Music and Lyrics by STAN ROGERS Arranged by RON SMAIL



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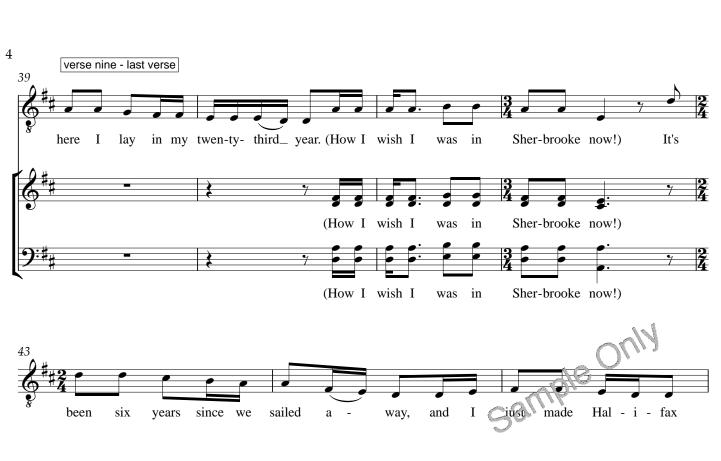
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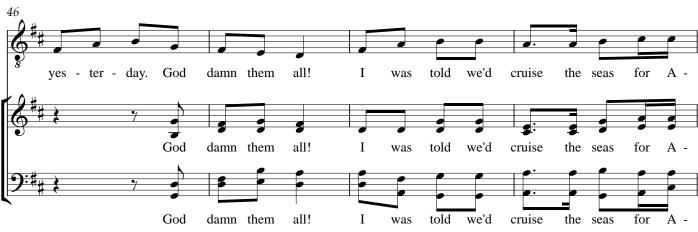


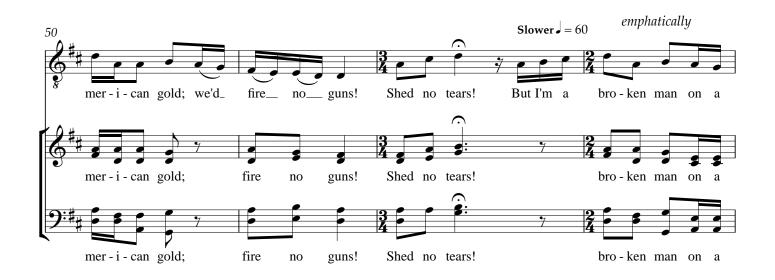


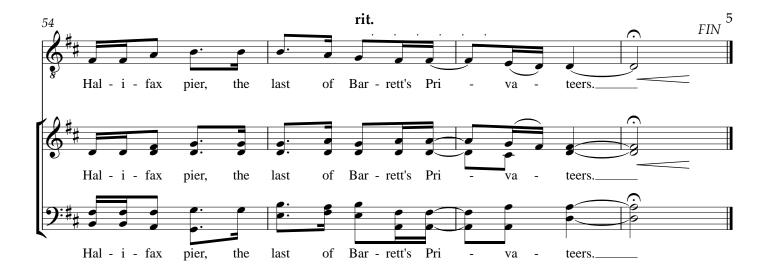












Performance notes:

option: "Gall darn them all"

The choir can sing through eight verses of the song without turning a page.

The verses can be sung by a soloist, solosits taking turns or a small group. Barrett's Privateers is all about the story. The text is crucial, so soloists are encouraged to be very expressive and dramatic.



Stan Rogers 1949 - 1983

Historically, the distinction between a "privateer" and a "pirate" has been vague. A **privateer** is a private person or ship authorized by a government by letters of marque to attack foreign shipping during wartime. Privateering was a way of mobilizing armed ships and sailors without having to spend public money or commit naval officers. They were of great benefit to a smaller naval power or one facing an enemy dependent on trade: they disrupted commerce and pressured the enemy to deploy warships to protect merchant trade against commerce raiders. The cost was borne by investors hoping to profit from prize money earned from captured cargo and vessels. The proceeds would be distributed among the privateer's investors, officers and crew. It has been argued that privateering was a less destructive and wasteful form of warfare, because the goal was to capture ships rather than to sink them.

Barrett's Privateers is a modern folk song in the style of a sea shanty, written and performed in 1976 by Canadian musician, Stan Rogers. The song is full of many authentic details of privateering in the late 18th century. It is regarded as one of the Canadian Navy's unofficial anthems and has gained popularity as a drinking song.

Barrett's Privateers is sung from the point of view of a young fisherman who enlisted on Elcid Barrett's ill-fated *Antelope*. The *Antelope* is described as the "scummiest vessel he'd ever seen", and the song describes the many faults of the decrepit sloop.

After describing the initial voyage to Jamaica seeking American merchantmen and the problems with the Antelope, the unnamed narrator sings about how the finally found one, loaded down with gold. Unfortunately, the Antelope's main-mast is knocked down with one volley from the American vessel and Barrett is killed. The remainder of the song conveys the narrator's disillusionment with privateering and how he's a 'broken man on a Halifax pier, the last of Barrett's privateers". The last two stanzas reveal that he is only 23 three years old and has lost both his legs in the battle six years earlier. It has taken all six years to beg his way home.

solo lyrics





