THE MERRY WEDDING

★ Bridal Dance ★
for
solo voices, chorus and orchestra
by
PERCY GRAINGER

Vocal & Piano Score

Oliver Ditson Company
Boston
THE MERRY WEDDING
(BRǴNSVEINS VÍSA)

BRIDAL DANCE

FOR

9 SOLO VOICES

Mixed Chorus

AND ORCHESTRA

(Organ, ad lib.)

by

Percy Aldridge Grainger

On verses chosen and adapted from various Faroe Island
(Scandinavian) folk-poems printed in
V. U. Hammershaimb’s “Færoër Anthologi” (Copenhagen, 1886)

by

Percy Aldridge Grainger

Done into English

by

Rose Grainger and Percy Aldridge Grainger

.60

BOSTON: OLIVER DITSON COMPANY

NEW YORK: CHAS. H. DITSON & CO. CHICAGO: LYON & HEALY
For solo voices, chorus, piano, and strings

N. B. "The Merry Wedding" can also be performed by
mixed chorus (stanzas from this score)
and strings.

For solo voices, chorus, and piano

N. B. "The Merry Wedding" can also be performed by
solo voices (stanzas from this score)
and piano.

For 9 solo voices and accompaniment (without chorus)

N. B. The whole of the vocal part of the "The Merry Wedding" can be performed in small halls by
solo voices (12 stanzas, 2 verses, 2 solos, 1 chorus, 2 solos, stanzas
from this score). If they sing not only the Solo passages, but also
those marked "Full Chorus" and "Half-Chorus." In this case,
the accompaniment should be piano only, or piano and a few
strings, as indicated above.

Full score and each vocal part may be
reproduced by the Publishers.
THE MERRY WEDDING
(BRÚNSVEINS VÍSA)

I was inspired to write this bridal dance music (which is not based on folk-tunes) by the following lovely refrain text from a Faeroe Island (Scandinavian) folk-poem entitled Brúnsveins Vísa (The Song of Brown-swain) on page 250 of V. U. Hammershaimb's Farösk Anthologi (Copenhagen, 1886):

Allfagurt ljosar min tunga,
lystir meg í dans gá með þunga,
þrinn er mitt silkiður,
mjöllhvit eri eg sjàk,
allfagurt ljosar min tunga.

Hark to my voice in a sweet song,
fain to tread the dance with the fleet thong;
brown is my silky hair,
snow-white is my skin so fair;
hark to my voice in a sweet song.

These lines seemed to me to breathe a spirit closely akin to the gentle glowing joyousness of Denmark, which I was longing to thankfully give voice to at that time (1912).

But though the words of the refrains of Faeroe Island dance ballads curiously often reflect a suave blossoming summery mood, I searched in vain for any whole ballad in which this blithe note was sounded throughout.

The plots of Faeroe Island ballads are epic—active, dramatic, tragic; the ringing rhythmic verses soon overflow with blood, violence and disaster, and these elements would have been out of place in my bridal music. But a good few gentle, affectionate and luck-laden verses are to be found strewn around in the thick sheaf of poems that make up Hammershaimb's wonderful Anthology, and some of these I patched loosely together and adapted to the needs of The Merry Wedding with the results that follow.

September, 1915,
New York City.
BRÚNSVEINS VÍSA

N. B.—The page numbers refer to Hammerhálm's Forrél, forthcoming, before mentioned.

*1st refrain

Nu eru tíðindi konun i y,  
at danaa. (ere, mbi junga.)  
(page 45, 250)

um Brúnsvein hin ungja og Mjöllkvíst mou.  
(allegret fjöhar min tunga,  
hvitr meg i dán gá mbi junga,  
(brúnt er mbi tilskúr,  
mjöllkvíst so eri og ydlë,  
allegret fjöhar min tunga.

*2d refrain

Try er morr av sunnum sagt,  
at svinur hevri òst við jompíu leg.

'Min karu módir, svara morr blit!'  
og vik i luud at kója morr vías.'

', Hvart heldur tí bidur tør konu ella kvinnu,  
Krist lati teg hana við æru vinna!'  
Hvart heldur tí bidur tør konu ella mou,  
Krist lati tygur bæni við æru döy!''

Mjöllkvíst sitist á stungir,  
hon blóktist vel og hingi.  
Hon fór i ein sulkiserk,  
niggju møyggia handaverk.

