

Welladay

Lament for Twelfth Night

English, 17th Century (?)
Arranged by David Millard

♩. = ca. 56

Solo



1. Christ - mas hath made an end, Wel - la- day,___ wel - la-day! Which_ was my



dear - est friend; More___ is___ the pi - ty. For, with a hea - vy heart must



I___ from thee_ de - part To fol - low plough and cart___ All_ the year_ af - ter.



2. Lent___ is fast com - ing on, Wel - la- day,___ wel - la-day! That___ loves not



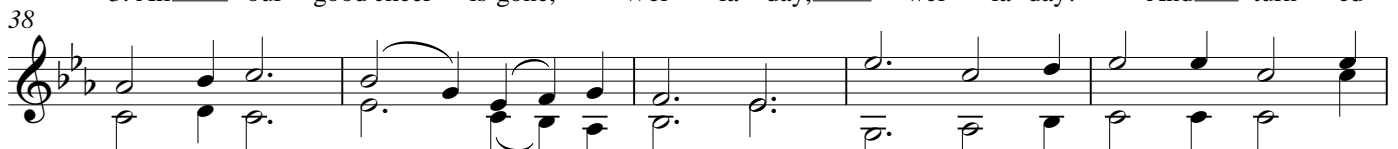
a - ny-one, More is___ the pi - ty. For I doubt both my cheeks Will



look_ thin eat - ing leeks; Wise is___ he then_ that seeks_ For a friend in a cor - ner.



3. All___ our good cheer is gone, Wel - la- day,___ wel - la-day! And___ turn - ed



to a stone, More is___ the pi - ty. In my good ma - ster's house I

43

shall_ eat no_ more souse, Then give_ me one_ ca- rouse, Gen- tle, kind. but - ler.

49

S
A

4. It_ grieves me to the heart, Wel - la- day, wel - la- day! From_ my friend

T
B

54

to de-part More is_ the pi - ty. Christ - mas, I mean, 'tis thee That

59

thus_ for sak - eth me; Yet till_ one hour. I see_ Will_ I be_ mer - ry.

Twelfth Night (January 5) marks the end of the Christmas Festival, and in traditional agricultural societies signalled the beginning of a period of privation during which the ever-dwindling supply of stored food had to suffice until the spring, when new growth and young livestock could be consumed. This was especially true of servants and peasants who relied on the largesse of their masters for the Christmas feast in the first place. 'Souse' (verse 3) is pickled food, especially pigs' feet.

In the first verse, the full choir may join in (in octaves) with the refrains 'Welladay, welladay!' and 'More is the pity.' *Welladay* means 'alas' or 'woe is me'. Similarly, the audience may be encouraged to add their voices to these refrains throughout.

As many basses and altos as can should sing the low Eb's.