

Jolyon Laycock



Dark Seas

Five poems of
Philip Larkin for
coloratura soprano,
clarinet and piano.

Dark Seas

5 poems of Philip Larkin

For coloratura soprano, clarinet in B flat and piano

(Clarinet notated at concert pitch)

1. First Sightpage 3
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3. I am washed upon a Rockpage 20
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5. The North Shippage 50

Dedicated to Sarah Leonard who gave the world premiere with Mary Barrett (clarinet) and Stephen Gutman (piano) at the Lantern, Colston Hall, Bristol 22 May 2014.

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First Sight

Philip Larkin

Jolyon Laycock

Slow & gentle ♩=60

Soprano

Lambs that learn to walk in snow, When their bleat-ing clouds the air,

3 Meet a vast un-wel-come, know No-thing but a sun-less glare.

5 New-ly stumb-ling to and fro All they find out-side the fold,

7 Is a wretch-ed width of cold. As they wait be-side the ewe. Her

Cl.

Pno.

9

Sop. flee - ces wet - ly cak'd, there lies Hid - den round them, wait - ing too,

Cl.

Pno.

11

Sop. Earth's im - meas' - ra - ble sur - prise. They could not grasp it if they knew,

Cl.

Pno.

13

Sop. What so soon will wake and grow Ut - ter - ly un - like the snow.

Cl.

Pno.

Seventy feet down

Philip Larkin

Jolyon Laycock

Fast ♩=96

Sop. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Sev-en-ty feet down the sea ex-plodes up - wards. re -

Cl. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Pno. **Fast** ♩=96 *f* *p* *Red.*

4

Sop. lap - sing to sla - ver off land - ing stage steps

Cl. *sub p*

Pno. *sub p*

6

6 *p* *f* >

Sop. run-ning suds re-joice! run-ning suds re-joice!

Cl. 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Pno. 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 *f*

8 **poco rall.**

Sop.

Cl. *dim.* *pp*

Pno. *dim.* *pp*

9 **a tempo** ♩=96

Sop.

Cl. *f* *a tempo* ♩=96 *p*

Pno. *f* 6 6 *p*

10

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

11

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

Rocks _____ writhe back to sight

13

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

Mus - sels lim - pets

14 *mf* *p*

Sop. hus - band their ten - ac - i - ty in the

Cl.

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

15 *mf*

Sop. Free - zing sli - - ther

Cl.

Pno. *p* *mf*

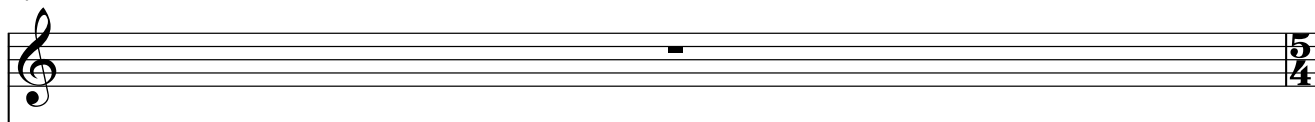
16 *f*

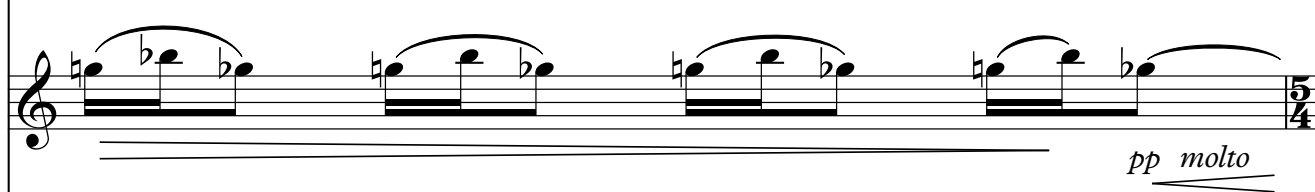
Sop. Creat - ures I cher - ish you!

