



# The three knights

Edward German  
(1862–1936)

**Sir Edward German** (1862–1936) was born Edward German Jones to parents of Welsh descent. He began learning the organ and piano at age five from his father, a church organist, and taught himself the violin, leading the town orchestra, and began to compose music. He entered the Royal Academy of Music at age eighteen, where he changed his name to avoid confusion with another student named Edward Jones. German began to build a career as a composer in the mid-1880s, writing serious music as well as light opera. In 1888, he became music director of Globe Theatre in London, providing incidental music for many of its productions and those of other London theatres. His output includes symphonies, orchestral suites, symphonic poems and a substantial amount of songs and piano music. After the death of Sir Arthur Sullivan in 1900, German completed Sullivan's score for the operetta *The Emerald Isle*, and soon after, seemed established as the successor to Sullivan. Some failures eventually caused him to abandon his career as a composer. From 1911 onward, he prepared the scores of his works for publication and conducted concerts. He was knighted in 1928, and he received a medal from the Royal Philharmonic Society in 1934.

Three knights came riding out of the West,  
Sir Guy, Sir Ralph, and the bold Sir Hugh;  
And each was sworn to follow a quest  
And noble deeds to do.  
Sir Guy would harry the Paynim horde,  
A dragon should fall to Sir Ralph's good sword,  
And Sir Hugh rode courting the Lady Maud.  
Sing Hey! sing Ho! for eyes of blue!  
From Holy Wars returned Sir Guy.  
With his sword, Sir Ralph, the dragon he slew;  
But never a soul again set eye upon the bold Sir Hugh!  
Though a Paynim Chief with his lance has skill,  
And a dragon's claws are strong to kill,  
Yet a woman's wiles are stronger still!  
Sing Hey! sing Ho! for eyes of blue!

Arthur Cleveland

# The three knights

Edward German

**Allegro moderato**

S  
Three knights came rid - ing out of the West, Sir Guy, Sir Ralph, and the

A  
Three knights came rid - ing out of the West, Sir Guy, Sir Ralph, and the

T  
Three knights came rid - ing out of the West, Sir Guy, Sir Ralph, and the

B  
Three knights came rid - ing out of the West, Sir Guy, Sir Ralph, and the

The first system of the musical score is for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegro moderato'. The music starts with a forte dynamic (f). The lyrics are: 'Three knights came rid - ing out of the West, Sir Guy, Sir Ralph, and the'. There is a triplet of eighth notes in the Soprano and Tenor parts. The system ends with a double bar line.

S  
bold Sir Hugh; And each was sworn to fol - low a quest And

A  
bold Sir Hugh; And each was sworn to fol - low a quest And

T  
bold Sir Hugh; And each was sworn to fol - low a quest And

B  
bold Sir Hugh; And each was sworn to fol - low a quest And

The second system of the musical score continues the four-voice setting. It starts with a measure rest in the Soprano part, indicated by a '4' above the staff. The lyrics are: 'bold Sir Hugh; And each was sworn to fol - low a quest And'. The system ends with a double bar line.

## The three knights

7

S no - ble deeds, no - ble deeds, and no - ble deeds to

A no - ble deeds, no - ble deeds, and no - ble deeds to

T no - ble deeds, no - ble deeds, and no - ble deeds to

B no - ble deeds, no - ble deeds, and no - ble deeds to

10

S do. Sir Guy, Sir Guy, A

A do. Sir Guy would har - ry the Pay - nim horde, A

T do. Sir Guy would har - ry the Pay - nim horde, A

B do. Sir Guy would har - ry the Pay - nim horde, A

13

S drag - on should fall to Sir Ralph's good sword, And the bold Sir

A drag - on should fall to Sir Ralph's good sword, And Sir Hugh,

T drag - on should fall to Sir Ralph's good sword, And the bold Sir

B drag - on should fall to Sir Ralph's good sword,

# The three knights

16

S Hugh, Sir Hugh rode court - ing the La - dy Maud. Sing

A — Sir Hugh rode court - ing the La - dy Maud. Sing

T Hugh, Sir Hugh rode court - ing the La - dy Maud. Sing

B And Sir Hugh rode court - ing the La - dy Maud. Sing

*pp* *f*

19

S Hey! And Sir Hugh rode court - ing the

A Hey! sing Ho! And Sir Hugh rode court - ing the

T Hey! sing Ho! And Sir Hugh rode court - ing the

B Hey! And Sir Hugh rode court - ing the

*p*

22

S La - dy Maud. Sing Hey! sing Ho! sing

A La - dy Maud. Sing Hey! sing Ho!

T La - dy Maud. Sing Hey! sing Hey!

B La - dy Maud. Sing Hey! sing Ho! sing

*mf* *Giacoso*

## The three knights

25

S Hey! for eyes of blue, sing Hey! sing Ho! for

A — for eyes of blue, sing Hey! sing Ho! for

T — for eyes of blue, sing, blue, sing

B Hey! for eyes of blue, sing Hey! sing

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of music, numbered 25. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'Hey! for eyes of blue, sing Hey! sing Ho! for'.