Utum súr í mótísun hri,  
gull eftir hvórium seymi li.

Mjöllkvíst sitist á sorgastokk,  
só fór hon i ein skarlaksokk.

Skarlaksokk við bengin ski,  
hvítar hendur i cutmi Buckley.

Hon kennur sitt hér við tilki sma,  
gullrínum sér hon umanó.

*The 1st and 2d refrains are repeated in every verse throughout.
THE MERRY WEDDING

Engaged by Rose Grainger and Percy Aldridge Grainger

Only the words printed in italic type are used in the music.

Tidings are told both far and wide,
So fleets, best, in swiftly.
That bony young Brown-cummin's scoring a bride.

* (1st refrain)

Hark to my voice in a sweet song,
said to the dance with the first throng;
brown is my silky hair,
swiss-white is my skin so fair;
hark to my voice in a sweet song.

*(2d refrain)

(Fair is the sound of my singing,
gaily in the dance now I'm swinging;
soft skin as white as milk,
brown hair as glossy as silk;
fair is the sound of my singing.)

I've been told that it's fair Swiss-white
he's chosen for to be his heart's delight.

'Now bless me, mother, ere I ride!'
I ride to win me a bony young bride.'

"It's whether you woo her East or West,
God give you the lass you love the best!"

"It's whether you woo her far or nigh,
God grant that with honor ye live and die!"

Swiss-white patch'd our summer's day,
she decked herself out in fine array.

She donned a shirt of the silk so fine,
the handwork of maidens nine.

She donned a kirtle of blue so bold,
the seams were sewn with threads of gold.

She sat her down upon her bed,
put on some socks of scarlet red.

Scarlet socks and shoes so bright;
shoed in water her hands so white.

She combed and braided her silky hair,
a golden crown on her head did wear.

*The 1st and 2d refrains are repeated in every verse throughout.*
Meira gull ber hon fyrir hrysti,
enn eg eigi í minni kisti.

Meira gull ber hov á hond,
enn min fahir eiger riki og lund.

Mjöllhvit gongur í rossahís,
loysir hon tann gangara út.

Hon loysir út ein, hon loysir út tvá,
tann besta legdi hon sabl á.

Har var eingin knektur hjá,
sjávi legdi Mjöllhvit boygði á.

Har var eingin knektur í lund,
sjávi legdi Mjöllhvit boygði í munn.

Mjöllhvit reði eftir ginsni fram,
tað glumdi sum hennar gangari rann.

Brönnvein bart á skógrin reði,
motti horum Mjöllhvit á sini leði.

Mjöllhvit lita snifir undir lúi:

'Kríst gevi, tann riddari hann var min:"
'Mjöllhvit lillic, trooves mig!
oðr borgar giver jeg dig.'

Mjöllhvit rækker handen fra hvar:

'Veg giver dig tro og følger dig.'

Vesti fréru og flatti húm,
tað ger í æ margar daniísvin.

Sú fordu teir bæður í Brönnveins gári,
tað var ikki gull fyrri leksarar spurt.

Drukkad varð niðra bainírygg,
Kúit vor stírra fré,
gengir un behlí éina söng.
Brönnvein og hans vök.

Fari firi eystaun, fari firi veistun,
fari firi verhima suðu!
Try koma bæði í eina sog,
ó God til umun suðu.

vi
She wore more gold before her breast
than all that I have within my chest.

She wore more gold upon her hand
than my father is worth in houses and land.

Snow-white is into the stable gone
to choose a horse to ride upon.

She viewed the black, she viewed the bay,
but best she liked the dappled grey

Never a groom came to her help,
she saddled and bridled the grey herself.

Never a groom came to her need,
she saddled and bridled the grey with speed.

As Snow-white galloped o'er the ground
her riding made a thunderous sound.

Brown-swan rode upon his way,
he met fair Snow-white on the grey.

Unto herself sweet Snow-white said:
"That valiant knight I fain would wed."

'Snow-white fair, if thou'lt be mine
my castles nine shall all be thine.'

Her hand to him she gave with glee:
"I'll be your true-love and follow thee."

Brown-swan's word to his heart's delight,
like many a valiant Danish knight.

The churching done, the feast begun,
there was no end to the laughter and mirth.

Merrily rang their marriage bells,
summons the wedding feast,
when young Brown-swan and his lovely bride
were wedded with ring and priest.

