

**Program Note**

The folk songs which form the basis of these choral settings represent a small cross-section of the rather large body of folk music that has developed across the United States over the past 200 years. The styles of the original songs range from whimsically humorous to poignant and even quite serious. Composed in the spring and summer of 2019, these settings for unaccompanied women's voices were commissioned by Christopher Watson, conductor of the Trinity College Choir, Melbourne, for the ensemble's U.S. concert tour in 2020.

**Duration: 2:15**

**Total Duration: 11:00**

**Text**

*Chorus*

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,  
Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,  
Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

I'll get another one, just like you,  
I'll get another one, just like you,  
I'll get another one, just like you,  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

*(Chorus)*

Can't get a red bird, a blue bird'll do,  
Can't get a red bird, a blue bird'll do,  
Can't get a red bird, a blue bird'll do,  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

Little red wagon, painted blue,  
Little red wagon, painted blue,  
Little red wagon, painted blue,  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

*(Chorus)*

Fly in the sugar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo,  
Fly in the sugar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo,  
Fly in the sugar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo,  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

Gone again, what'll I do?  
Gone again, what'll I do?  
Gone again, what'll I do?  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

Cows in the cornfield, two by two,  
Cows in the cornfield, two by two,  
Cows in the cornfield, two by two,  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

Rats in the bread tray, how they chew,  
Rats in the bread tray, how they chew,  
Rats in the bread tray, how they chew,  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

One old boot and a run down shoe,  
One old boot and a run down shoe,  
One old boot and a run down shoe,  
Skip to my Lou, my darlin'.

*(Chorus)*

Traditional Text

**Four American Folk Songs**

→ Skip to My Lou	8904
All the Pretty Little Horses	8905
Poor Wayfaring Stranger	8906
She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain	8907

**Frank Ferko (b. 1950)**

For biographical information visit: [www.frankferko.com](http://www.frankferko.com)

Catalog No. 8904

*For Christopher Watson and the Choir of Trinity College, Melbourne*

# Skip to My Lou

*for SSAA Chorus unaccompanied*

Traditional Text

Traditional Tune  
Setting by Frank Ferko (ASCAP)

**Moderately brisk** ♩ = 108

Soprano I

Soprano II

Alto I

Alto II

Keyboard  
(for  
rehearsal  
only)

*with a little swing*  
*mp*

loo oo \_ loo oo \_ loo oo \_ loo oo \_

**Moderately brisk** ♩ = 108

*with a little swing*

3 *mf*

Lou, Lou, skip to \*my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

*mf*

Lou, Lou, skip to \*my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

loo oo \_\_\_\_\_

*mp*

loo oo \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

5

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

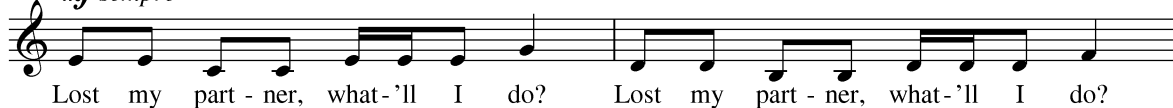
Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

loo oo \_\_\_\_\_ loo oo \_\_\_\_\_ loo

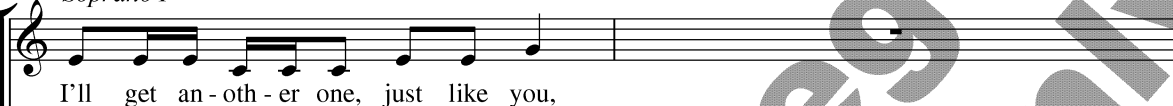
loo oo \_\_\_\_\_ loo

\* Always pronounce the word "my" as "mah."

