



# Sir Patrick Spens

A BALLAD-DIALOGUE IN TEN REAL PARTS

Robert Lucas Pearsall  
(1795-1856)

**Robert Lucas Pearsall** (1795-1856) was born at Clifton Hill, Bristol, into a wealthy Quaker family. His father was an army officer and amateur musician. He was privately educated and practiced as a barrister in Bristol. In 1825, after suffering a stroke, he took his family to live abroad. He sold the family estate in Willsbridge and, in 1842, bought the Schloss Wartensee, a ruined medieval keep near Rorschach in Switzerland and spent several years restoring it. He remained there until his death. Pearsall was an amateur composer and many of his compositions were not published until after his death. He is best remembered for his part-songs and madrigals but also wrote orchestral works, anthems, services, musical treatises, and edited a Catholic hymnal. He kept in touch with his home city of Bristol and wrote many pieces for the Bristol Madrigal Society. He also composed poetry, some of which he used for his madrigals, such as 'Why Do the Roses' and 'Why should the cuckoo's tuneful note'. The particle "de" often spelled in his name is a feature added after his death by his daughter Philippa.

The King sits in Dunfermline town,  
Drinking the blood-red wine.  
"O! where shall I get a captain bold  
To sail this new ship of mine?"

Then up and spake an eldern knight,  
Sat at the King's right knee:  
"Sir Patrick Spens is the best sailor  
That ever sail'd the sea."

The King has written a broad letter,  
And seal'd it with his hand,  
And sent it to Sir Patrick Spens,  
who was walking on the strand.

"To Noraway, to Noraway  
To Noraway o'er the foam.  
The Princess fair of Noraway,  
'Tis thou must bring her home."

"O! who is it has done this deed,  
And told the King of me?  
To send us out at this time of the year,  
To sail upon the sea!"

They had not sail'd a league, a league,  
A league but barely three,  
When the sky grew dark, and the wind blew loud,  
And gurly grew the sea.

The anchors break, the top masts lap,  
'Twas such a deadly storm.  
And the waves come o'er the broken ship,  
Till all her sides were torn.

The ladies wrang their fingers,  
The maidens tore their hair;  
All for the sake of their true loves,  
For them they'll see no more.

O! forty miles from Aberdeen  
'Tis fifty fathom deep,  
And there lies brave Sir Patrick Spens,  
With his comrades at his feet.

# Sir Patrick Spens

Robert L. Pearsall

**Vivace non troppo** ♩ = 116

S  
The King sits in Dun - ferm - line town, Drink -

A  
The King sits in Dun - ferm - line town, Drink -

CHOIR 1 T1  
8 The King sits in Dun - ferm - line town,

T2  
8 The King sits in Dun - ferm - line town,

B  
The King sits in Dun - ferm - line town,

S  
[Rest]

A  
[Rest]

CHOIR 2 T1  
8 [Rest]

T2  
8 [Rest]

B  
[Rest]

## Sir Patrick Spens

3

S - ing the blood - red wine. "O! where shall I get a

A - ing the blood - red wine. "O! where shall I get a cap - tain bold, where

T1 Drink - ing the blood - red wine. "O! where, where, where

T2 Drink - ing the blood - red wine. "O! where shall I get a cap - tain

B Drink - ing the blood - red wine. "O! where shall I get a

S

A

T1

T2

B

6

S cap - tain bold To sail this new ship of mine?"

A a cap - tain bold To sail this ship of mine?"

T1 shall I get a cap - tain bold To sail this ship of mine?"

T2 bold, a cap - tain bold To sail this ship of mine?"

B cap - tain bold To sail this new ship of mine?"