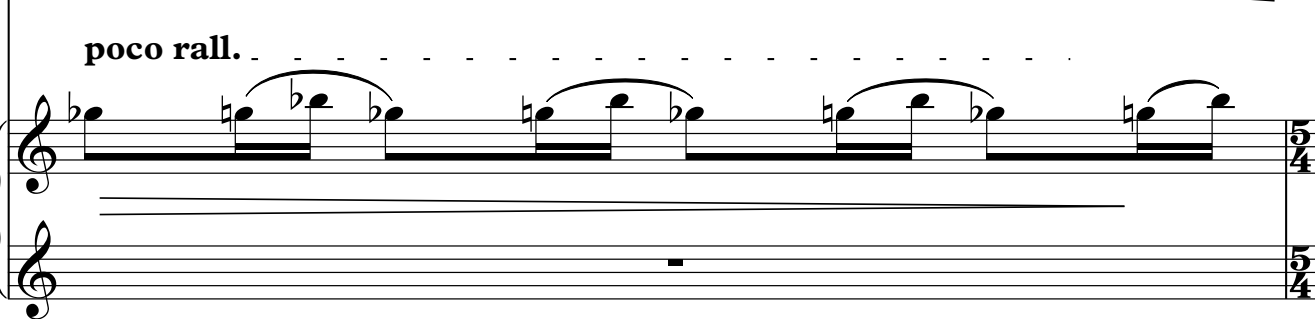
Cl. *f* *dim.*

Pno. *mf* *f* *dim.*

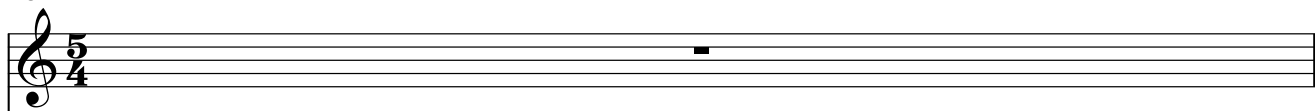
17 **poco rall.**

Sop. 

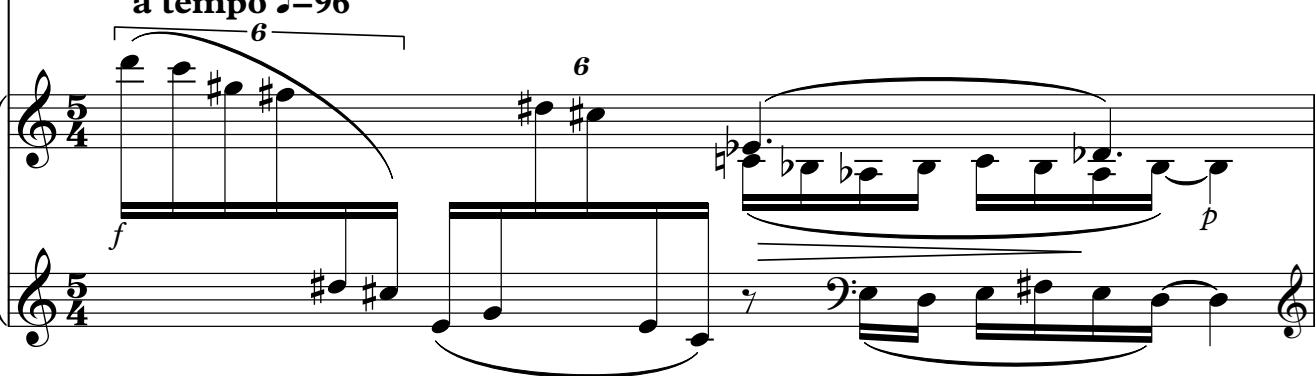
Cl. 

Pno. 

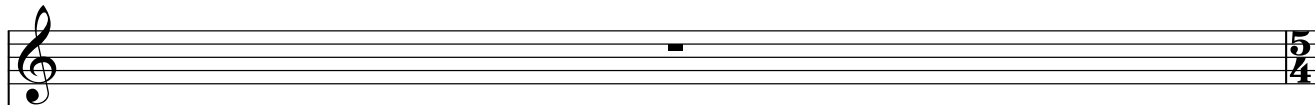
18 **a tempo** ♩=96


Sop. 


Cl. 

Pno. 

19

Sop. 

Cl. 

Pno. 

