

HEART OF OAK

DAVID GARRICK (?)

DR. WILLIAM BOYCE

1. Come,

f

This system contains the first musical notation. It features a vocal line on a single treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment starts with a forte dynamic marking (*f*) and consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and a treble line with chords and eighth notes.

cheer up, my lads, 'tis to glo - ry we steer, To

This system continues the musical notation. The vocal line has the lyrics "cheer up, my lads, 'tis to glo - ry we steer, To". The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns and chordal structures.

add some-thing new to this won - der - ful year; To . . hon - our we call you, not

This system continues the musical notation. The vocal line has the lyrics "add some-thing new to this won - der - ful year; To . . hon - our we call you, not". The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns and chordal structures.

CHORUS

press you like slaves, For who are so free as the sons of the waves? Heart of

This system contains the chorus of the piece. The vocal line has the lyrics "press you like slaves, For who are so free as the sons of the waves? Heart of". The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns and chordal structures.

HEART OF OAK

oak are our ships, heart of oak are our men, We al - ways are read - y,

rit. molto *a tempo*
Stead - y, boys, stead - y! We'll fight and we'll con - quer a - gain and a - gain!

rit. molto *a tempo*

2.

We ne'er see our foes but we wish them to stay,
They never see us but they wish us away,
If they run, why, we follow, and run them ashore,
For if they won't fight us, we cannot do more.
Heart of oak, &c.

3.

They swear they'll invade us, these terrible foes,
They frighten our women, our children, our beaux;
But should their flat bottoms in darkness get o'er,
Still Britons they'll find to receive them on shore.
Heart of oak, &c.

4.

We'll still make 'em run, and we'll still make 'em sweat,
In spite of the devil and Brussels Gazette;
Then cheer up, my lads, with one heart let us sing,
Our soldiers, our sailors, our statesmen, and King.
Heart of oak, &c.

This song was first sung in 1759 in a Christmas pantomime entitled "Harlequin's Invasion." There had been the threat of an invasion of England by the French, but the danger had just been averted by the victories of the British fleet. The pantomime was produced in London to ridicule the continued fear of this invasion which some people still had. The year 1759 might well be called "this wonderful year," for it was marked by three notable victories crowded into four months. On August 1st the British troops, fighting with their allies in the Seven Years' War, had secured a decisive victory over the French in the battle of Minden. General Wolfe's capture of Quebec took place on September 13th, and on November 20th the British fleet under Admiral Hawke was victorious over the French men-o'-war at Quiberon Bay. The French troops had been waiting on their side of the Channel, and had prepared numbers of flat-bottomed boats to transport them across, but with the British ships in command of the Channel of course a crossing was impossible. The stirring music of the song was composed by Dr. William Boyce. It is generally considered that the words were written by David Garrick, the famous actor. Be sure the words are sung as written, and not "hearts of oak," which destroys their meaning.

The song has later been adopted as the anthem of the Royal Canadian Navy and subsequently as that of the Canadian Sea Scouts.