

The Highwayman
TTBB choir, a cappella

Timothy C. Takach

\$1.00

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The Highwayman

for a cappella TTBB choir

Commissioned by and written for the Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus, Dr. William Skoog, director



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The Highwayman is an ill-fated love story, much like Romeo and Juliet. The Highwayman is a robber, but he has fallen in love with an innkeeper's daughter, Bess, and she has fallen in love with him. They have planned their meeting for midnight, and our hero knows that agents of the law are pursuing him. The task for the singers here is to convey a sense of drama and suspense to the audience. This should be done through a clear sense of character and commitment to the text. The music for each stanza follows the character's motivations and emotions. For example, in measures 163-183, Bess is trying to get her hands on the gun's trigger, but instead of having this section be minor and dismal, it is excited and major. Bess is hoping to get her finger on the trigger – she is willing and wants to sacrifice her life to save her lover. In measures 123-152, we see the King's men have entered the innkeeper's house, eaten his food, and have confined Bess to her bed. This section is foreboding for our two lovers and determines the outcome of the story. The story must be told with conviction and enthusiasm in order to draw in the listener and generate clear images for the audience. Be a singer, be an actor, and be a storyteller.

Timothy C. Takach, 02.04

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The Highwayman

TTBB a cappella

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Alfred Noyes

Timothy C. Takach (2004)

Musical score for Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, and Bass, measures 1-5. The score is in 8/8 time with a key signature of three flats. The tempo is marked as $\bullet = 82$ and the dynamics are *p*. The lyrics are: "The wind was a tor-rent of dark-ness a - mong the gus - ty trees, The".

Musical score for Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, and Bass, measures 6-10. The score is in 8/8 time with a key signature of three flats. The dynamics are *mp*. The lyrics are: "moon was a ghost - ly gall-eon tossed up - on cloud - y seas, The road was a rib - bon of".

Duration: 8' 10"

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11 *mf*

T 1 moon - light ov - er the pur - ple moor, And the high-way - man came rid - ing, —

T 2 moon - light ov - er the pur - ple moor, And the high-way - man came rid - ing, —

Bar. moon - light ov - er the pur - ple moor, And the high-way - man came rid - ing, —

B moon - light ov - er the pur - ple moor, And the high-way - man came rid - ing, —

16 *mp*

T 1 Rid - ing, — rid - ing, The High-way-man came rid - ing, — up to the old inn

T 2 Rid - ing, — rid - ing, The High-way-man came rid - ing, — up to the old inn

Bar. Rid - ing, — rid - ing, The High-way-man came rid - ing, — up to the old inn

B Rid - ing, — rid - ing, The High-way-man came rid - ing, — up to the old inn

21 *mf*

T 1 door. He'd a French cocked-hat on his fore - head, — a bunch of lace at his

T 2 door. He'd a French cocked-hat on his fore - head, — a bunch of lace at his

Bar. door. He'd a French cocked-hat on his fore - head, — a bunch of lace at his

B door. He'd a French cocked-hat on his fore - head, — a bunch of lace at his

25

T 1
8 chin, A coat of clar - et vel - vet, and breech-es of brown doe - skin; They

T 2
8 chin, A coat of clar - et vel - vet, and breech-es of brown doe - skin; They

Bar.
8 chin, A coat of clar - et vel - vet, and breech-es of brown doe - skin;

B
8 chin, A coat of clar - et vel - vet, and breech-es of brown doe - skin;

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30

T 1
8 fit - ted with nev - er a wrin - kle: his boots were up to the thigh! And he rode with a jew - elled

T 2
8 fit - ted with nev - er a wrin - kle: his boots were up to the thigh! And he rode with a jew - elled

Bar.
8 fit - ted with nev - er a wrin - kle: his boots were up to the thigh! And he rode with a jew - elled

B
8 fit - ted with nev - er a wrin - kle: his boots were up to the thigh! And he rode with a jew - elled

mp

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35

T 1
8 twin - kle, his pis - tol butts a - twin - kle

T 2
8 twin - kle, his pis - tol butts a - twin - kle

Bar.
8 twin - kle, his pis - tol butts a - twin - kle his rap - ier hilt a - twin - kle,

B
8 twin - kle, his pis - tol butts a - twin - kle his rap - ier hilt a - twin - kle,

p

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40

T 1

T 2

Bar.