20 *mp*

Sop. *mp*
By day, sky builds Grape

Cl. *p*

Pno. *mp*

21 *mf*

Sop. *mf*
dark ov - er the salt Un - sown stir - ring

Cl. *pp* *p* *pp*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

22 *p* *mf*

Sop. *p* *mf*
fields, ra - di - o rubs its legs tel - ling me of else -

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* 5

Pno. *pp* *mf* *mf* *pp*

24 *mf* **poco rall.**

Sop. where, tel - ling me of else - where.

Cl. *mf* *f* *pp*

Pno. *mf* *f* *pp* **poco rall.**

26 **a tempo** ♩=96 *mf*

Sop. Bar -

Cl. *sub f* 3

Pno. **a tempo** ♩=96 *sub f* 6 6 6

28

Sop. *mp*
om - e - ters fal - ling. ports windshutt - er'd.

Cl. *mp* *p* 6

Pno. *mp* 6 *p* 7 Ped.

30

Sop. *mf*
Fleets__ pent like hounds Fires in hump'd. inns

Cl. *sub p* *mf* *p*

Pno. *sub p* *mp* *p*

poco rall.

32

Sop. *kip-per-ing sea pic-tures.*

Cl. *mf pp*

Pno. *mf pp*

poco rall.

34 **a tempo** ♩=96

Sop.

Cl. *sub f mf*

Pno. *sub f mf*

a tempo ♩=96

35

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

cresc. **6** *f*

36 *ff* **poco rall..**

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

f **poco rall..**

Keep it all off!

37 **poco accel.** *f*

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

By

38

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

night snow swerves (O)

39 *p*

Sop. loose moth world)

Cl.

Pno.

40 *f* **molto rall.**

Sop. Through the stare_ trav' ling, Leath - er black wa - ters

Cl.

Pno. *mf* *f* **molto rall.**

42 **slower** ♩=84

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

p *mp* *mf*

slower ♩=84

p *mp* *mf*

44 *f* **freely**

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

Guar - ded by bril - liance, by bril - liance, by

mf *f*

mf *f* *p*

46 *mp* conversationally

Sop. bril liance, I set plate and spoon, And

Cl. *p*

Pno.

48 **tempo primo** ♩=96 **poco rall.** *mf*

Sop. af - ter di -

Cl. *p* *pp*

Pno. **tempo primo** ♩=96 **poco rall.** *pp*

49 freely *a tempo* ♩=96

Sop. vi - - - ning cards. Lit shelv'd. li - ners

Cl. *mf*

Pno. *a tempo* ♩=96 *p* *mf*

51 *f* *ff* *rall.* *pp* *ppp*

Sop. Grope like mad_ worlds_ West - - - ward.

Cl. *f* *ff* *pp* *ppp*

Pno. *f* *ff* *pp* *ppp*

I am washed upon a rock

Philip Larkin

Jolyon Laycock

f *starkly* $\text{♩} = 84$

Sop. *f* $\text{♩} = 84$

I am wash'd up-on a rock. In an end less gird-ing sea. The

Cl.

Pno.

3

Sop. $\text{♩} = 84$

sun is fig-ur'd like a clock. It turns and hangs at me.

Cl.

Pno.

mf *f* *mf*

5

Sop. *mf* *f* *mf*

me, at me My

Cl.

Pno.

poco rall.

p

7 **a tempo** ♩=84

Sop. heart is tick-ing like the sun; A lone-ly cloud drifts in the sky. I

Cl. *mf* *p*

Pno. **a tempo** ♩=84 *mf*

9

Sop. dread its in-de-ci-si-on. If once it blocks the light, I die.

Cl. *mf* *p*

Pno.

11 *mf* **poco rall.** *p*

Sop. I die.