Though East they fare, or West they fare,
tho' in lands and seas do them sever,
they yet shall meet in a marriage bed
whom God's will joineth together.
For Kameraten Karen Holten

THE MERRY WEDDING
(BRÚNSVEINS VÍSA)
BRIDAL DANCE
VOCAL & PIANO SCORE

PERCY ALDRIDGE GRAINGER

Composed: 1912-1913
Scored: summer 1915

In flowing dance measure M.M. d = about 60

SOPRANOS

ALTOS

TENORS

SOLO BARITONE

mp legato

Tidings are told both far and wide

that

BASSES

1st SOLO TENOR p legato

2nd SOLO TENOR mf legato

So fleet - ly.

Baritone Solo

In flowing dance measure M.M. d = about 60

PIANO

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S-132-71260-34
FULL CHORUS

S.  

A.  

T.  

Bar. Solo  

B.  

voice in a sweet song, fain to tread the dance

voice in a sweet song, fain to tread the dance

voice in a sweet song, fain to tread the dance

voice in a sweet song, fain to tread the dance
with the fleet throng. Brown is my sil-ky hair,

snow-white is my skin so fair. Hark to my voice in

snow-white is my skin so fair. Hark to my voice in

snow-white skin so fair. Hark to a sweet...
FULL CHORUS

heart's de-light. Fair is the

heart's de-light. Fair is the

heart's er de-light. Fair is the

heart's er de-light. Fair is the

sound of my sing-ing, gai-ly

song I sing, gai-ly

sound of my sing-ing, gai-ly (sound)

sound sou-den-ded of my sing-ing; (sound)
S. \( \text{molto mf dim.} \)

in the dance now I’m swing ing. Soft skin as

A. \( \text{molto mf dim.} \)

in the dance now I’m swing ing. Snow white has

T. \( \text{sonore e legato dim.} \)

in the dance I’m swing ing. Snow white has

\( \text{59} \)

Bar Solo

in the dance I’m swing ing. Snow white has

\( \text{59} \)

B. \( \text{sonore e legato dim.} \)

in the dance I’m swing ing. Snow white has

S. \( \text{mp smooth} \)

white as milk, brown hair as glossy as silk;

A. \( \text{mp mf p mf p mf p} \)

skin like milk, brown hair like silk;

T. \( \text{pp} \)

skin like milk, Fair,

Bar Solo

Fair, is my swing ing.

B. \( \text{mp} \)

skin like milk, brown hair.
fair is the sound of my singing.

fair is the sound of my singing.

fair is the sound of my singing.

O so fair is the sound of the song I sing.

HALF CHORUS molto legato

Fair

HALF CH. molto legato

Fair

ride to win me a bonny young bride.

HALF CH.

p smoothly

p

(pinhum)
S. is the sound, fair is the sound
A. is the sound of my singing, fair
T. (dreamily, but well to the forte)
S. is the sound of my singing, gai ly in the dance

BarSolo

B. poco cresce.

S. molto espress. e poco a poco cresce.
A. is my sing ing.
T. (with an even tone) sonore e legatissimo
now I'm singing. Soft skin as white as milk;

BarSolo

B. Brown is my sil ky hair.
S. milk, brown hair as glossy as silk.

A. Fair is the

T. brown hair as glossy as any silk.

Bar. Solo sound of my singing.

B. skin as white as milk. Fair is the sound of my

S. sound of my singing.

A. Fair is my singing.

T. Fair is the sound of my singing.
Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

Snow-white wake-n'd one sum-merr's day,

She decked her-sel-f out in fine ar-ray.

She decked her-sel-f out in fin-est ar-ray.

She decked her-sel-f out in fin-est ar-ray.

She decked her-sel-f out in fin-est ar-ray.

She decked her-sel-f out in fin-est ar-ray.

She decked her-sel-f out in fin-est ar-ray.

She decked her-sel-f out in fin-est ar-ray.

She decked her-sel-f out in fin-est ar-ray.

She decked her-sel-f out in fin-est ar-ray.

She decked her-sel-f out in fin-est ar-ray.
FULL CHORUS

S. f marcato
Hark to my voice in a sweet song,

A. f marcato
Hark to my voice in a sweet song,

T. marcato
Hark to my voice in a sweet song,

Bar Solo
Hark to my voice in a sweet song

B. marcato
Hark to my voice in a sweet song

S. cresc.
fain to tread the dance with the fleet throng.

A. cresc.
fain to tread the dance with the fleet throng.

T. cresc.
fain to dance, join-ing the fleet throng.

Bar Solo
fain of the dance, fain of the fleet throng.

