



Shakespeare Songs  
No. 8

# Sigh no more, ladies

George A. Macfarren  
(1813-1887)

**Sir George Alexander Macfarren** (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860. However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and editor of *Handel and Purcell*. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more,  
Men were deceivers ever,  
One foot in sea and one on shore,  
To one thing constant never.  
Then sigh not so, but let them go,  
And be you blithe and bonny,  
Converting all your sounds of woe  
Into Hey, nonny nonny.  
Sing no more ditties, sing no mo  
Of dumps so dull and heavy.  
The fraud of men was ever so,  
Since summer first was leavy.  
Then sigh not so, but let them go  
And be you blithe and bonny,  
Converting all your sounds of woe  
Into Hey, nonny nonny.

*Such Ado about Nothing*

Act 2, Scene 3

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

# Sigh no more, ladies

G. A. Macfarren

$\text{♩} = 92$

S  
Sigh no more, la - dies, sigh no more,

A  
Sigh no more, la - dies, sigh no more,

T  
Sigh no more, la - dies, sigh no more, la - dies, sigh no more, sigh no more,

B  
Sigh no more, la - dies, sigh no more,

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a four-part vocal setting. It features four staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The music is in 3/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 92. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: 'Sigh no more, la - dies, sigh no more,'. The Soprano and Alto parts have a dynamic marking of *p* with an accent (>). The Tenor part has a dynamic marking of *p* with an accent (>) and a '8' below the staff. The Bass part has a dynamic marking of *p* with an accent (>). The Tenor part has a longer line of lyrics: 'Sigh no more, la - dies, sigh no more, la - dies, sigh no more, sigh no more,'.

7

S  
sigh no more, Men were de - ceiv - ers ev - - -

A  
sigh no more, Men were de - ceiv - ers ev - - -

T  
sigh no more, Men were de - ceiv - ers ev - - -

B  
sigh no more, Men were de - ceiv - ers ev - - -

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the vocal setting, starting at measure 7. It features four staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The lyrics are: 'sigh no more, Men were de - ceiv - ers ev - - -'. The Soprano, Alto, and Bass parts have a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Tenor part has a dynamic marking of *mf* and an '8' below the staff. The music continues with a melodic line for the Soprano and Alto parts.

# Sigh no more, ladies

12

S er; *f* One foot in sea, \_\_\_\_\_

A er; *f* One foot in sea, \_\_\_\_\_

T er; \_\_\_\_\_ *f* and one on shore, \_\_\_\_\_

B er; \_\_\_\_\_ *f* and one on shore, \_\_\_\_\_

17

S one foot in sea, \_\_\_\_\_ and one \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ shore, To one \_\_\_\_\_ thing

A one foot in sea, \_\_\_\_\_ and one \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ shore, To one \_\_\_\_\_ thing

T \_\_\_\_\_ one foot in sea, and one \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ shore, To one \_\_\_\_\_ thing

B \_\_\_\_\_ one foot in sea, and one on shore, To one \_\_\_\_\_ thing

22

S con - stant nev - er, nev - er, to one thing con - stant

A con - stant nev - er, nev - er, to one thing con - stant

T con - stant nev - er, nev - er, to one thing con - stant

B con - stant nev - er, nev - er, to one thing con - stant

## Sigh no more, ladies

27

S  
nev - er. Then sigh not so, but let them go,

A  
nev - er. Then sigh not so, but let them go,

T  
nev - er. Then sigh not so, but let them go,

B  
nev - er. Then sigh not so, but let them go,

31

S  
And be you blithe and bon - ny, bon - ny, Your

A  
And be you blithe and bon - ny, Con - vert - ing all your

T  
And be you blithe and bon - ny, bon - ny, Con - vert - ing all your

B  
And be you blithe and bon - ny, Con - vert - ing all your

34

S  
sounds of woe, your sounds of woe, \_\_\_\_\_ *p rit.* *a tempo*

A  
sounds of woe, Con - vert - ing all your sounds of woe, \_\_\_\_\_ *p rit.* *a tempo*

T  
sounds of woe, Con - vert - ing all your sounds of woe, \_\_\_\_\_ *p rit.* *f a tempo* In - to Hey

B  
sounds of woe, Con - vert - ing all your sounds of woe, \_\_\_\_\_ *p rit.* *a tempo*

# Sigh no more, ladies

38

S In-to Hey non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny,

A In-to Hey non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny,

T non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny,

B In-to Hey non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny,

42

S non - ny, non - ny, no, In - to Hey non - ny, non - ny.

A non - ny, non - ny, no, In - to Hey non - ny, non - ny.

T non - ny, non - ny, no, In - to Hey non - ny, non - ny.

B non - ny, non - ny, no, In - to Hey non - ny, non - ny.

46

S Sing no more dit - ties,

A Sing no more dit - ties,

T Sing no more dit - ties, sing no more dit - ties, sing no mo,

B Sing no more dit - ties,

## Sigh no more, ladies

51 *cresc.* *p*

S sing no mo, sing no mo Of dumps so dull, of

A sing no mo, sing no mo Of dumps so dull, of

T sing no mo, sing no mo Of dumps so dull, of

B sing no mo, sing no mo Of dumps so dull, of

56

S dumps so dull, of dumps so dull and heav -

A dumps so dull, of dumps so dull and heav -

T dumps so dull, of dumps so dull and heav -

B dumps so dull, of dumps so dull and heav -

61 *mf*

S y; The fraud of men was ev - er so, was

A y; The fraud of men was ev - er so, was

T y; The fraud of men was ev - er so, was

B y; The fraud of men was ev - er so, was



# Sigh no more, ladies

66

S ev - er so, was ev - er so, Since sum - mer

A ev - er so, was ev - er so, Since sum - mer

T ev - er so, was ev - er so, Since sum - mer

B ev - er so, was ev - er so, Since sum - mer

71

S first was leav - y. Then sigh not so, but let them go,

A first was leav - y. Then sigh not so, but let them go,

T first was leav - y. Then sigh not so, but let them go,

B first was leav - y. Then sigh not so, but let them go,

76

S And be you blithe and bon - ny, bon - ny, Your

A And be you blithe and bon - ny, Con - vert - ing all your

T And be you blithe and bon - ny, bon - ny, Con - vert - ing all your

B And be you blithe and bon - ny, Con - vert - ing all your

## Sigh no more, ladies

79

S sounds of woe, your sounds of woe \_\_\_\_\_ *p* *rit.* *a tempo*

A sounds of woe, Con - vert - ing all your sounds of woe \_\_\_\_\_ *p* *rit.* *a tempo*

T sounds of woe, Con - vert - ing all your sounds of woe \_\_\_\_\_ *p* *rit.* *f* *a tempo*

B sounds of woe, Con - vert - ing all your sounds of woe \_\_\_\_\_ *p* *rit.* *a tempo*

82

S In - to Hey non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny, *f*

A In - to Hey non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny, *f*

T Hey non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, *f*

B In - to Hey non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny, *f*

86

S Hey non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, no, To Hey *ff*

A Hey non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, no, To Hey *ff*

T non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, no, To Hey *ff*

B Hey non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, no, To Hey *ff*

# Sigh no more, ladies

89

S non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny,

A non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny,

T non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny,

B non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, non - ny, Hey non - ny,

93

S non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny.

A non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny.

T non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny.

B non - ny, Hey non - ny, non - ny.

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