Cl. *mf* *p*

Pno. *p*

13 *sub f* **a tempo** ♩=84

Sop. Die I die I die

Cl. *p* *f*

Pno. *f* *p* *f*

15

Sop. *p* *f*

Cl. *p* *f*

Pno. *p* *f*

I die I die

17 **poco rall.** *p* *mf* *with simplicity*

Sop. *p* *mf* *with simplicity*

Cl. *p* *sempre p*

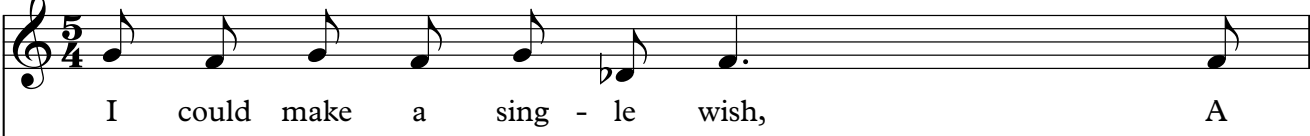
Pno. *p*

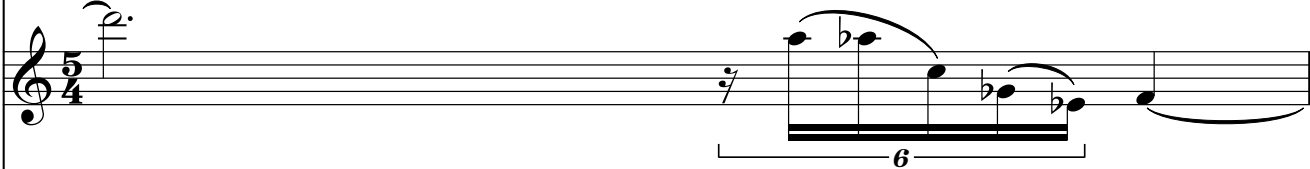
poco rall. *p* *mf* *with simplicity*


I die If

p *sempre p*

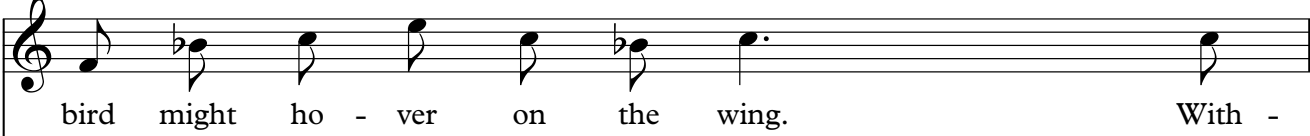
18 **a tempo** ♩=84

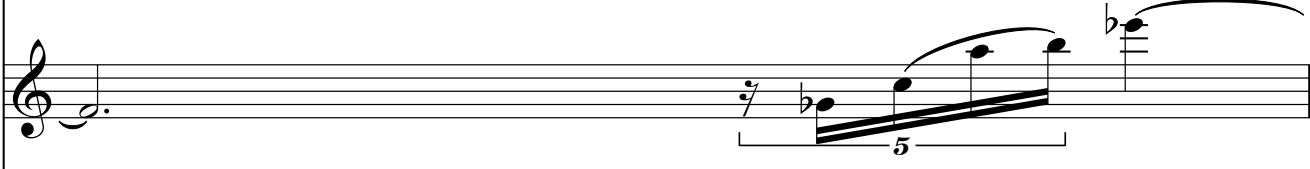
Sop. 
I could make a sing - le wish, A


Cl. 

Pno. **a tempo** ♩=84 *mf* 

19

Sop. 
bird might ho - ver on the wing. With -

Cl. 

Pno. 

20 wistfully

Sop. *in its beak a liv - ing fish, And in the fish a wed - ding ring; a*

Cl.

Pno.

poco rall. *p* forthrightly *f*

22

Sop. *wed - - - ding ring. And*

Cl.

poco rall. *p*

Pno.

23 **piu mosso** ♩=96

Sop. when the ring was on my hand The

Cl. *mf* *f* *mf*

Pno. **piu mosso** ♩=96 *mf* *sf* *f* 6

24

Sop. wa - ter would go down and shrink To

Cl. *f* *mf*

Pno. *sf* *mf* *f* 5

25

Sop. harm - less mir - rors in the sand, To

Cl.

Pno.

p

f

6

sf

mf

f

26

Sop. harm - less mir - rors in the sand.

Cl.

Pno.

mf

f

sf

f

ff

violently

5

28

Sop. *f* But to wish is first to think,

Cl. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

30

Sop. *ff* And to think is to be dumb, *mf* And bar-ren of a word to drop That

Cl. *ff* *p*

Pno. *p* *mf*

rall. **a tempo** ♩=84

rall. **a tempo** ♩=84

with resignation

32

Sop. *f*
to a mild - er shore might come And years a-head e-

Cl. *f*
5 6

Pno. *p* *mf*

34

Sop. *mf* *p* **rall.**
rect a crop. And years a-head e-rect a crop.