B. cresc.
fain of the dance, fain of the fleet throng.
Brown is my sil-ky hair, snow-white my

Brown is my sil-ky hair, snow-white my

Brown is my

Brown is my

skin so fair. Hark-en, hark-en to the sound of my

skin so fair._Hark-en, hark-en to the sound of my

sil-ky hair. Hark-en, hark-en to the sound of my

sil-ky hair. Hark-en, hark-en to the sound of the

The bass well to the fore
S. sweet singing SOLO 2. She donned a kirtle of cresc 13
A. sweet singing SOLO 1 marc. She donned a kirtle of cresc
sweet song I'm singing SOLO 1 marc. She donned a kirtle of cresc
T. sweet singing SOLO 2. She donned a kirtle of cresc
Bar Solo She marc. donned a kirtle of cresc
B. song I'm singing She donned a kirtle of cresc

Kettle Drums

S. blue so bold. (non dim) FULL pp CH.
A. blue so bold. (non dim) FULL pp Fair.
T. blue so bold. (non dim) Fair is the
Bar Solo blue so bold. (non dim)
B. blue so bold. (non dim) FULL pp Fair in the

pp pp espres.
is the sound of my singing, gaily

sound o' my singing, gaily

Soft skin as white as milk,

in the dance I'm swinging,

ly in the dance I'm swing -

brown hair as

gai - - ly in the

fair - - is the

\textit{espress.}
S.

poco  

pp  

p  molto cresc.

p  

A.

p  gai-ly am swing-ing. Fair is the sound.

molto  

Cresc.

B.

glos-sy as silk. Now in the  

161

song that I sing. In the  

161

T.

dance I am swing-ing.

in the  

Bar.

Solo

dance I'm swing-ing.

in the  

Bar.

Solo

dance I'm swing-ing.
S. \[ \text{poco} \quad \text{molto dim.} \quad \text{poco} \quad \text{sing-ing, the sound of my} \]

A. \[ \text{dance} \quad \text{I am swing-ing,} \]

T. \[ \text{Fair is the sound of my} \]

Bar. Solo \[ \text{p poco cresc.} \]

B. \[ \text{Fair is the sound} \]

S. \[ \text{ppp} \quad \text{molto dim.} \quad \text{SOLO 1, So} \]

A. \[ \text{ppp} \quad \text{swing-ing, SOLO 2, So} \]

T. \[ \text{molto dim.} \quad \text{SOLO 1, So} \quad \text{fle-t} \quad \text{SOLO 2, So} \quad \text{express.} \]

Bar. Solo \[ \text{p molto dim.} \quad \text{ppp} \quad \text{So} \]

B. \[ \text{of my sing-ing.} \]

\[ 5-128 - 32260 - 34 \]
white

She combed and braided her silky hair.

So sweetly.

So sweetly.

To the fore a golden crown on her head did did
accompanying her head did
molto legato

poco rit. (dim.)

molto rit. pp

molto legato

accompanying her head did

molto rit. pp
HARK to my
S. (f. a tempo)

HALF CHORUS
pp molto legato

A. (a tempo)

HARK to my
T. (SOLO)

HALF CH.
B. (pp molto legato)

++ When performed by 9 solo voices, without chorus, from bar 208 to 213 inclusive, the first tenor should sing the part marked "Solo 1," the second tenor should sing the lowest tenor part, while the baritone should sing the middle tenor part (D, C, B flat, E flat, D, B flat, G, A, B flat).
with the fleet thron. Snow-white has skin like milk,

sound of my singing.
brown hair as glossy as the silk. Hark to my
FULL CHORUS
very boldly
non troppo legato

Brown - swain's

voice in a sweet song.
Brown - swain's

234
very boldly
non troppo legato

Brown - swain's

poco cres.

is the sound of my singing.

B.

voice in a sweet song.

(VIOLAS)

234

f lively
wed to his heart's delight,

very boldly
f non troppo legato

wed to his heart's delight,
med-dence a val- iant Dan- ish knight.

man-y a val- iant Dan- ish knight. Gai-

med-dence a val- iant Dan- ish knight.

man-y a val- iant Dan- ish knight.

man-y a val- iant Dan- ish knight.

