

Bonny Portmore

Traditional Irish Folk Song
arr. Philip Lapatha & Dorothy Dyck

Adagio ♩ = 86

S1 *mp* Oo

S2 *mp* Oo Oo

A. *p* Oo

T. *p* Oo

B. *p* Oo

7 Solo O

S1 *mp* Oo

S2

A.

T.

B.

12 **A**

Solo 
bon - ny Port - more, you__ shine__ where you stand, And the more I think__ on you the__

S1 
Oo

S2 
Oo

A. 
Oo

T. 
Oo

B. 
Oo

18

Solo 
more__ I think long. I had you now as I__ had__ once be - fore, All the

S1 
Oo

S2 
Oo

A. 
Oo

T. 
Oo

B. 
Oo

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

24 tacet **B**

Solo *mf*

lords in Old Eng-land would not pur-chase Port-more.

S1 *mf*

(Oo) O - - - - - ny Port -

S2

(Oo) - - - - - bon - ny Port -

A. *mf*

(Oo) O - - - - - bon - ny Port -

T. *mf*

(Oo) Oo

B. *mf*

(Oo) Oo



30

S1

more, I am sor - - - - - ry to see Such a woe - ful de - struc - tion of your or - na - ment

S2

more, - - - - - r - ry to see Such a woe - ful de - struc - tion of your or - na - ment

A.

am sor - ry to see - - - - - Such a woe - ful de - struc - tion of your or - na - ment

T.

B.

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY - PLEASE DO NOT COPY

36

S1 tree. For it_ stood on your shore for_ man - y's the long_ day, 'Til_ the long boats from_

S2 tree. For it_ stood on your shore for_ man - y's the long_ day, 'Til_ the long boats from_

A. tree. For it_ stood on your shore for man - y's the long_ day, 'Til_ the long boats from_

T. Ah

B. Ah



42

S1 An - trim came to float it_ way. O_ bon - ny Port - more, you_

S2 An - trim came to float it_ a - way. O_ bon - ny Port - more, you_

A. came to float it a - way. O_ bon - ny Port - more,

T. O_ bon - ny Port - more, you_

B. O bon - - ny

f **C**

melody

(1 to 3 voices on the A)

Shine!

48

S1
shine where you stand, And the more I think on you, the more I think long. If

S2
shine where you stand, And the more I think on you the more I think long. If

A.
Shine where you stand. Oh

T.
shine where you stand, And the more I think on you more I think long. If

B.
Port - - more. Oh



54

S1
I had you now had once be - fore, All the lords of Old

S2
I had you now, All of

A.
I you now as I had once be - fore, All the lords of Old

T.
I had you now as I had once be - fore, All the lords of Old

B.
Oh O bon - -

59

S1 Eng - land would not pur - chase Port - more. Oo

S2 Eng - land would not pur - chase Port - more. Oo

A. Eng-land would not pur - chase Port - more. Oo

T. Eng-land would not pur - chase Port - more. Oo

B. ny Port - - more. Oo

mp *p*

D



66

S1 Oo

S2 Oo Oo

A.

T.

B.

73

S1

S2

A.

T.

B.

Solo

"Bonny Portmore" is an Irish traditional folk song which laments the fall of Ireland's old oak forests, specifically the Great Oak of Portmore or the Portmore Ornament Tree, which fell in a wildfire in 1760 and was subsequently used for ship building and other purposes.

In 1664 an extensive castle was erected at Portmore, near Portlough, County Antrim by Lord Conway, on the site of a more ancient fortress. It contained accommodations for two troops of horse. The old oak is believed to have stood on the estate of Portmore Castle.

The melody of this song was first published in Edward Bunting's Ancient Music of Ireland and was collected from the playing of Ulster harper Daniel Black in 1792. The song is probably as old as the time of the O'Neill's of Ballinderry, who, due to declining fortunes were forced to sell the property to Lord Conway. The first verse appears to make reference to this sale.

O bonny Portmore, you shine with
 And the more I think on you the
 If I had you now as I had or
 All the lords in Old England
 At purchase Portmore.

O bonny Portmore, I
 Such a woeful desire
 For it stood on
 'Til the long bridge
 Antrim came to float it away.



"Bonny Portmore" is part of the "Vancouver Youth Choir Series" which is curated by choral luminary Carrie Tennant. Visit Cypress Choral Music to peruse the collection. Study the scores while listening to fine recordings.