Cl. *pp*
5 5


Pno. *p* *pp* **rall.**

And the wave sings...

Philip Larkin

Jolyon Laycock

Moderate ♩=72 **poco rall.**

Sop. 

Cl. 

Pno. 

3 a tempo **poco rall.**

Sop. 

Cl. 

Pno. 

a tempo

poco rall.

31

5

Sop. *p* wave sings be-cause it is mov - - ing. *mf* *p*

Cl. *p* *mf* *p*

Pno. *p* *mf* *p*

a tempo

poco rall.

7

Sop. *mf* Caught in its clear side we al-so sing. Weare *p*

Cl. *mf* *p* *pp*

Pno. *mf* *p* *pp*

9 **a tempo**

Sop. *p*

borne ac-ross graves, to-ge-ther, a- part, to ge-ther,

Cl. *p* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*

11 **poco rall.** **a tempo**

Sop. *mf*

In the lift - ing wall im -

Cl. *p* *pp* *mf*

Pno. *p* *pp* *mf*

poco rall. **a tempo**

12

Sop. pris-on'd and pro-TECT - ed, And so de-vis'd to

Cl. *p* *pp* *p*

Pno. **poco rall.** **a tempo** *p* *pp* *p*

poco rall. **a tempo**

14

Sop. make our-selves un-hap-py, A-part we think we

Cl. *mf* *pp* *mf*

Pno. **poco rall.** **a tempo** *mf* *pp* *mf*

16 *poco rall.* *f* *mf* **slightly quicker** ♩=84

Sop. wish our-selves to - ge - ther, Yet sue__ for sol - i -

Cl. *p* *pp*

Pno. *p* *pp* *mf* **poco rall.** **slightly quicker** ♩=84

18 *p*

Sop. tude up - on our meet ings, Till the un - hin - der'd turn -

Cl.

Pno. *p* *mf* *piu f*

poco rall. *mf* **a tempo II** *mf*

20

Sop. *mf* **a tempo II** *mf*

- - ing of the sea Chang - es our com forts in - to griefs_

Cl.

poco rall. **a tempo II**

Pno. *p* *mf*

23

Sop. *f* **rall.** *p*

great - er Than they wereraised to can - cel, break - ing them.

Cl.

rall.

Pno. *f* *p* *pp*

36 **more vigorous**

26

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

f *p*

more vigorous

f *p*

28

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

mf *f* *p*

mf *f* *p*

30 *f* *p*

Sop. *f* *p*

Such are the sor - rows that we search for mean - ing,

Cl. *f* *p*

Pno. *f* *p*

32 *f* *p*

Sop. *f* *p*

Such are the cries of birds ac - cross the wa - ters,

Cl. *f* *p*

Pno. *f* *p*

38

34 *f* **poco rall.** *p* *f*

Sop. *f* *p*

Cl. *f* *p*

Pno. *f* *p*

Such are the mists the sun attacks at morning, La

slower (tempo I) ♩=72

36

Sop. *f*

Cl. *f*

Pno. *f*

ments, tears, wreaths, rocks, all rid - den down

slower (tempo I) ♩=72

38 *ff*

Sop. *ff*
By the shout of that heart con - tin - ual-ly at work To

Cl. *ff*

Pno. *p* *f*

40 *poco rall.* *p*

Sop. *poco rall.* *p*
break with beat - ing all our false de - vi - ces.

Cl. *poco rall.*

Pno. *mf* *p* *poco rall.* *p*

40

a tempo

42 *mf* *f* *mf*

Sop. *Silver* *tongu'd* *like* *a* *share* *it* *ploughsup* *fail-ure.* *Car-ries* *the* *nightand*

Cl. *mf* *f* *mf*

Pno. **a tempo** *mf* *f* *mf*

46

poco rall.

a tempo

poco rall.

