



The Wreck of the Hesperus

**Henry Hiles
(1826-1904)**

Henry Hiles (1826-1904) was born in Shrewsbury, the youngest of six boys. He began studying the piano at the age of 4 and the organ a few years later. At age 13 he deputized at several churches in Shrewsbury and, at 18, was appointed organist at the Parish Church of Bury, near Manchester. In 1851 he struck out to Australia with the gold rush. He noted in a 1900 interview for *The Musical Times* that, in those Colonial days, “You had to fire off a revolver every night to show your neighbour that you possessed fire arms.” He spent £150 to find three ounces of gold and returned to England in 1857. He became organist at St. Michael Wood Street, London, but soon went to Manchester as organist at Henshaw’s Blind Asylum and St. Thomas Church, Old Trafford. He studied at Oxford where he earned a Bachelor and Doctor of Music degrees. He was editor and owner *The Quarterly Musical Review* from 1885-1888 and founded the Society of Professional Musicians. He taught at the Royal Manchester College of Music (University of Manchester) and was conductor of many important choral societies– at Knutsford, Blackburn, Preston, Warrington, and Manchester. He composed an oratorio, an operetta, some cantatas, piano pieces and many songs and part-songs.

It was the schooner Hesperus,
That sailed the wintry sea;
And the skipper had taken his little daughter,
To bear him company.

Blue were her eyes as the fairy-flax,
Her cheeks like the dawn of day,
And her bosom white as the hawthorn buds,
That ope in the month of May.

The skipper he stood beside the helm,
With his pipe in his mouth,
And he watched how the veering flaw did blow
The smoke now West, now South.

Then up and spake an old Sailòr,
Had sailed to the Spanish Main,
'I pray thee, put into yonder port,
For I fear a hurricane.

'Last night, the moon had a golden ring,
And to-night no moon we see!'
The skipper, he blew a whiff from his pipe,
And a scornful laugh laughed he.

Colder and louder blew the wind,
A gale from the Northeast,
The snow fell hissing in the brine,
And the billows frothed like yeast.

Down came the storm, and smote amain
The vessel in its strength;
She shuddered and paused, like a frightened steed,
Then leaped her cable's length.

'Come hither! come hither! my little daughter,
And do not tremble so;
For I can weather the roughest gale
That ever the wind did blow.'

He wrapped her warm in his seaman's coat
Against the stinging blast;
He cut a rope from a broken spar,
And bound her to the mast.

'O father! I hear the church-bells ring,
Say, what may it be?'
''Tis a fog-bell on a rock-bound coast!' —
And he steered for the open sea.

'O father! I hear the sound of guns,
Say, what may it be?'
'Some ship in distress, that cannot live
In such an angry sea!'

'O father! I see a gleaming light,
Say, what may it be?'
But the father answered never a word,
A frozen corpse was he.

Lashed to the helm, all stiff and stark,
With his face *turned* to the skies,
The lantern gleamed through the gleaming snow
On his fixed and glassy eyes.

Then the maiden clasped her hands and prayed
That saved she might be;
And she thought of Christ, who stilled the wave,
On the Lake of Galilee.

*And fast through the midnight dark and drear,
Through the whistling sleet and snow,
Like a sheeted ghost, the vessel swept
Tow' rds the reef of Norman's Woe.*

*And ever the fitful gusts between
A sound came from the land;
It was the sound of the trampling surf
On the rocks and the hard sea-sand.*

*The breakers were right beneath her bows,
She drifted a dreary wreck,
And a whooping billow swept the crew
Like icicles from her deck.*

*She struck where the white and fleecy waves
Looked soft as carded wool,
But the cruel rocks, they gored her side
Like the horns of an angry bull.*

*Her rattling shrouds, all sheathed in ice,
With the masts went by the board;
Like a vessel of glass, she stove and sank,
Ho! ho! the breakers roared!*

At daybreak, on the bleak sea-beach,
A fisherman stood aghast,
To see the form of a maiden fair,
Lashed close to a drifting mast.

The salt sea was frozen on her breast,
The salt tears in her eyes;
And he saw her hair, like the brown seaweed,
On the billows fall and rise.

Such was the wreck of the Hesperus,
In the midnight and the snow!
Christ save us all from a death like this,
On the reef of Norman's Woe!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)

Italic indicates text not included in Hiles' setting.

