Collection - 94*
Lord Melbourne	George Wray 28 July 1906 <i>Unto Brigg Fair</i> Leader 4050 John Roberts & Tony Barrand – GHM – 103		

The Lost Lady Found	Steven Varcoe Chandos 9503 Monteverdi Choir Philips 446 657-2 John Roberts & Tony Barrand – GHM - 103		
Others of Interest	Vocal	Piano	
Molly On The Shore	Joyful Company of Singers - Chandos 9499	Percy Grainger May 1920 Nimbus 8809 Penelope Thwaites Chandos 9919	
Children's March 'Over The Hills and Far Away		Percy Grainger December 1920 Nimbus 8809 Penelope Thwaites Chandos 10205	
Irish Tune from County Derry (Danny Boy)	Monteverdi Choir Philips 446 657-2 Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chorus Chandos 9987	Penelope Thwaites Chandos 9895 Penelope Thwaites Chandos 10205	
Shepherd's Hey		Percy Grainger June 1915 Nimbus 8809 Penelope Thwaites Chandos 9919	
Ye Banks and Braes O'Bonnie Doon	Joyful Company of Singers - Chandos 9499 Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chorus Chandos 9987		
English Waltz		Penelope Thwaites Chandos 9895	

* One Hundred English Folksongs
 Edited by Cecil J. Sharp
 Boston: Oliver Ditson Company, 1916

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