B

pp *p*

Ov - er the cob-bles he clatt - ered and clashed in the dark inn -

un - der the jew - elled sky. Ov - er the cob-bles he clatt - ered and clashed in the dark inn -

un - der the jew - elled sky.

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45

T 1

T 2

Bar.

B

yard, And he tapped with his whip on the shut-ters, but all was locked and barred; Hew his - tled a tune to the

yard, And he tapped with his whip on the shut-ters, but all was locked and barred; Hew his - tled a tune to the

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51

T 1

T 2

Bar.

B

mp

win - dow, and who should be wait - ing there but the land - lord's black - eyed daugh - ter, _____

win - dow, and who should be wait - ing there but the land - lord's black - eyed daugh - ter, _____

but the land - lord's black - eyed daugh - ter, _____

56

T 1

T 2

Bar.

B

p *crescendo*

Bess, the land-lord's daugh - ter, — Plait - ing a dark red love - knot — in - to her long black

Bess, the land-lord's daugh - ter, — Plait - ing a dark red love - knot — in - to her long black

Bess, the land-lord's daugh - ter, — Plait - ing a dark red love - knot — in - to her long black

61

T 1

T 2

Bar.

B

f *mf*

"One kiss, my bon - ny sweet - heart, — I'm aft - er a prize to - night, But

hair. "One kiss, my bon - ny sweet heart, I'm aft - er a prize to - night, But

hair. "One kiss, my bon - ny sweet - heart, — I'm aft - er a prize to - night, But

hair. "One kiss, my bon - ny sweet - heart, — I'm aft - er a prize to - night, But

66

T 1

T 2

Bar.

B

p *f* *p*

I shall be back with the yel - low gold — be - fore morn - ing light; Yet, if they press me sharp - ly, — and

I shall be back — be - fore morn - ing light; Yet, if they press me sharp - ly, — and

I shall be back with the yel - low gold — be - fore morn - ing light; Yet, if they press me

I shall be back — be - fore morn - ing light; Yet, if they press me

72 *mf* *f*

T 1 har - ry me through the day, Then look for me by moon - light, Watch for me by

T 2 har - ry me through the day, Then look for me by moon - light, Watch for me by

Bar. through the day, Then look for me by moon - light, Watch for me by

B through the day, Then look for me by moon - light, Watch for me by

77 *mf* *f* $\text{♩} = 82$

T 1 moon - light, I'll come to thee by moon - light, though Hell should bar the way."

T 2 moon - light, I'll come to thee by moon - light, though Hell should bar the way." He

Bar. moon - light, I'll come to thee by moon - light, though Hell should bar the way." He

B moon - light, I'll come to thee by moon - light, though Hell should bar the way."

82

T 1

T 2 rose up - right in the stirr-ups; he scarce could reach her hand, But she loosened her hair in the case-ment! His

Bar. rose up - right in the stirr-ups; he scarce could reach her hand, But she loosened her hair in the case-ment! His

B

88

T 1 As the black cas - cade of per - fume came tumbl - ing ov - er his

T 2 face burnt like a brand As the black cas - cade of per - fume came tumbl - ing ov - er his

Bar. face burnt like a brand As the black cas - cade of per - fume came tumbl - ing ov - er his

B came tumbl - ing ov - er his

f

93

T 1 breast; And he kissed its waves in the moon - light, Then he

T 2 breast; And he kissed its waves in the moon - light, (Oh, sweet black waves in the moon - light) Then he

Bar. breast; And he kissed its waves in the moon - light, Then he

B breast; And he kissed its waves in the moon - light, Then he

mp *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

98

T 1 tugged at his rein in the moon - light, and gall - oped a - way to the West. He

T 2 tugged at his rein in the moon - light, and gall - oped a - way to the West. He

Bar. tugged at his rein in the moon - light, and gall - oped a - way to the West. He

B tugged at his rein in the moon - light, and gall - oped a - way to the West. He

mf *mp* *mp* *mp*

$\text{♩} = 60$

103 *legato*

T 1 did not come in the dawn - ing; he did not come at noon; And out of the tawn - y sun - set be -

T 2 *legato* *mf* did not come at dawn or noon; And out of the tawn - y sun - set be -