First published in "Ballads and Other Poems" (1842), Longfellow's narrative poem presents the consequences of pride. His story was inspired by the great New England blizzard of 1839 when the ship "Favorite", out of Maine, was destroyed on Norman's Woe reef (off Gloucester, Massachusetts). All aboard the ship were lost and one a woman floated to shore dead but still tied to the mast.

The Wreck of the Hesperus

Henry Holes

$\text{♩} = 132$

ALTO *mf marcato*

TENOR *mf marcato*

A It was the schoon - er Hes - per - us, That sail'd the win - try

T It was the schoon - er Hes - per - us, That sail'd the win - try

4

ALTO *mf*

TENOR *mf*

A sea; And the skip - per had tak - en his

T sea; And the skip - per had tak - en his

7

ALTO *poco rit.*

TENOR *poco rit.*

A lit - tle daugh - ter, To bear him com - pa - ny.

T lit - tle daugh - ter, To bear him com - pa - ny.

The Wreck of the Hesperus

11 $\text{♩} = 108$
p *leggiero* *poco rall.*

S Blue were her eyes as the fair - y - flax, Her cheeks like the dawn of

A Blue were her eyes as the fair - y - flax, Her cheeks like the dawn of

T Blue were her eyes as the fair - y - flax, Her cheeks like the dawn of

B Blue were her eyes as the fair - y - flax, Her cheeks like the dawn of

14 *a tempo*

S day, And her bos - om white as the haw - thorn buds, That

A day, And her bos - om white as the haw - thorn buds, That

T day, And her bos - om white as the haw - thorn buds, That

B day, And her bos - om white as the haw - thorn buds, That

17 *cresc.* *poco rall.* *p*

S ope in the month of May, that ope in the month of

A ope in the month of May, that ope in the month of

T ope in the month of May, that ope in the month of

B ope in the month of May, that ope in the month of

The Wreck of the Hesperus

♩ = 132

20

S May. The skip - per he

A May. The skip - per he

T May. The skip - per he stood be -

B May. The skip - per he stood be -

mf marcato, e poco staccato

23

S stood be - side the helm, With his pipe in his mouth, And he

A stood be - side the helm, With his pipe in his mouth, And he

T side the helm, With his pipe in his mouth, And he

B side the helm, With his pipe in his mouth,

cresc.

26

S watch'd how the veer - ing flaw did blow The smoke now West, now

A watch'd how the veer - ing flaw did blow The smoke now West, now

T watch'd how the veer - ing flaw did blow The smoke now West, now

B And he watch'd how the veer - ing flaw did blow, now West, now

cresc.

The Wreck of the Hesperus

29

S South. Then up and spake an old Sail - òr, Had *cresc.*

A South. Then up and spake an old Sail - òr, Had *cresc.*

T South. Then up and spake an old Sail - òr, Had *cresc.*

B South. Then up and spake an old Sail - òr, Had *cresc.*

32

S sail'd to the Span - ish Main, 'I pray thee, put in - to *marcato*

A sail'd the Span - ish Main, 'I pray thee, put in - to *marcato*

T sail'd the Span - ish Main, 'I pray thee, put in - to *marcato*

B sail'd the Span - ish Main, 'I pray thee, put in - to *marcato*

35

S yon - der port, For I fear a hur - ri - cane, I *poco accel. cresc. f*

A yon - der port, For I fear a hur - ri - cane, I *poco accel. cresc. f*

T yon - der port, For I fear a hur - ri - cane, I *poco accel. cresc. f*

B yon - der port, For I fear a hur - ri - cane, I fear, I *poco accel. cresc. f*

The Wreck of the Hesperus

38

S fear a hur - ri - cane. 'Last night, the moon had a gold - en ring, And to -

A fear a hur - ri - cane. 'Last night, the moon had a gold - en ring, And to -

T fear a hur - ri - cane. 'Last night, last night, the moon had a gold - en ring, And to -

B fear a hur - ri - cane. 'Last night, last night, the moon had a gold - en ring, And to -

mp staccato

mp staccato

staccato mp

staccato mp

42

S night no moon we see!' 'Last night, the moon had a

A night no moon we see! No moon!' 'Last night, the moon had a

T night no moon we see! No moon!' 'Last night, the moon had a

B night no moon we see! No moon!' 'Last night, the moon had a

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

45

S gold - en ring, And to - night no moon we see!' 'I pray thee, put

A gold - en ring, And to - night no moon we see!' 'I pray thee, I pray thee, put

T gold - en ring, And to - night no moon we see!' 'I pray thee, pray thee, put

B gold - en ring, And to - night no moon we see!' 'I pray thee, put

f

f

f

f

The Wreck of the Hesperus

49 *marcato* *ff*

S in - to yon - der port, put in - to yon - der port.'