Sop. *day,* *fetch-es* *Pro-fit* *from* *sleep,* *fromskies* *dri-venor*

Cl. *p* *mf*

Pno. **poco rall.** **a tempo** **poco rall.** *p* *mf*

a tempo II

49 *p* *mf* *f* *mf*

Sop. *p* *mf* *f* *mf*

star slung, From all but death takes tithes Finds

Cl. *p* *mf* *f*

a tempo II

Pno. *p* *mf* *f*

52 *f* *f* *mf*

Sop. *f* *f* *mf*

mar-row in all but death to feed and frame to us, but

Cl. *mf* *f* *mf*

Pno. *mf* *f* *mf*

55 *p* **rall.**

Sop. death it can-not in - voke.

Cl. *p* **rall.** *pp*

Pno. *p* **rall.** *pp*

57 **tempo I** ♩=72 **poco rall.**

Sop.

Cl. *p* *mf* *p*

Pno. *p* *mf* *p*

59 **a tempo**

p

poco rall.

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

Death is a

61 **a tempo**

f

p

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

cloud a - lone in the sky with the sun, Our

poco rall.

a tempo

63 Sop. *mf* 3 3

hearts _____ turn - ing like fish in the green _____ wave, - grow

Cl. *pp mf* 3

Pno. **poco rall.** **a tempo** *pp mf*

poco rall.

a tempo

Sop. *p* *mf* 3 3

qui - et in its shad-ow. For in the word death _____ There is

Cl. *p pp p mf mf*

Pno. **poco rall.** **a tempo** *p pp p mf*

67

Sop. *p*
no-thing to grasp no-thing to catch or claim;

Cl.

Pno. *mf* *p*

69 **poco rall.** **a tempo** **poco rall.** *mf* *p*

Sop. *p*
No-thing to a - dapt the skill of the heart to,

Cl. *pp* *mf* *p*

Pno. **poco rall.** **a tempo** **poco rall.** *pp* *mf* *p*

71 **quicker** ♩=84

Sop. *mf* Skill in sur-vi-ving, for death it can-not sur- vive, *f*

Cl. *quicker* ♩=84

Pno. *mf* *f*

73 *ff*

Sop. On - ly re - sign the ir - re - cov - er - a - ble keys;

Cl.

Pno. *ff* *sfz* *mf*

75

Sop. The wave fal - ters and drowns. *p*

Cl. with force *mf* *p*

Pno. *ff* *sfz* *mf* *p*

77 *mf* *p* *mf*

Sop. *mf* *p* *mf*

Cl. *mf* *p*

Pno. *ff* *6* *sfz* *mf* *p*

with force

The coul-ter of joy— breaks. The

79 *p* **rall.**

Sop. *p* **rall.**

Cl. **rall.**

Pno. *mf* *p*

har - row of death Deep - ens and there are thrown up—

81 **tempo I** ♩=72 **poco rall.**

Sop. **tempo I** ♩=72 **poco rall.**

Cl. **tempo I** ♩=72 **poco rall.**

Pno. *p* *p*

— waves.

83 **a tempo** **poco rall.**

Sop. *p*
And the

Cl.

Pno. **a tempo** **poco rall.**
mf *p*

85 **a tempo** **poco rall.**

Sop. *p*
waves sing be-cause they are mov - - ing, And the

Cl. *p* *mf* *p*

Pno. **a tempo** **poco rall.**
p *mf* *p*

a tempo *mf* **molto rall.**

87

Sop. waves sing a bove a ce - me - try of wa - ters

Cl. *mf* *p*

Pno. *mf* *p*

89

Sop.

Cl. *pp* *dim. to nothing*

Pno. *pp* *dim. to nothing*

The North Ship

Philip Larkin

Jolyon Laycock

Andante alla Barcarolle ♩=84

Musical score for the first system of 'The North Ship'. It features three staves: Soprano (Sop.), Clarinet (Cl.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is 'Andante alla Barcarolle' with a metronome marking of ♩=84. The Soprano part begins with a rest followed by the lyrics 'I saw threeships go'. The Clarinet part has a rest followed by a melodic line starting with a half note. The Piano part features a complex accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands, marked *pp*.

Andante alla Barcarolle ♩=84

Musical score for the second system of 'The North Ship', starting at measure 6. It features three staves: Soprano (Sop.), Clarinet (Cl.), and Piano (Pno.). The Soprano part continues with the lyrics 'sail - ing by O - ver the sea the lift - ing sea And the'. The Clarinet part continues with a melodic line, marked *p*. The Piano part continues with its accompaniment, marked *p*. The system concludes with a *mf* dynamic marking above the Soprano staff.