S

A

T1

T2

B

Then up and spake an

Then up and spake an

Then up and spake an

Then up and spake an

Then up and spake an

# Sir Patrick Spens

5

9

S

A

T1

T2

B

S

A

T1

T2

B

el - dern knight, Sat at the king's right knee: "Sir \_\_\_\_

el - dern knight, Sat at the king's right knee:

el - dern knight, Sat \_\_\_\_\_ at the king's right knee: "Sir \_\_\_\_ Pa - trick \_\_\_\_

el - dern knight, "Sir \_\_\_\_ Pa - trick \_\_\_\_

el - dern knight, Sat at the king's right knee:

12

S

A

T1

T2

B

S

A

T1

T2

B

Pa - trick Spens is the best sail - or That ev - er, that

"Sir Pa - trick is the best That ev - er sail'd the sea, the best \_\_\_\_

Spens is the best, is the best sail - or That ev - er - er

Spens is the best, is the best That ev - er sail'd the sea, that ev - er sail'd \_\_\_\_

"Sir Pa - trick is the best sail - or That ev - er, ev - er

## Sir Patrick Spens

15

S The King has

A The King has

T1 The King has

T2 The King has

B The King has

S ev - er sail'd the sea, that ev - er sail'd the sea!" The King has

A — that ev - er sail'd, that ev - er sail'd the sea!" The King has

T1 sail'd the sea, that ev - er sail'd the sea!" The King has

T2 — the sea, that ev - er sail'd the sea!" The King has

B sail'd the sea, that ev - er, ev - er sail'd the sea!" The King has

18

S writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand, And

A writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand,

T1 writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand,

T2 writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand,

B writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand,

S writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand, And

A writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand, And

T1 writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand,

T2 writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand,

B writ - ten a broad let - ter, And seal'd it with his hand,

# Sir Patrick Spens

7

21

S sent it to Sir Pa - trick Spens, Who was walk - ing on the

A And sent it to Sir Pa - trick, Who was walk - ing, walk - ing on the

T1 Who was walk - ing on the

T2 Who was walk - ing on the

B Who was walk - ing on the

S sent it to Sir Pa - - - trick, Who was walk - ing on the

A sent it to Sir Pa - trick, Who was walk - ing, walk - ing on the

T1 Who was walk - ing on the

T2 Who was walk - ing on the

B Who was walk - ing on the

24

S strand. "To Nor - a - way, to Nor - - - a - way, to

A strand.

T1 strand.

T2 strand.

B strand.

S strand. "To Nor - a - way, to Nor - a - way, to

A strand. "To Nor - a - way, to Nor - a - way, to

T1 strand. "To Nor - a - way, to

T2 strand. "To Nor - a - way, to

B strand. "To Nor - - - a - way, to Nor - a - way, to

## Sir Patrick Spens

27

S Nor - a - way o'er the foam."

A

T1

T2

B

S Nor - a - way o'er the foam, The Prin - cess fair of

A Nor - a - way o'er the foam, The Prin - cess fair of Nor - a - way, 'Tis thou, thou

T1 Nor - a - way o'er the foam, The Prin - cess of

T2 Nor - a - way o'er the foam, The Prin - cess, the Prin - cess fair of

B Nor - a - way o'er the foam, The Prin - cess fair of

30

S "O! who is it has

A "O! who is it has

T1 "O! who is it has

T2 "O! who is it has

B "O! who is it has

S Nor - a - way, 'Tis thou, 'tis thou must bring her home."

A — must bring her home, 'tis thou must bring her home."

T1 Nor - a - way, 'Tis thou, 'tis thou must bring her home."

T2 Nor - a - way, 'Tis thou, 'tis thou must bring her home."

B Nor - a - way, 'Tis thou, 'tis thou must bring her home."



# Sir Patrick Spens

9

33

S done this deed, And told the King of me? To

A done this deed, And told the King of me?

T1 done this deed, And told the King of me? To send us

T2 done this deed, To send us

B done this deed, And told the King of me?

S

A

T1

T2

B

36

S send us out at this time of the year, To

A To send us out, to send us out this time of year, to sail

T1 out, to send us out at this time of the year, to

T2 out at this time of the year, to send us out, to sail up - on the sea!

B To send us out at this time of the year, to send, to

S

A

T1

T2

B

## Sir Patrick Spens

39

S sail up - on the sea, to sail up - on the sea!"

A — this time of year, To sail up - on the sea!"

T1 send us out To sail up - on the sea!"

T2 send us out To sail up - on the sea!"

B send us out this time of year, up - on the sea!"