A *marcato* *ff* *mp*

A in - to yon - der port, put in - to yon - der port.' The

T *marcato* *ff* *mp*

T in - to yon - der port, put in - to yon - der port.' The

B *marcato* *ff* *pesante*

B in - to yon - der port, put in - to yon - der port.'

53 *accel.* *mf* *cresc.* *a tempo*

S And a scorn - ful laugh laugh'd

A *accel.* *mf* *cresc.* *a tempo*

A skip - per, he blew a whiff from his pipe, And a scorn - ful laugh laugh'd

T *accel.* *mf* *cresc.* *a tempo*

T skip - per, he blew a whiff from his pipe, And a scorn - ful laugh, a

B *mp* *accel.* *mf* *cresc.* *a tempo*

B he blew a whiff from his pipe, And a scorn - ful laugh, a

56 *mf* *cresc.* *accel.* *f*

S he. The skip - per, he blew a whiff from his pipe, And a

A *mf* *cresc.* *accel.* *f*

A he. The skip - per, he blew a whiff from his pipe, And a

T *mf* *cresc.* *accel.* *f*

T scorn - ful laugh, he blew a whiff from his pipe, And a

B *mf* *cresc.* *accel.* *f*

B scorn - ful laugh, he blew a whiff from his pipe, And a

The Wreck of the Hesperus

59 *a tempo* $\text{♩} = 152$ *ten.* *mp*

S scorn - ful laugh laugh'd he. Cold - er and

A scorn - ful laugh laugh'd he. Cold - er and

T scorn - ful laugh laugh'd he. Cold - er and

B scorn - ful laugh laugh'd he. *dim.* Cold - - - er, loud - - -

63 *pp*

S loud - er blew the wind, A gale from the

A loud - er blew the wind, A gale from the

T loud - er blew the wind, A gale from the

B - - er blew the wind, A gale from the

67 *cresc.*

S North - - - east, The snow fell

A North - - - east, The snow fell

T North - - - east, The snow fell

B North - - - east, The snow fell

The Wreck of the Hesperus

71

S
hiss - ing in the brine, And the bil - lows

A
hiss - ing in the brine, And the bil - lows

T
hiss - ing in the brine, And the bil - lows

B
hiss - ing in the brine, And the bil - lows

75 $\text{♩} = 132$

S
froth'd like yeast. Down came the storm, and

A
froth'd. Down, down came the storm, down, down came the storm, and

T
froth'd like yeast. Down came the storm, and

B
froth'd like yeast. Down came the storm, and

78 *molto marcato*

S
smote a - main The ves - sel in its strength; She

A
smote a - main The ves - sel in its strength; She

T
smote a - main The ves - sel; She shud - der'd and paus'd, like a

B
smote a - main The ves - sel in its strength; She shud - der'd and

The Wreck of the Hesperus

81

S shud - der'd and paus'd, like a fright - ed steed, Then leap'd

A shud - der'd and paus'd, like a fright - ed steed, Then leap'd

T fright - ed steed, like a fright - ed steed, Then leap'd, then

B paus'd, like a fright - ed, fright - ed steed, Then leap'd, then

ff *impetuoso*

84

S — her ca - ble's length. 'Come hith - er! come

A — her ca - ble's length. 'Come hith - er! come

T leap'd her ca - ble's length. 'Come hith - er! come

B leap'd her ca - ble's length. 'Come hith - er! come

p *poco meno mosso*

88

S hith - er! my lit - tle daugh - tèr, And do not

A hith - er! my lit - tle daugh - tèr, And do not

T hith - er! my lit - tle daugh - tèr, And do not

B hith - er! my lit - tle daugh - tèr, And do not

p *legato*

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92

S trem - ble so; the rough - est gale That

A trem - ble so; the rough - est gale That

T trem - ble so; For I can weath-er the rough - est gale That

B trem - ble so; the rough - est gale That

96

S ev - er the wind did blow.' 'For I can weath-er the rough - est gale That

A ev - er the wind did blow.' 'For I can weath-er the rough - est gale That

T ev - er the wind did blow.' 'For I can weath-er the rough - est gale That

B ev - er the wind did blow.' 'For I can weath-er, can weath-er the rough - est gale That

