

## Sing heigh-ho!

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 edited the works 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.

The Reverend Charles Kingsley (1819-1875) was born at Holne Vicarage near Dartmoor, Devonshire. He was a parish priest and became one of the most prolific authors in Victorian England. He wrote poetry, novels, historical works, sermons;, religious tracts, scientific treatises, and works of political, social, and literary criticism. He was a prominent social reformer, political activist, and held positions as Professor of Modern History at Cambridge, chaplain to Queen Victoria, the private tutor to the future Edward VII, and the canon of Westminster. He entered into social movements to helping the poor. He was committed to the Christian Socialist movement and sympathetic to the Chartist movement- a working-class movement for political reform in 19th century Great Britain. His writings often addressed the deplorable working and living conditions in England, the need for sanitation, the importance of science, the abolition of slavery, and the role of the artist in society.

There sits a bird on every tree;
Sing heigh-ho!
There sits a bird on ev'ry tree,
And courts his love as I do thee;
Sing heigh-ho! and heigh-ho!
Young maids must marry.

There grows a flower on every bough;
Sing heigh-ho!
There grows a flower on every bough,
Its petals kiss—I'll show you how;
Sing heigh-ho! and heigh-ho!
Young maids must marry.

From sea to stream the salmon roam;
Sing heigh-ho!
From sea to stream the salmon roam,
Each finds a mate, and leads her home;
Sing heigh-ho! and heigh-ho!
Young maids must marry.

The sun's a bridegroom, earth a bride;
Sing heigh-ho!
They court from morn till eventide:
The earth shall pass, but love abide.
Sing heigh-ho! and heigh-ho!
Young maids must marry.

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G. A. Macfarren





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## Sing Keigh-Ko

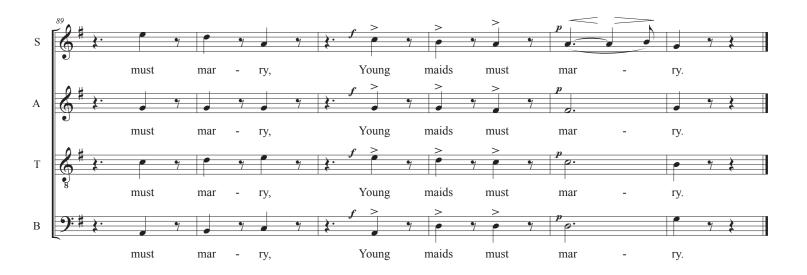












Novello, Ewer and Co. (1860-1885)

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