

# SCARBOROUGH FAIR

## DECOMPOSED AND CANONIZED

Choir, Mixed Chorus and Solo, A cappella

Traditional Folk Song

Arranged by EVERETT REED

Mixed Chorus

Solo

*mp*

She

She once was a true love of mine.

Are you goin' to

♩ = 104

## Labyrinth Canon

Solo

Scar - bo-rough fair?

(rejoin choir)

She once was a

Choir

Are you goin' to Scar - bo-rough fair?

Pars - ley, sage, rose - ma - ry and thyme,

Re - mem - ber me to one who lives there,

She once was a true love of mine.

*Labyrinth Notes: Each singer will independently sing once, in any order, each line of the labyrinth. The conductor cues the event and controls dynamics. When cued, sing the labyrinth, and hold your last note until cut off by the conductor. The fermatas refer only to these last notes.*

## Interlude

Solo

true love of mine.

Mixed Chorus

*mp* She  
She once was a true love of mine.

*mp* She

## Repeating Canon

Choir

*mp*  
Tell her to make me a cam - bric shirt,  
Pars - ley, sage, rose - ma - ry and thyme,  
With - out a seam or nee - dle work,  
Then she'll be a true love of mine.

*Repeating Canon Notes: Each singer will sing each line of the canon, in order. The conductor will cue each line, by "scanning" the choir. Each line may be scanned differently. When cued, sing the line and hold the note at the fermata until all arrive and are cut off by the conductor.*

## Interlude

*mp* She  $\text{♩} = 104$

*mf* *a little faster*

Mixed Chorus

She once was, She once was a true love of mine.

She

## Echo Cañon

*In Tempo*  $\text{♩} = 112$

Choir

1 *f* Tell her to buy me an a - cre of

2 Tell her to buy me an a - cre of

3 Tell her to buy me an a - cre of

4 *p* land, Pars - ley, sage, rose - ma - ry and

thyme, Pars - ley, sage, rose - ma - ry and thyme, *f* Be -

tween the salt wa - ter and the sea sand *p* Be -

tween the salt wa - ter and the sea sand,

Then she'll be a true love of

mine, *p* she'll be a true love of mine.

# Hidden Canon

*mf*  $\bullet = 104$

Mixed Chorus

If she says that she can - not then I shall re - ply.

Mixed Chorus

Pars - ley, sage, — rose - mar - y and thyme,

Mixed Chorus

Oh, let me know that at least she will try,

that at

Mixed Chorus

Then she'll be a true love of

Then

Last Two Pages Omitted

Arranger's Notes  
**SCARBOROUGH FAIR**  
*Decomposed and Canonized*

**Scarborough Fair** *Decomposed and Canonized* is an adaptation and arrangement of the well-known traditional folk song in Avant Garde style.

*Scarborough Fair* is an ancient folk song of England and Scotland. It appears in many variant versions, with different melodies and titles (such as The Elfin Knight, Whittingham Fair, and Strawberry Lane), all centered around a text which speaks of impossible tasks, asked to prove true love. The variant used here, with its haunting melody and harmony in Dorian Mode, is the best known today.

*Avant Garde* is a style of classical choral music which was born in Scandinavia in the 1960s. Some of the hallmarks of this style are the use of speech, polychords and tone clusters, nonfunctional harmony, nontraditional vocal sounds, and the use of aleatory.

The word *aleatory* means to use "chance." In aleatoric music, the musicians and singers perform independently, creating an element of chance in the music. An aleatoric piece is somewhat different each time it's performed.

This arrangement uses aleatoric technique, and can serve as an introduction to the Avant Garde style. The arrangement uses a soloist and two performing groups.

The **Soloist** (from the Choir) can either be a treble or bass clef singer, and is designated in the score by a single staff without bracket.

The **Mixed Chorus** is an SATB chorus, and can be small group or octet. It sings in four parts except for the last polychord of the piece. In the score, the Mixed Chorus is designated by a bracketed two-stave system.

The **Choir** can be any combination of voices: treble, bass, or mixed. However, it should be a large ensemble. It is designated in the score by a single treble staff which is bracketed. The Choir sings melody throughout the piece. In mixed choirs, basses and tenors will sing in their natural range, an octave lower than the written notes. Other than in the *Echo Cañon*, which is sung together in tempo, the members of the Choir sing independently, in aleatoric style.

One performance suggestion: Place the Mixed Chorus at the front of the performance space. Place the Choir around the perimeter, in the back, or in the aisles. This will enhance the aleatoric effect.

Although the notation used in this piece may be unfamiliar at first, the piece is really quite simple. Besides including a wealth of teaching concepts, **Scarborough Fair** *Decomposed and Canonized* is fun to perform, for either a developing or a seasoned choral ensemble.