



Laughing Song

J. H. Tenney
(1840-1918)

Soprano (S) staff: Bet - ter 'tis to laugh than cry, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; No one

Alto (A) staff: Bet - ter 'tis to laugh than cry, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; No one

Tenor (T) staff: (Measure 8) Bet - ter 'tis to laugh than cry, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; No one

Bass (B) staff: Bet - ter 'tis to laugh than cry, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; No one

Laughing Song

Soprano (S) vocal line:

yet dare that de - ny, Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha; So re-mem - ber boys and girls, Be not

Alto (A) vocal line:

yet dare that de - ny, Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha; So re-mem - ber boys and girls, Be not

Tenor (T) vocal line:

yet dare that de - ny, Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha; So re-mem - ber boys and girls, Be not

Bass (B) vocal line:

yet dare that de - ny, Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha; So re-mem - ber boys and girls, Be not

7

S sob - er whin - ing churls, Laugh and shake your sides and curls, Ha ha

A sob - er whin - ing churls, Laugh and shake your sides and curls, Ha ha

T sob - er whin - ing churls, Laugh and shake your sides and curls, Ha ha

B sob - er whin - ing churls, Laugh and shake your sides and curls, Ha ha

Laughing Song

Laughing Song

20

S not dis - put - ing that, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; But we know 'twill ban - ish care, It will

A not dis - put - ing that, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; But we know 'twill ban - ish care, It will

T not dis - put - ing that, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; But we know 'twill ban - ish care, It will

B not dis - put - ing that, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; But we know 'twill ban - ish care, It will

23

S make life seem more fair, Laugh at home and ev - 'ry - where, Ha ha

A make life seem more fair, Laugh at home and ev - 'ry - where, Ha ha

T make life seem more fair, Laugh at home and ev - 'ry - where, Ha ha

B make life seem more fair, Laugh at home and ev - 'ry - where, Ha ha

25

S ha ha ha ha ha, Bet - ter 'tis to laugh than cry, No one

A ha ha ha ha ha, Bet - ter 'tis to laugh than cry, No one

T ha ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha,

B ha ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha,

Laughing Song

S

A

T

B

Na - ture says that we must laugh, Ha ha ha ha ha ha, 'Tis of

Laughing Song

36

S life the bet - ter half, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; Laugh - ing boys are sel - dom bad, Laugh - ing

A life the bet - ter half, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; Laugh - ing boys are sel - dom bad, Laugh - ing

T 8 life the bet - ter half, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; Laugh - ing boys are sel - dom bad, Laugh - ing

B life the bet - ter half, Ha ha ha ha ha ha; Laugh - ing boys are sel - dom bad, Laugh - ing

39

S girls are nev - er sad, Laugh, then, when a chance is had, Ha ha

A girls are nev - er sad, Laugh, then, when a chance is had, Ha ha

T 8 girls are nev - er sad, Laugh, then, when a chance is had, Ha ha

B girls are nev - er sad, Laugh, then, when a chance is had, Ha ha

41

S ha ha ha ha ha, Bet - ter 'tis to laugh than cry, No one

A ha ha ha ha ha, Bet - ter 'tis to laugh than cry, No one

T 8 ha ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha,

B ha ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha, Ha ha ha ha,

Laughing Song

S. Brainard's Sons Co.
(1890)

John Harrison Tenney (1840-1918) was born in Rowley, Massachusetts. His father was a choir director and his mother was the leading soprano in her husband's choir. He was named after President William Henry Harrison, being born just after the presidential campaign of "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too." By age 8, his parents had taught him to sight-read music. He attended singing school and developed a pastime of composing tunes to well-known hymn texts. He studied his father's books and taught himself the principles of harmony. He subscribed to the periodical "The Musical Pioneer" and consumed its contents. He began to submit items to the paper, and many were accepted for publication. He became a deacon and organist in the Congregational Church in Linebrook, Massachusetts. He edited or was associate editor of over 30 books, and contributed to hundreds more. He was a prolific composer of music for Sunday schools, churches, singing schools and choral societies.

Better 'tis to laugh than cry,
Ha ha ha ha ha ha;
No one yet dare that deny,
Ha ha ha ha ha ha;
So remember boys and girls,
Be not sober whining churls,
Laugh and shake your sides and curls,
Ha ha ha ha ha ha.

Laugh, they say, will make folks fat,
Ha ha ha ha ha ha;
We are not disputing that,
Ha ha ha ha ha ha;
But we know 'twill banish care,
It will make life seem more fair,
Laugh at home and everywhere,
Ha ha ha ha ha ha.

Nature says that we must laugh,
Ha ha ha ha ha ha,
'Tis of life the better half,
Ha ha ha ha ha ha;
Laughing boys are seldom bad,
Laughing girls are never sad,
Laugh, then, when a chance is had,
Ha ha ha ha ha ha.

TERMS OF USE

These editions are available as a service to the choral community, offering inexpensive access to public domain literature. Choir resources can purchase other literature still under copyright, especially to support those creating and publishing new compositions and arrangements. These editions have been created using public domain sources under U. S. copyright law. Out of respect to the research, time and effort invested:

- please print and issue an edition in its entirety, retaining notices, attributions, and logos.
- please do not consider this edition a source for creating another edition.

If performed, sending a copy of the concert program would be a valuable affirmation. If recorded, notification and attribution would be appropriate professional courtesies and a copy of the recording would be greatly appreciated!

For a full description of these requests and more scores, visit:
www.shorchor.net