28

S eyes of blue, for eyes of blue! *rit.* *p*

A eyes, for eyes of blue! *rit.* *p*

T Ho! for eyes, for eyes of blue! *rit.* *p*

B Ho! for eyes, for eyes of blue! *rit.* *p*

Detailed description: This system contains the next four staves of music, numbered 28. The lyrics are: 'eyes of blue, for eyes of blue! Ho! for eyes, for eyes of blue!'. The music includes a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking and a 'p' (piano) dynamic marking. The system ends with a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature.

31 *Tempo 1*

S From Ho - ly Wars re - turned Sir Guy. With his

A From Ho - ly Wars re - turned Sir Guy. With his

T From Ho - ly Wars re - turned Sir Guy. With his

B From Ho - ly Wars re - turned Sir Guy. With his

Detailed description: This system contains the final four staves of music, numbered 31. The tempo is marked 'Tempo 1'. The lyrics are: 'From Ho - ly Wars re - turned Sir Guy. With his'. The music includes a 'f' (forte) dynamic marking and a triplet of eighth notes. The system ends with a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature.

# The three knights

34

S sword, Sir Ralph, the drag - on he slew; But, but

A sword, Sir Ralph, the drag - on he slew; But

T sword, Sir Ralph, the drag - on he slew; But

B sword, Sir Ralph, the drag - on he slew; But

37

S nev - er a soul a - gain set eye Up - on the bold Sir Hugh! But

A nev - er a soul a - gain set eye Up - on the bold Sir Hugh! But

T nev - er a soul a - gain set eye Up - on the bold Sir Hugh! But

B nev - er a soul a - gain set eye Up - on the bold Sir Hugh! But

41

S nev - er a soul a - gain set eye Up - on the bold Sir

A nev - er a soul a - gain set eye Up - on the bold Sir

T nev - er a soul a - gain set eye Up - on the bold Sir

B nev - er a soul a - gain set eye Up - on the bold Sir

## The three knights

44 *Animato*

S Hugh! Sir Guy! — Sir Guy! — And a

A Hugh! Though a Pay - nim Chief — with his lance has skill, And a

T Hugh! Though a Pay - nim Chief — with his lance has skill, And a

B Hugh! Though a Pay - nim Chief — with his lance has skill, And a

47

S drag - on's claws — are — strong to kill, Yet a wom - an's

A drag - on's claws — are — strong to kill, Yet a wom - an's wiles,

T drag - on's claws — are — strong to kill, Yet a wom - an's

B drag - on's claws — are — strong to kill,

50

S wiles, a wom - an's wiles are strong - er still! Sing

A — a wom - an's wiles are strong - er still! Sing

T wiles, a wom - an's wiles are strong - er still! Sing

B Yet a wom - an's wiles are strong - er still! Sing



# The three knights

53

S Hey! Yet a wom - an's wiles are

A Hey! sing Ho! Yet a wom - an's wiles are

T Hey! sing Ho! Yet a wom - an's wiles are

B Hey! Yet a wom - an's wiles are

56

*Giacoso*

S strong - er still! Sing Hey! sing Ho! Sing

A strong - er still! Sing Hey! sing Ho!

T strong - er still! Sing Hey! sing Hey!

B strong - er still! Sing Hey! sing Ho! Sing

59

S Hey! for eyes of blue! sing Hey! sing

A — for eyes of blue! sing Hey! sing

T — for eyes of blue! sing Hey! sing

B Hey! for eyes of blue! sing Hey! sing

## The three knights

62

S Ho! \_\_\_\_\_ sing Hey! for eyes \_\_\_\_\_ of blue! \_\_\_\_\_ A

A \_\_\_\_\_ Hey! for eyes of blue! \_\_\_\_\_ A

T Ho! for eyes of blue! Yet a

B Ho! sing Hey! for eyes of blue! Yet a

*mf*

65

S wom - an's wiles \_\_\_\_\_ are strong - er still! \_\_\_\_\_

A wom - an's wiles \_\_\_\_\_ are strong - er still! \_\_\_\_\_

T wom - an's wiles \_\_\_\_\_ are strong - er still! \_\_\_\_\_

B wom - an's wiles \_\_\_\_\_ are strong - er still! \_\_\_\_\_

69

*Leggiero*

S Sing Hey! \_\_\_\_\_ sing Ho! \_\_\_\_\_ non - i - no! \_\_\_\_\_ sing

A Sing Hey! sing Ho! \_\_\_\_\_ sing

T Sing Hey! sing Ho! \_\_\_\_\_ for

B Sing Hey! sing Ho! \_\_\_\_\_ for

*p*

# The three knights

72 *Broader*

S Hey! sing Ho! non - i - no! sing Hey! sing Ho! for

A Hey! sing Ho! sing Hey! sing Ho! for

T eyes of blue! sing Hey! sing Ho! for

B eyes of blue! sing Hey! sing Ho! for

75 *f* *rall.* *a tempo* *Animato*

S eyes of blue, for eyes of blue! Sing

A eyes, for eyes of blue! Sing

T eyes of blue, for eyes of blue! Sing

B eyes of blue, for eyes of blue! Sing

78

S Hey! sing Ho! sing Hey! sing Ho!

A Hey! sing Ho! sing Hey! sing Ho!

T Hey! sing Ho! sing Hey! sing Ho!

B Hey! sing Ho! sing Hey! sing Ho!

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