

The Goose and Common

A round based on an English folk poem

For at least four voices of any type

Performance Notes

- i) The majority of the choir should sing Voice A throughout.
- ii) Voices B, C and D should each be sung by a small number of singers, e.g. 3 in a choir of 20.
- iii) When not singing Voices B, C and D, the singers assigned to those parts should sing Voice A.
- iv) The song should start very softly and take a gradual crescendo up to the beginning of Verse 4, before following a slow diminuendo to the end.

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Verse 1

Verse 2

The musical score is written in 3/2 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of two verses. Verse 1 has four staves of music, each with a vocal line (A) and lyrics. Verse 2 has four staves of music, with the first staff being a vocal line (A) and the following three staves being a three-part setting (A, B, B) with lyrics. The lyrics are: 'The law locks up the man or wo-man, Who steals the goose from off the com-mon, But leaves the grea-ter vil-lain loose, Who steals the com-mon from the goose.' and 'The law de-mands that we a-tone, When we take things we do not own, The law de-mands that we a-tone, But leaves the lords and la-dies fine, When we take things we do not own.'

1 = 52

Voice A

5

A

9

A

13

A

17

A

21

A

B

25

A

B

The law locks up the man or wo-man,
Who steals the goose from off the com-mon,
But leaves the grea-ter vil-lain loose,
Who steals the com-mon from the goose.

The law de-mands that we a-tone,
When we take things we do not own,
The law de-mands that we a-tone,
But leaves the lords and la-dies fine,
When we take things we do not own,

The Goose and Common

2

29

A Who take the things that are yours and mine.

B But leaves the lords and la - dies fine,

Verse 3

33

A The poor and wret - ched don't e - scape,

B Who take the things that are yours and mine.

37

A If they con - spire the law to break,

B The poor and wret - - ched don't e - scape,

41

A That must be so but they en - dure,

B If they con - spire the law to break,

C The poor and wret - - ched don't e - scape,

45

A Those who con - spire to make the law.

B That must be so but they en - dure,

C If they con - spire the law to break,

D The poor and wret - - ched don't e - scape,

The Goose and Common

3

49

Verse 4

A The law locks up the man or wo-man,
B Those who con - spire to make the law.
C That must be so but they en - dure,
D If they con - spire the law to break,

53

A Who steals the goose from off the com-mon,
B The law locks up the man or wo - man,
C Those who con - spire to make the law.
D That must be so but they en - dure,

57

A But geese will still a com - mon lack,
B Who steals the goose from off the com - mon,
C The law locks up the man or wo - man,
D Those who con - spire to make the law.

61

A Un - til they go and steal it back.
B But geese will still a com - mon lack,
C Who steals the goose from off the com - mon,
D The law locks up the man or wo - man,

The Goose and Common

4

65

A
Un - til they go and steal it back.

B
Un - til they go and steal it back.

C
But geese will still a com - mon lack,

D
Who steals the goose from off the com - mon,

Musical score for measures 65-68, four-part setting of 'The Goose and Common'. The score is in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (A), Alto (B), Tenor (C), and Bass (D). The lyrics are: 'Un - til they go and steal it back.' for parts A and B; 'But geese will still a com - mon lack,' for part C; and 'Who steals the goose from off the com - mon,' for part D. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes with various rests and phrasing slurs.

69

A
Un - til they go Un and steal it back.

B
Un - til they go Un and steal it back.

C
Un - til they go Un and steal it back.

D
But geese will still a com - mon lack,

Musical score for measures 69-72, four-part setting of 'The Goose and Common'. The score is in G minor and 4/4 time. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (A), Alto (B), Tenor (C), and Bass (D). The lyrics are: 'Un - til they go Un and steal it back.' for parts A, B, and C; and 'But geese will still a com - mon lack,' for part D. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns and phrasing as the previous system.

73

A
Un - til they go and steal it back.

B
Un - til they go Un and steal it back.

C
Un - til they go Un and steal it back.

D
Un - til they go and steal it back.

Musical score for measures 73-76, four-part setting of 'The Goose and Common'. The score is in G minor and 4/4 time. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (A), Alto (B), Tenor (C), and Bass (D). The lyrics are: 'Un - til they go and steal it back.' for part A; 'Un - til they go Un and steal it back.' for parts B and C; and 'Un - til they go and steal it back.' for part D. The music concludes with a final cadence in all parts.