Bar. *legato* did not come at dawn or noon; And out of the sun - set be -

B *legato* did not come at dawn or noon; And out of the sun - set be -

109 *mp* *f*

T 1 fore the rise of the moon, When the road was a gyp - sy's rib - bon, loop - ing the pur - ple moor, A

T 2 *mp* *f* fore the moon, A

Bar. *mf* *f* fore the moon, When the road was a gyp - sy's rib - bon, loop - ing the pur - ple moor, A

B *mp* *f* fore the moon, When the road was a gyp - sy's rib - bon, loop - ing the pur - ple moor, A

115

T 1 red coat troop came march - ing March - ing, march - ing, King Geor - ge's men came

T 2 red coat troop came march - ing March - ing, march - ing, King Geor - ge's men came

Bar. red coat troop came march - ing March - ing, march - ing, King Geor - ge's men came

B red coat troop came march - ing March - ing, march - ing, King Geor - ge's men came

120 *p*

T 1
march-ing, up to the old inn - door. Mm...

T 2
march-ing, up to the old inn - door. They *mp* said no word to the landlord, they drank his ale in -

Bar.
march-ing, up to the old inn - door. They *mp* said no word to the landlord, they drank his ale in -

B
march-ing, up to the old inn - door. *p* Mm...

126

T 1

T 2
stead, But they gagged his daugh-ter and bound her to the foot of her nar - row

Bar.
stead, But they gagged his daugh-ter and bound her to the foot of her nar - row

B

130

T 1

T 2
pp with hushed intensity
bed; Two of them knelt at her case-ment with mus - kets at their side! There was

Bar.
pp with hushed intensity
bed; Two of them knelt at her case-ment, with mus - kets at their side! There was

B

135

T 1

T 2

Bar.

B

mp

death at eve-ry win - dow; And Hell at one dark win - dow; For Bess could see, through her

death at eve-ry win - dow; And Hell at one dark win - dow; For Bess could see, through her

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140

T 1

T 2

Bar.

B

p

mp

case-ment, the road that he would ride.

case-ment, the road that he would ride. They had tied her up to at - ten - tion, with ma - ny a snig - ger - ing

They had tied her up to at - ten - tion, with ma - ny a snig - ger - ing

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146

T 1

T 2

Bar.

B

mp

jest; They had bound a mus - ket be - side her, with the bar - rel be - neath her

jest; They had bound a mus - ket be - side her, with the bar - rel be - neath her

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150

mf *p* *p*

T 1 "Now keep good watch!" and they kissed her. She heard the dead man say: "Look

T 2 "Now keep good watch!" and they kissed her. She heard the dead man say: "Look

Bar. breast! "Now keep good watch!" and they kissed her. She heard the dead man say:

B breast! "Look

155

T 1 for me by moon-light; Watch for me by moon - light; I'll come to thee by

T 2 for me by moon-light; Watch for me by moon - light; I'll come to thee by

Bar. "Look for me by moon - light; Watch for me by moon - light; I'll come to thee by

B for me by moon-light; Watch for me by moon - light; I'll come to thee by

160

resolute f *resolute f* *resolute mf* *resolute mf*

T 1 moon-light, though Hell should bar the way! She twist-ed her hands be -

T 2 moon-light, though Hell should bar the way! She twist-ed her hands be -

Bar. moon-light, though Hell should bar the way! She twist - - -

B moon-light, though Hell should bar the way! She twist - - -

165

T 1
8 hind her; but all the knots held good! She writhed her hands till her fin - gers were

T 2
8 hind her; but all the knots held good! She writhed her hands till her fin - gers were

Bar.
ed her hands She stretched

B
ed her hands She stretched

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170

T 1
8 wet with sweat or blood! They stretched and strained in the dark - ness, and the hours crawled by like

T 2
8 wet with sweat or blood! They stretched and strained in the dark - ness, and the hours crawled by like

Bar.
till the hours crawled by

B
till the hours crawled by

mf

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175

T 1
8 years, Till, now, on mid - night, Cold, on mid - night,

T 2
8 years, Till, now, on the stroke of mid - night, Cold, on the stroke of mid - night, The

Bar.
Till, now, on the stroke of mid - night, Cold, on the stroke of mid - night, The

B
Till, now, on mid - night, Cold, on mid - night,

mp

f

f

mp

180

T 1
fin - ger touched it! The trig - ger was hers!