S They had not sail'd a

A They had not sail'd a

T1 They had not sail'd a

T2 They had not sail'd a

B They had not sail'd a

42

S league, a league, A league but bare - ly three, When the

A league, a league, A league but bare - ly three, When the

T1 league, a league, A league but bare - ly three, When the

T2 league, a league, A league but bare - ly three, When the

B league, a league, A league but bare - ly three, When the

45

S

A

T1

T2

B

*cresc.*

sky grew dark, and the wind blew loud, And gur - ly grew the

*cresc.*

sky grew dark, and the wind blew loud, And gur - ly grew

*cresc.*

sky grew dark, and the wind blew loud, And gur - ly grew the

*cresc.*

sky grew dark, and the wind blew loud, And gur - ly grew the

*cresc.*

sky grew dark, and the wind blew loud, And gur - ly grew the

48

S

A

T1

T2

B

*f*

The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a dead -

*f*

The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a dead - ly,

*f*

The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a dead - ly,

*f*

The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a dead - ly,

*f*

The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a dead - ly,

*f*

sea. The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a

*f*

the sea. The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a

*f*

sea. The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a

*f*

sea. The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a

*f*

sea. The an - chors brake, the top - masts lap, I was such a

## Sir Patrick Spens

51

S - - ly storm.

A dead - ly storm.

T1 dead - ly storm.

T2 dead - ly storm.

B dead - ly storm.

S dead - ly storm. And the

A dead - ly storm. And the waves, the

T1 dead - ly storm. And the waves came o'er, came

T2 dead - ly storm. And the waves came o'er the bro - ken

B dead - ly storm. And the waves came o'er the bro - ken ship, Till

54

S waves came o'er the bro - - - ken ship, Till all her sides were

A waves came o'er the bro - - - ken ship, Till her sides were

T1 o'er the bro - - - ken ship, Till all her sides were

T2 ship, Till all her sides were torn, till all her sides were

B all her sides were torn, the waves came o'er the ship, Till all her sides were

57

S

A

T1

T2

B

The la - dies wrang their fin - - gers, While the

The la - dies wrang their fin - - gers, While the

The la - dies wrang their fin - gers, While the

The la - dies wrang their fin - gers, While the

torn.

torn.

torn.

torn.

torn.

60

S

A

T1

T2

B

All for the sake of their true loves, For

maid - ens tore their hair,

maid - ens tore their hair,

maid - ens tore their hair,

maid - ens tore their hair,

All for the sake of their true loves, For

All for the sake of their true loves, For

All for the sake of their true loves, For

All for the sake of their true loves, For

All for the sake of their true loves, For

## Sir Patrick Spens

63

S them they'll see no more. *f* O! for - ty miles from

A *f* O! for - ty miles from

T1 them they'll see no more. *f* O! for - ty miles from

T2 *f* O! for - ty miles from

B *f* O! for - ty miles from

S them they'll see no more. *f* O! for - ty miles from

A them they'll see no more. *f* O! for - ty miles from

T1 *f* O! for - ty miles from

T2 *f* O! for - ty miles from

B *f* O! for - ty miles from

66

S Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep.

A Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep.

T1 Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep.

T2 Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep.

B Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep.

S Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep. And

A Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep. And

T1 Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep. And

T2 Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep. And

B Ab - er - deen 'Tis fif - ty fath - om deep. And

# Sir Patrick Spens

15

*Risolto* ♩ = 80

69

S With his

A

T1

T2 With his com -

B

S there lies brave Sir Pa - trick Spens, With his com -

A there lies brave Sir Pa - trick, With

T1 there lies brave Sir Pa - trick Spens, With his com - rades

T2 there lies brave Sir Pa - trick Spens, With his com - rades

B there lies brave Sir Pa - trick Spens, With his com -

74

S com - rades at his feet.

A With his com - rades at his feet.

T1 With his com - rades at his feet.

T2 rades, his com - rades at his feet.

B at his feet.

S rades at his feet.

A his com - rades at his feet.

T1 at his feet, with his com - rades at his feet.

T2 at his feet.

B rades at his feet.

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