100

S ev - er the wind did blow.' He wrapp'd her warm in his sea - man's coat A -

A ev - er the wind did blow.' He wrapp'd her warm in his sea - man's coat A -

T ev - er the wind did blow.' He wrapp'd her warm in his sea - man's coat A -

B ev - er the wind did blow.' He wrapp'd her warm in his sea - man's coat A -

The Wreck of the Hesperus

104

S gainst the sting - ing blast; He cut a rope from a

A gainst the sting - ing blast; He cut, he cut a rope from a

T gainst the sting - ing blast; He cut a rope from a

B gainst the sting - ing blast; He cut a rope from a

107

S *cresc.* bro - ken spar, And bound her. 'O fa - ther! fa - ther! I

A *cresc.* bro - ken spar, And bound her to the mast.

T *cresc.* bro - ken spar, And bound her to the mast.

B *cresc.* bro - ken spar, And bound her to the mast.

110

S hear the church - bells ring, Say, what may it be? what

A *mf* > *p* 'Tis a fog - bell

T *mf* > *p* 'Tis a fog - bell

B > 'Fa - ther! _

The Wreck of the Hesperus

114

S — may it be? *poco rall.*

A — on a rock - bound coast! — *dim.* And he steered for the o - pen *poco rall.*

T — on a rock - bound coast! — *dim.* And he steered for the o - pen *poco rall.*

B — Fa - ther! — *p* he *poco rall.*

118

S — *mf a tempo* 'O fa - ther! fa - ther! *poco accel. e agitato* I hear the sound of

A — *a tempo* sea. *poco accel. e agitato*

T — *a tempo* sea. *poco accel. e agitato*

B — *a tempo* steered for the o - pen sea. *poco accel. e agitato*

121

S — guns, Say, what may it be? what

A — *mf p* 'Some ship in dis - tress,

T — *mf p* 'Some ship in dis - tress,

B — *p* 'Fa - ther!

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124

S — may it be? *poco rall.*

A — that can - not live *dim.* In such an an - gry, such an *poco rall.*

T — that can - not live *dim.* In such an an - gry, such an *poco rall.*

B — Fa - ther! *p* *poco rall.*

128

S 'O fa - ther! fa - ther! I see a gleam - ing light, Say, what may it *f* *molto agitato e accel.*

A an - gry sea! *molto agitato e accel.*

T an - gry sea! *molto agitato e accel.*

B *p* such an an - gry sea! *molto agitato e accel.*

♩ = 152

132 *stringendo e accel.*

S be? what may it be? *stringendo e accel.*

A 'Fa - ther! Fa - ther! Fa - ther! *f* *cresc.*

T 'Fa - ther! Fa - ther! Fa - ther! *ff*

B 'Fa - ther! Fa - ther! Fa - ther! *ff*

The Wreck of the Hesperus

Andante ♩ = 100

137

S *dim.*
A *dim.*
T *mf* *molto cresc. e pesante* *ff* *dim.*
B *mf* *molto cresc. e pesante* *ff* *dim.*

But the fa - ther an - swer'd nev - er a word, A
But the fa - ther an - swer'd nev - er a word, _____

142

S *pp*
A *pp*
T *pp*
B *pp*

fro - zen corpse, a fro - zen corpse, _____ a
fro - zen corpse, _____ a fro - zen
fro - zen corpse, _____ a fro - zen
_____ A corpse, _____ a fro - zen

147

S *f* *ff* *p*
A *f* *ff* *p*
T *f* *ff* *p*
B *f* *ff* *p*

corpse. _____ Lash'd to the helm, all stiff and
corpse _____ was he. all stiff and
corpse _____ was he. all stiff and
corpse _____ was he. all stiff and

The Wreck of the Hesperus

152

S stark, his face to the skies, The lan - tern gleam'd thro' the *cresc.*

A stark, With his face to the skies, The lan - tern gleam'd thro' the *cresc.*

T stark, With his face to the skies, The lan - tern gleam'd thro' the *cresc.*

B stark, With his face to the skies, the skies, The lan - tern gleam'd thro' the *cresc.*

157

S gleam - ing snow On his fix'd and glass - y eyes. *Adagio* ♩ = 60

A gleam - ing snow On his fix'd and glass - y eyes.