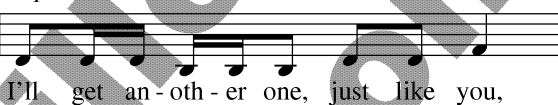
7 *Unison Chorus*  
*mf sempre*



11 *Soprano I*



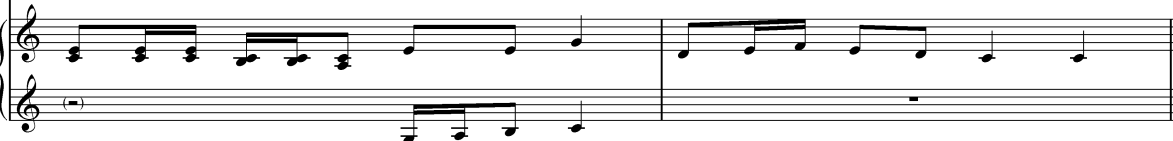
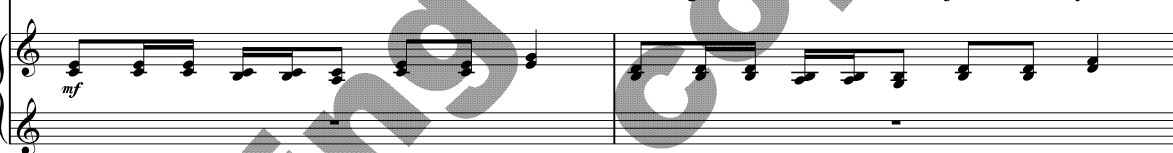
*Soprano II*



*Alto I*



*Alto II*



15

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

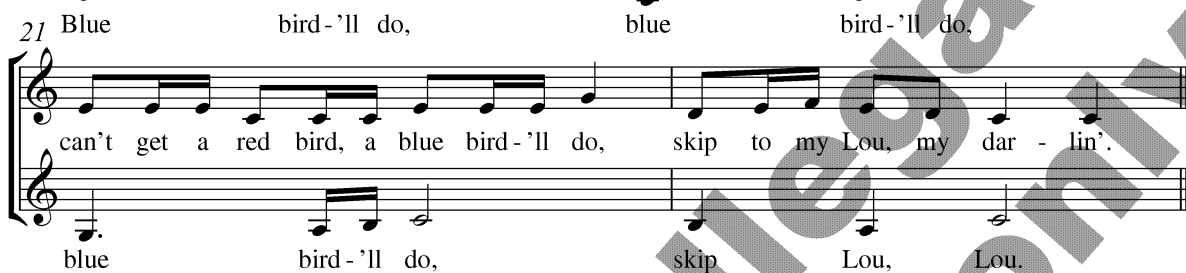
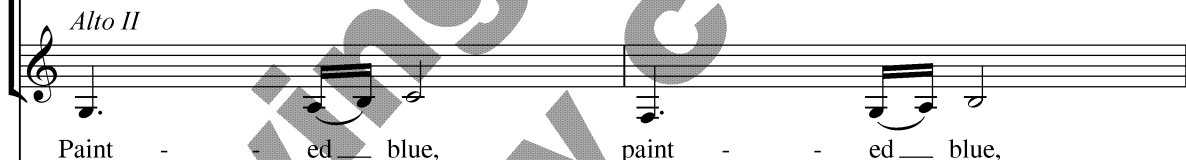
17

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

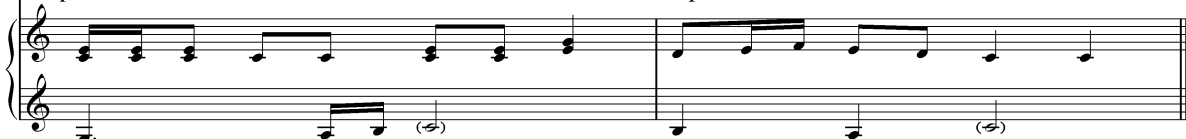
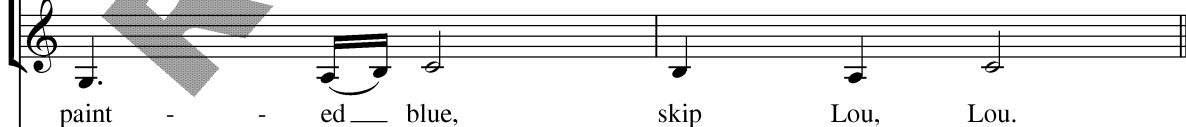
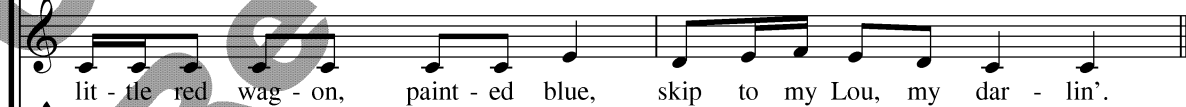
Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