Bar Solo

ma- y a val- iant Dan- ish knight.

- ly, so gai- ly in the dance I'm swing- ing; fair is the

- ly, so gai- ly in the dance I'm swing- ing; fair is the

Bar Solo

Solo

ff"mack to the fore

3-32-73260-34
sound of my singing. Soft skin as white as any

sound of my singing. Brown is my

Brown is my

Brown hair as gossy as silk. Fair is the

milk; brown hair like silk. Fair, fair is the

milky hair. Fair fair is the

silky hair. Fair is the

Brown hair as gossy as silk. Fair is the
Bonny Brown-swan and his loverly
very rhythmic cresc.

was the wed-ding feast when bonny Brown-swan and his loverly
sump-tuous was their wed-ding feast, their

and his bride they were wed with ring and priest.

bride
were wed...

bride, Brown-swan ad-dend his er love-ly
wed-ding feast.

and
don troppo legato

f very rhythmic
sump-tuous the

f or ff) very much to the fore
Bonny Brown-swan ad-dend his er love-ly,

Bar Solo

SOLO I, non troppo legato

SOLO I. non troppo legato.

O merri-ly rang their mer...
very rhythmic

S.

Bride they were wedded with ring and with priest, when bonny young

A.

Wedded with ring and with priest, when bonny young

T.

Feast when bonny Brown-swan, bonny, bonny young

Bar. Solo

Bonny Brown-swan and his love-ly molto cresc.

B.

Went in the bridal bells, when bonny Brown-swan and his (Brown-swan)

S.

Bonny Brown-swan and his bride er they were wedded with priest.

A.

Brown-swan and his bride er they were wedded with priest.

T.

Molto legato very cresc. of cresc. of

Bar. Solo

Priest, wedded to his bride with ring and with

B.

Molto legato to his bride, was wedded with ring and

love-ly non legato bride were wedded with

marc.
FULL CHORUS

S. \( \text{rich and rolling} \)

Merrily rang,
O merrily

A. \( \text{rich and rolling} \)

Merrily rang, O merrily rang, O merrily

T. \( \text{rich and rolling} \)

Merrily rang, O merrily rang their marriage

Bar. Solo

That's all

B. \( \text{priest} \)

very rhythmic

S. \( \text{very} \)

rang their marriage bells, sump-tuous

A. \( \text{very} \)

rang their marriage bells, when

T. \( \text{non troppo legato} \) \( \text{f'well to the fore} \)

bells, and sump-tuous was the feast.

B. \( \text{Bony Brown-swan} \)
was the wedding feast, when bonny Brown-swan and his love-ly

bonny young Brown-swan and his love-ly

and his bride they were wed with ring and priest,

bride were wed, when Brown-swan and his

bride, when Brown-swan ad-dend his er love-ly

very much to the fore

morendo

Bonn-y Brown-swan ad-dend his er love-ly, (and)

accompanying

when bonny Brown-swan ad-dend his er (and)
legato \ poco sostenuto

S.

ring and priest.

A.

ring and priest.

T.

ring and priest.

B.

ring and priest.

333

S.

ff but easy-goingly

Hark to my voice

A.

ff but easy-goingly

Hark to my voice

T.

ff but easy-goingly

Hark to my voice

B.

ff but easy-goingly

Hark to my voice

338

338
S. singing sweetly, Singing while the dancers are

A. singing sweetly, Singing while the dancers are

T. singing sweetly, Singing while the dancers are

B. singing sweetly, Singing while the dancers are

S. dancing so fleet-er-ly. Snow-white has hair like silk.

(fleetly) very rich

A. dancing fleet-ly. Snow-white has hair like silk.

very rich

T. dancing so fleet-er-ly. Snow-white has hair like silk.

(fleetly) very rich

B. dancing fleet-ly. Snow-white has hair like silk.

very rich
very rhythmic

S. Soft skin as white as any milk. Hark

A. Soft skin as white as any milk. Hark - en to the

T. Soft skin as white as any milk. Hark

B. Soft skin as white as any milk. Hark

very rhythmic

to my voice in a sweet song.

S. to my voice in a sweet song.

A. sound of my voice in a sweet song.

T. to my voice in a sweet song.

B. to my voice in a sweet song.