

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Sing a Song of Sixpence is a fun and funky setting of a well known nursery rhyme. The singers should take advantage of the opportunities to play different roles; sometimes the lead actor, sometimes the supporting cast, and sometimes the stand-up comic! The style is sometimes cool, as in the “saxophone ensemble line” (mm. 10–17); sometimes the story teller (mm. 37–40); sometimes the comic relief (mm. 58–74); but *always* cool and funky! When you enjoy your singing, it gives your audience an invitation and permission to enjoy it as well!

—Ken Berg

TEXT

Sing a song of sixpence,
A pocket full of rye,
Four and twenty blackbirds
Baked in a pie.

When the pie was opened
The birds began to sing—
Wasn’t that a dainty dish
To set before the king?

The king was in the counting-house
Counting all his money,
The queen was in the parlor
Eating bread and honey,

The maid was in the garden
Hanging out the clothes.
Along came a blackbird
And pecked off her nose.

Now there was such a commotion
That little Jenny Wren,
She flew back to the garden,
Put the nose back on again!

The moral of this story,
as you may well suppose;
“Be careful how you pick your friends!”
(Please! Don’t say it!)
“And don’t ever let a filthy little bird
Get anywhere near your nose!”

Mother Goose
Adapted by Ken Berg

Because of the inclusion of scat singing, etc., the lyrics in the music differ from the text above.

AVAILABLE EDITIONS

→ Full/Choral Score	1.3553
String Bass Part	1.3553A

Ken Berg (b. 1955)

For biographical information visit:
www.ecspublishing.com/composers

for the Birmingham Boys Choir

Sing a Song of Sixpence

*for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Jazz Trio
(Piano, String Bass, and Drum Set ad lib.)*

Mother Goose

Adapted by Ken Berg

Ken Berg

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Piano

String Bass

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

Straight and funky $\text{♩} = 100$

fp **f**

Oh, sing a song of six - pence,

Sing, sing — a song, oh,

for rehearsal only

mf

Straight and funky $\text{♩} = 100$

mf

Sing a song of six - pence,

sing a song of six - pence,

sing of six- pence,

sing, sing — a song, oh, sing

of six- pence,

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

7

A pock - et full of rye,

sing, sing, sing, A pock - et full of rye,

9

mp >

hoo wha hoo —

hoo wha hoo —

da di ga di ga di ga di dn —

Copying is illegal

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

9

mp >

hoo wha hoo —

hoo wha hoo —

da di ga di ga di dn —

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11

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

hoo wha wa oo
wha wa oo
dt di ga di dn dn da di ga

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14

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

hoo wha hoo
hoo wha hoo
dn dt di ga di dn dn dt di ga di dn

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17

S A

di di dp di dt dt da

di di dp di dt dt da

T B

B *mf*

di di dp Oh, sing a song of six - pence, a

Pno.

Str. Bass

19

S A

di dt da sing a song,

di dt da sing a song,

T B

pock - et full of rye, Four and twen - ty black-birds Baked -

Pno.

Str. Bass

21

S A sing it, sing a song, di dt dt da
sing it, sing a song, di dt dt da

T B — in a pie. When the pie was o - pened The

Pno.

Str. Bass

23

S A di dt da sing a song,
di dt da sing a song,

T B birds be - gan to sing— Was - n't that a dain - ty dish

Pno.

Str. Bass

25 *mf* > >
S A sing a song,
sing a song,
mf > >
T B sing, oh, sing, oh, sing a song, —
sing, oh, sing, oh, sing a song, —
To set be-fore the king, —
yeah, to set be-fore the
Pno.
Str. Bass

28 *mp* > >
S A sing, o sing, o sing a song, —
sing, o sing, o sing a song, —
mp > >
T B You know that the
king? —
You know that the
Pno.
Str. Bass

30 *mf* >

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

king was in his count-ing-house, Count-ing all his mon-ey, The queen—
king was count-ing, Count-ing all his mon-ey,

32

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

— was in the par-lor Eat - ing bread and hon-ey, The
“Queen - ie” in the par-lor Eat - ing the hon - ey, The

34

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

maid was in the gar - den, A - hang - ing out the clothes. A -

maid in the gar - den Hang - ing the clothes.

36

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

long came a lit-tle black - bird And pecked off her nose.

...black - bird And pecked off her nose. Sing, oh, sing a song.

39

S A

that bird pecked off her nose.

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

Sing, a song.

Sing, oh, sing, oh, sing a song.

41

S A

and....