T gleam - ing snow On his fix'd and glass - y eyes.

B gleam - ing snow On his fix'd and glass - y eyes.

164

S *p legato* Then the maid - en clasp'd her hands and pray'd That *p rall.* sav - èd she might

A *p legato* Then the maid - en clasp'd her hands and pray'd That *p rall.* sav - èd she might

T *p legato* Then the maid - en clasp'd her hands and pray'd That *p rall.* sav - èd she might

B *p legato* Then the maid - en clasp'd her hands and pray'd That *p rall.* sav - èd she might

The Wreck of the Hesperus

167 *a tempo*

S be; And she thought of Christ, who still'd the wave, On the

A be; And she thought of Christ, who still'd the wave, On the

T be; And she thought of Christ, who still'd the wave, On the

B be; And she thought of Christ, who still'd the wave, On the

170 *cresc.*

S Lake of Gal - i - lee, And she thought of Christ, who

A Lake of Gal - i - lee, And she thought of Christ, who

T Lake of Gal - i - lee, And she thought of Christ, who

B Lake of Gal - i - lee, And she thought of Christ, who

173 *p poco rit. a tempo*

S still'd the wave, On the Lake of Gal - i - lee.

A still'd the wave, On the Lake of Gal - i - lee. At

T still'd the wave, On the Lake of Gal - i - lee.

B still'd the wave, On the Lake of Gal - i - lee.

The Wreck of the Hesperus

177

S A T B

p *ten.* *p* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.* *cresc.*

A fish - er - man stood a - ghash, To see the
 day - break, on the bleak sea-beach, A fish - er - man stood a - ghash, To see the
 A fish - er - man stood a - ghash, To see the
 stood a - ghash, To see the

181

S A T B

rall. *p* *rall.* *p* *rall.* *p* *rall.* *p*

form of a maid - en fair, Lash'd close to a drift - ing
 form of a maid - en fair, Lash'd close to a drift - ing
 form of a maid - en fair, Lash'd close to a drift - ing
 form of a maid - en fair, Lash'd close to a drift - ing

$\text{♩} = 60$

184

S A T B

legato *p* *legato* *p* *legato* *ten. legato* *ten.*

mast. The salt sea was fro - zen on her breast, The
 mast. The salt sea was fro - zen on her breast, The
 mast. The salt sea was fro - zen on her breast, the salt sea was fro - zen on her
 mast. The salt sea was fro - zen on her breast, fro - zen on her

The Wreck of the Hesperus

187

S salt tears in her eyes; And he saw her hair, like the

A salt tears in her eyes; And he saw, and he saw her hair, like the

T breast, The salt tears in her eyes; And he saw, and he saw her hair, like the

B breast, The salt tears in her eyes; And he saw, and he saw her hair, like the

190

S brown sea - weed, On the bil - lows fall and rise,

A brown sea - weed, On the bil - lows fall and rise, on the

T brown sea - weed, On the bil - lows fall and rise, on the

B brown sea - weed, On the bil - lows fall and rise, fall and

194

S fall, fall and rise.

A bil - lows fall, fall and rise.

T bil - lows fall, fall and rise.

B rise, fall and rise.

The Wreck of the Hesperus

Largo $\text{♩} = 52$

198

S In the mid - night and the

A In the mid - night and the

T In the mid - night and the

B *mf con solemnita* Such was the wreck of the Hes - pe - rus, In the mid - night and the

201

S snow! Christ save us all from a death like this, On the

A snow! Christ save us all from a death like this, On the

T snow! Christ save us all from a death like this, On the

B snow! Christ save us all from a death like this, On the

204

S reef of Nor - man's Woe! Christ save us all from a

A reef of Nor - man's Woe! Christ save us all from a

T reef of Nor - man's Woe! Christ save us all from a

B reef of Nor - man's Woe! Christ save us all from a

The Wreck of the Hesperus

207

S death like this, On the reef, the reef of Nor - man's Woe!

A death like this, On the reef, the reef of Nor - man's Woe!

T death like this, On the reef, the reef of Nor - man's Woe!

B death like this, On the reef, the reef of Nor - man's Woe!

Novello, Ewer and Co.
(1860-1885)

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