T 2
tip of one fin - ger touched it! The trig-ger at least was hers!

Bar.
tip of one fin - ger touched it! The trig-ger at least was hers! Tot - - - tot Tot-tot Tot-

B
fin - ger touched it! The trig - ger was hers! Tot - - - tot Tot-tot Tot-

pp

pp

185

T 1
pp Had they heard it? This horse - hoofs ring - ing clear; *p* In the dis-tance?

T 2
pp Had they heard it? This horse - hoofs ring - ing clear; *p* In the dis-tance?

Bar.
tot *p* Tot - tot Tot - tot Tot - tot

B
tot *p* Tot - tot Tot - tot Tot - tot

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190

T 1
Were they deaf that they did not hear? Down the rib-bon of moon - light, *mp* ov-er the brow of the

T 2
Were they deaf that they did not hear? Down the rib-bon of moon light, *mp* ov-er the brow of the

Bar.
mp Tot - tot Tot-tot Tot - tot Tot - tot Tot - tot Tot-tot Tot-

B
mp Tot - tot Tot-tot Tot - tot Tot - tot Tot - tot Tot-tot Tot-

195

T 1
 hill, The high-way - man came rid - ing, The *pp*

T 2
 hill, The high-way - man came rid - ing, Rid - ing, rid - ing! She

Bar.
 tot The high-way - man came rid - ing,

B
 tot The high-way - man came rid - ing, Rid - ing, rid - ing! The

mp

200

T 1
 red - coats looked to their prim - ing! She stood up, straight and still! In the

T 2
 stood up, still! In the *p*

Bar.
 Tot - tot *p*

B
 red - coats looked to their prim - ing! She stood up, straight and still! Tot - tot *p*

205

T 1
 frost - y si - lence! In the ech - o - ing night! Near - er he came and near - er! Her

T 2
 frost - y si - lence! In the ech - o - ing night! Near - er he came and near - er! Her

Bar.
 Tot - tot Tot - tot Her

B
 Tot - tot Tot - tot Her

210

T 1 *mp*
face was like a light! Her eyes grew wide for a mo - ment; she drew one last deep

T 2 *mp*
face was like a light! Her eyes grew wide for a mo - ment; she drew one last deep

Bar. *mp*
face was like a light! Her eyes grew wide for a mo - ment; she drew one last deep

B *mp*
face was like a light! Her eyes grew wide for a mo - ment; she drew one last deep

215

T 1 *p* *f*
breath, Then her fin - ger moved in the moon - light, Her mus - ket shat - tered the

T 2 *p* *f*
breath, Then her fin - ger moved in the moon - light, Her mus - ket shat - tered the

Bar. *p* *f*
breath, Then her fin - ger moved in the moon - light, Her mus - ket shat - tered the

B *p* *f*
breath, Then her fin - ger moved in the moon - light, Her mus - ket shat - tered the

220

T 1 *ff* *ritard*
moon - light, Shat - tered her breast in the moon - light and warned him - with her death. He

T 2 *ff* *ritard*
moon - light, Shat - tered her breast in the moon - light and warned him - with her death. He

Bar. *ff* *ritard*
moon - light, Shat - tered her breast in the moon - light and warned him - with her death. He

B *ff* *ritard*
moon - light, Shat - tered her breast in the moon - light and warned him - with her death. He

225

T 1 turned; he spurred to the West; he did not know who stood Bowed, with her head o'er the

T 2 turned; he spurred to the West; he did not know who stood Bowed, with her head o'er the

Bar. turned; he spurred to the West; he did not know who stood Bowed, with her head o'er the

B turned; he spurred to the West; he did not know who stood Bowed, with her head o'er the

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230

T 1 mus - ket, drenched with her own red blood! Not till the dawn he heard it, his

T 2 mus - ket, drenched with her own red blood! Not till the dawn he heard it, his

Bar. mus - ket, drenched with her own red blood! Not till the dawn he heard it, his

B mus - ket, drenched with her own red blood! Not till the dawn he heard it, his

mf

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235

T 1 face grew gray to hear How Bess, the land - lord's daugh - ter, The land - lord's black - eyed

T 2 face grew gray to hear How Bess, the land - lord's daugh - ter, The land - lord's black - eyed

Bar. face grew gray to hear How Bess, the land - lord's daugh - ter, The land - lord's black - eyed

B face grew gray to hear How Bess, the land - lord's daugh - ter, The land - lord's black - eyed

♩ = 70 *sadly* *p* *legato*

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240 *mp*

T 1
daugh-ter, Had watched her love in the moon-light, and died in the dark - ness there.

