Soon may the Wellerman Come (The Wellerman)

for T.T.B.B. choir (a cappella)

& piano/keyboard reduction for rehearsal only

Traditional New Zealand Sea Shanty arranged: EDWARD-RHYS HARRY







SOON MAY THE WELLERMAN COME (The Wellerman)

Traditional New Zealand Sea Shanty arranged by Edward-Rhys Harry (1973-)





























Background to this song

The Weller Brothers Shipping Company was a business based in Sydney (Australia), which began trading in 1833. They supplied provisions to the whaling stations on New Zealand's shores. These goods would have included the 'sugar, tea and rum' referred to in the song. A 'Wellerman' was an employee of the Weller Shipping Company, and these were among the first Europeans to settle the town of Otago in New Zealand.

According to information supplied on the New Zealand Folk Song website, workers were not paid in money, but in clothing, spirits and tobacco. 'Tonguing' mentioned in the lyrics refers to the practice of cutting up a whale's blubber into strips, thus making it more manageable for rendering into oil.





Dr Edward-Rhys Harry is an award-winning conductor and composer from Penclawdd on The Gower Peninsula.

He has established himself both nationally and internationally as a choral clinician with a passion for vocal music of all genres regardless of whether that is at an amateur or professional level and has conducted at concert halls, opera houses, palaces, churches and cathedrals the world over.

His original compositions and arrangements can be heard on radio stations and streaming services throughout Europe and beyond and can be downloaded or bought from most music retailers.

He has multiple degrees from universities and conservatoires and at the time publication, is currently undertaking a second doctorate in musicology at Miami State University, USA. He was the first Welshman to obtain a degree in Choral Conducting (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama).

He is in demand as a workshop leader and conference speaker across the UK and is devoted to the training and development of emerging choral conductors through his mentorship with several educational organisations, as well as championing new music and conducting education for

choirs of lower voices.

He has been awarded fellowships of the Fraternity of Saint Cecilia, the Royal Society of Musicians, the Royal Society of the Arts, the Guild of Musicians and Singers and the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

In August 2022 Dr Harry was the winner of the coveted *Tlws Y Cerddor* – the musicians' medal at the National Eisteddfod of Wales (Tregaron) for his Welsh language chamber opera, *Yr Islawr* – *The Basement* – a murder mystery set in the basement of a high street department store! Also in August 2022, London Welsh Male Voice Choir were selected as the only choir in a group of seven winners of the Classic FM Queen's Platinum Jubilee Competition, with their recording of Dr Harry's composition *A Blessing for Bendigeidfran* – part of a larger work for male voices entitled *Four Welsh Psalms* with bilingual words by Dr Grahame Davies.

His music is widely published and in 2020 Dr Harry was recognised for his 'Outstanding Contribution to the Music of Wales' by the Welsh Music Guild who awarded him the Glanville Jones Award.

Dr Harry is also an ambassador for the men's mental health charity 'blOKes'.

For more information please contact: www.edwardrhysharry.com

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Published by Lindsay Music, 24 Royston Street, Potton, Bedfordshire, SG19 2LP, England.

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ISBN 978-0-85957-202-6



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