Sing a song of six-pence,

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

Sing,

sing, sing a song, oh,

44

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

*is
play*

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

46

sing a song of six - pence, —

mf

f

A

sing, sing, sing, — sing, — sing, —

A

48

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

pock - et full ____ of rye, da di ga di ga di ga

50 *mf*

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

mf

hoo wha hoo hoo wha wa
hoo wha hoo hoo wha wa
dn dt di ga di dn dn dt di ga di dn dn

53

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

oo oo
hoo hoo
wha hoo
dn da di ga dn
dt di ga di dn
dt di ga di dn

56

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

hoo wha wa di di dp Now there was such a com-mo-tion That
hoo wha wa di di dp
dt di ga di dn di di dp Now there was such a com-mo-tion That

59

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

lit - tle Jen - ny Wren, She flew back to the gar - den, Put the
lit - tle Jen - ny Wren, She flew back to the gar - den, Put the

This musical score page contains four staves. The top two staves are for voices: Soprano (S) and Alto (A) on the treble clef staff, and Tenor (T) and Bass (B) on the bass clef staff. The third staff is for the Piano (Pno.) with both hands shown. The bottom staff is for the String Bass (Str. Bass). The music is in common time with a key signature of one sharp. Measure 59 starts with eighth-note chords from the piano and voices. The vocal parts sing "lit - tle Jen - ny Wren, She flew back to the gar - den, Put the". The piano part continues with eighth-note chords. Measure 60 begins with eighth-note chords from the piano and voices. The vocal parts sing the same line again. The piano part continues with eighth-note chords. Measures 61 and 62 begin with eighth-note chords from the piano and voices. The vocal parts sing "nose back on a- gain! The mor-al of this sto - ry, as you may well sup- pose; ‘Be". The piano part continues with eighth-note chords. The vocal parts sing the same line again. The piano part continues with eighth-note chords. Measures 63 and 64 begin with eighth-note chords from the piano and voices. The vocal parts sing "nose back on a- gain! The mor-al of this sto - ry, as you may well sup- pose; ‘Be". The piano part continues with eighth-note chords. The vocal parts sing the same line again. The piano part continues with eighth-note chords.

61

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

nose back on a- gain! The mor-al of this sto - ry, as you may well sup- pose; “Be
nose back on a- gain! The mor-al of this sto - ry, as you may well sup- pose; “Be

This musical score page contains four staves. The top two staves are for voices: Soprano (S) and Alto (A) on the treble clef staff, and Tenor (T) and Bass (B) on the bass clef staff. The third staff is for the Piano (Pno.) with both hands shown. The bottom staff is for the String Bass (Str. Bass). The music is in common time with a key signature of one sharp. Measure 61 starts with eighth-note chords from the piano and voices. The vocal parts sing "nose back on a- gain! The mor-al of this sto - ry, as you may well sup- pose; ‘Be". The piano part continues with eighth-note chords. Measure 62 begins with eighth-note chords from the piano and voices. The vocal parts sing the same line again. The piano part continues with eighth-note chords. Measures 63 and 64 begin with eighth-note chords from the piano and voices. The vocal parts sing "nose back on a- gain! The mor-al of this sto - ry, as you may well sup- pose; “Be". The piano part continues with eighth-note chords. The vocal parts sing the same line again. The piano part continues with eighth-note chords.

64

S A

care - ful how you pick your friends, *Yeah, be*

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

66

S A

care - ful how you pick your friends, *oh, be*

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

Meno mosso

68

care - ful how you pick your friends!

Meno mosso

care - ful how you pick your friends!

And don't

Meno mosso
Meno mosso, ad lib.

ev - er!

No! Don't you ev - er, ev - er, nev - er!

No, no, no!

Meno mosso, ad lib.
Meno mosso, ad lib.

72 $\text{♩} = 100$

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

Don't let a filth - y lit - tle bird Get an - y-where near your

74 *mp*

S A

T B

Pno.

Str. Bass

Sing, oh sing, oh, sing a song, ___
Sing, oh sing, oh, sing a song, ___

mp

nose!" da di ga di dn ___ dt dt di ga di dn ___

76 *mf*

S A
sing, oh, sing, oh, sing a song.—
sing, oh, sing, oh, sing a song.—

T B
—
dt di ga di dn — dt dt di ga di dn Sing, oh, sing, oh, sing a song,—

Pno.

Str. Bass

79 *ff*

S A
sing, oh, sing a song of six - pence!

T B
sing, oh, sing a song of six - pence!

Pno.

Str. Bass