T 2
daugh-ter, Had watched her love in the moon-light, and died in the dark - ness there.

Bar.
daugh-ter, Had watched her love in the moon-light, and died in the dark - ness there.

B
daugh-ter, Had watched her love in the moon-light, and died in the dark - ness there.

245 *f* $\text{♩} = 82$

T 1
Back, he spurred like a mad - man, — shriek-ing a curse to the sky, with the white road smoking be -

T 2
Back, he spurred like a mad - man, — shriek-ing a curse to the sky, with the white road smoking be -

Bar.
Back, he spurred like a mad - man, — shriek-ing a curse to the sky, with the white road smoking be -

B
Back, he spurred like a mad - man, — shriek-ing a curse to the sky, with the white road smoking be -

250 *mf*

T 1
hind him, — and his rap - ier brand - ished high! Blood - red were his spurs in the

T 2
hind him, — and his rap - ier brand - ished high! Blood - red were his spurs in the

Bar.
hind him, — and his rap - ier brand - ished high! Blood - red were his spurs in the

B
hind him, — and his rap - ier brand - ished high! Blood - red were his spurs in the

254 $\bullet = 60$ *f*

T 1 gold - ennoon; wine - red was his vel - vet coat. When they shot him down on the

T 2 gold - ennoon; wine - red was his vel - vet coat. When they shot him down on the

Bar. gold - ennoon; wine - red was his vel - vet coat. When they shot him down on the

B gold - ennoon; wine - red was his vel - vet coat. When they shot him down on the

259 *mf* *slower*

T 1 high - way, — Down — like a dog on the high - way, And he lay his blood on the

T 2 high - way, — Down — like a dog on the high - way, And he lay his blood on the

Bar. high - way, — Down — like a dog on the high - way, And he lay his blood on the

B high - way, — Down — like a dog on the high - way, And he lay his blood on the

263 *ritard*

T 1 high - way, — with a bunch of lace at his throat.

T 2 high way, — with a bunch of lace at his throat.

Bar. high - way, — with a bunch of lace at his throat.

B high - way, — with a bunch of lace at his throat.

Timothy C. Takach



Timothy C. Takach has received a number of commissions from various choral organizations including the St. Olaf Choir, Cantus, the Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus, The Singers: Minnesota Choral Artists, the Appleton North High School Varsity Men's Chorus, and the Western Michigan University Chorale. His compositions have been heard on NPR and have been recorded by various groups in North America. Takach graduated with honors from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN in 2000 with a BA in Music Theory/Composition and a BA in Studio Art. While there he studied composition under Dr. Peter Hamlin and Dr. Timothy Mahr. He now lives in Minneapolis and sings with the professional male vocal ensemble, Cantus. As a singer with Cantus, Takach gives over 80 concerts a year and has had his works performed in concert halls across the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Other vocal works by Timothy C. Takach:

Titania's Lullaby (2006)		SATB a cappella
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (2005) Huron Carol	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB a cappella
The Darkling Thrush (2004)	(earthsongs)	SAT soli, SATB a cappella
A Sign of Day to Come (2003)	(Graphite Publishing)	SATB a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (2002) Irish Ballad	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	SATB a cappella
Infervesco (2003)		SSAA a cappella
Serenade (2002)	(Graphite Publishing)	SSAA a cappella
Flight (2003)		Boomwhackers, optional SSAA, TTBB, or SATB choir
O Captain! My Captain! (2006)		TTBB a cappella
The Highwayman (2004)		TTBB a cappella
I Better Go Now (2003) Howlin' Wolf		TTBB a cappella
What I Have Done (2003) Amazing Grace/House of the Rising Sun		TTTBBB a cappella
We Three Kings (2002) John H. Hopkins		TTBB a cappella
Things I Didn't Know I Loved (2001)		TTBB a cappella
What Child is This (2000) Traditional	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	TTBB a cappella
She Moved Through the Fair (1998) Irish Ballad	(Neil A. Kjos Music Co.)	TBB a cappella
Veni Creator Spiritus (1998)	(Graphite Publishing)	TTBB a cappella