10 **accel.**

Sop. wind rose in the morn - ing sky

Cl. *cresc.* **accel.**

Pno. *cresc.* **accel.**

13 **A tempo** *f*

Sop. And one was rigg'd for a long jour

Cl. *f* **A tempo**

Pno. *f* **A tempo**

17 *mp*

Sop. *ney.*

Cl. *p* *mf* *f* *sub. p* *pp*

Pno. *p* *mf* *f* *sub. p* *pp*

22 *mf* *f* *mf*

Sop. The first ship turn'd to-wards the west, o - ver the

Cl. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

26

Sop. sea, the run - ning sea And by the

Cl. *f* *cresc.*

Pno. *f* *cresc.*

29

Sop. wind was all po - ssess'd

Cl. *f* *p* *cresc.*

Pno. *f* *p* *cresc.*

31 *f*

Sop. *f*
And car - ried to a rich coun - try

Cl. *f* *sub. pp*

Pno. *f* *sub. pp*

34 *p* *mp* *p*

Sop. *p* *mp* *p*
The sec - ond turn'd to-wards the east O - ver the

Cl. *mp* *p*

Pno. *mp* *pp* *p* *espressivo*

38 *mf* *f*

Sop. sea, the quak - ing sea And the wind

Cl.

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

41

Sop. hunt - ed it like a beast To an - chor

Cl. *sub p*

Pno. *f* *sub p*

44

Sop.

in cap - ti vi - ty.

Cl.

f *sub. p*

Pno.

f *sub. p*

47

Sop.

Cl.

mf *p* *mf*

Pno.

mf espressivo *p* *mf espressivo*

51 **poco rall.** **a tempo**

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

p **poco rall.** **a tempo** *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

54 *mf*

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

The third ship drove to - wards the

56 *f*

Sop.

Cl.

Pno.

north O - ver the sea the dark - en - ing

58

58 *p sotto voce*

Sop. sea But no breath of

Cl. *p*

Pno. *p*

61

Sop. wind came forth And the decks shone frost i - ly.

Cl. *pp* *sf*

Pno. *pp* *sf*

65 *ff con forza*

Sop. *ff con forza*
Thenorth - ern sky rosehigh and

Cl. *pp sub. ff con forza*

Pno. *pp sub. ff con forza*

69

Sop. *ff con forza*
black O-ver the proud un - fruit - ful sea.

Cl. *pp sub. ff con forza*

Pno. *pp sub. ff con forza*

73

Sop. *p*
East and west the ships came back Hap pi -

Cl.

Pno. *p*

poco rall.

77

Sop. *mf* *pp*
ly and un - ha pi - ly

Cl. *mp* *pp*

Pno. *mp* *pp*

poco rall.

broader ♩=80

80

Sop. *f*

Cl. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

But the

Detailed description: This system contains measures 80 and 81. The Soprano part begins with a whole rest in measure 80 and then sings 'But the' in measure 81. The Clarinet part plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with slurs. The Piano part has a complex accompaniment with many beamed eighth notes in both hands. Dynamics include *mf* for the Clarinet and Piano, and *f* for the Soprano.

82

Sop. *f*

Cl. *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf* *f*

third went third wide and far

Detailed description: This system contains measures 82, 83, and 84. The Soprano part sings 'third went third wide and far'. The Clarinet part continues with its accompaniment, showing a dynamic change to *f* in measure 84. The Piano part also shows a dynamic change to *f* in measure 84. The tempo remains *broader ♩=80*.

Sop. In - to an un - for - giv - ing sea

Cl. *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf* *f*

Sop. Un - der a fire spill - ing star *ff*

Cl. *sf* *f*

Pno. *f* *f*

rall.

88 *f*

Sop. And it was rigg'd for a long jour -

Cl. *ff* *molto* *pp*

Pno. *ff* *molto* *pp*

rall.

a tempo

91 *pp sotto voce*

Sop. ney. _____

Cl. *pp* *dim. al niente*

Pno. *pp* *dim. al niente*

a tempo