19 *Soprano II**Alto II*21 *Blue*23 *Soprano II**Alto I**Alto II*

## 25



27 *Soprano I*

Lou, \_\_\_\_\_ Lou, \_\_\_\_\_ Lou, \_\_\_\_\_

*Soprano II & Alto I unis.*

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

29

Lou, \_\_\_\_\_ Lou, \_\_\_\_\_

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

31 *Soprano I*

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

*Soprano II*

Fly in the sug-ar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo, fly in the sug-ar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo,

33 *Soprano I*

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

*Soprano II*

fly in the sug-ar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

*Alto I*

fly in the sug-ar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo, fly in the sug-ar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo,

*Alto II*

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

The musical score is written for four vocal parts. Soprano I has a melodic line with long notes and some rests. Soprano II and Alto I sing in unison with a more rhythmic melody. Alto I and Alto II have their own parts, often in unison. The lyrics are a playful song about 'Lou' and 'sug-ar bowl'. The score is marked with measure numbers 27, 29, 31, and 33. A large, semi-transparent 'Reviewing Copy' watermark is overlaid on the right side of the page.

35

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

fly in the sug - ar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

fly in the sug - ar bowl, shoo, fly, shoo, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

37 *Soprano I*

Lou, Lou, Lou,

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

Gone a - gain, what - 'll I do? Gone a - gain, what - 'll I do?



39

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.  
Gone a - gain, what - 'll I do? skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

41 *Alto II*  
(the tune inverted)

Cows in the corn - field, two by two, cows in the corn - field, two by two,

43

cows in the corn - field, two by two, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

45 *Soprano II*

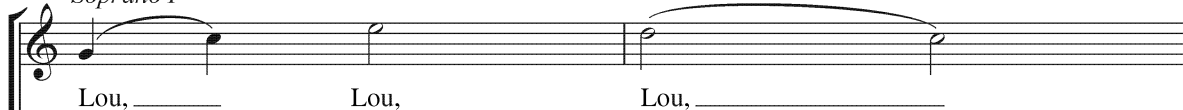
Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

*Alto II*

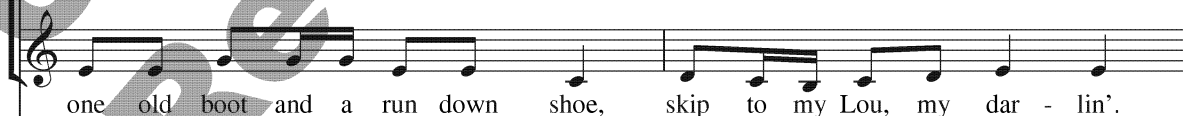
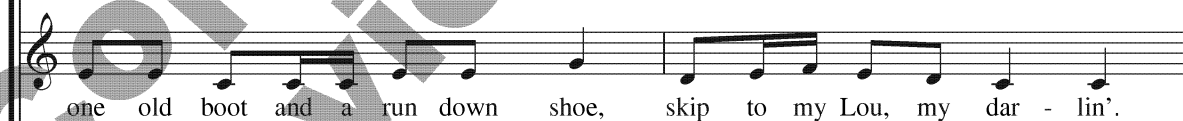
Rats in the bread tray, how they chew, rats in the bread tray, how they chew,

47

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.  
rats in the bread tray, how they chew, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

49 *Soprano I**Soprano II**Alto I**Alto II*

## 51



53 *Soprano II*

Skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou,

*Alto I*

Skip, skip skip, skip, skip, skip,

55 *Soprano I*

Skip,

*Soprano II*

skip,

*Alto I*

skip,

*Alto II*

Skip,

58 *f*

skip, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

*f*

skip, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

*f*

skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.

*f*

skip, skip to my Lou, my dar - lin'.