

A Ballad of Two Knights

A poem by Sara Teasdale
in a setting for women's voices

by
John W. Ward

(SSA, accompanied)

“A Ballad of Two Knights”, by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

Two knights rode forth at early dawn
A-seeking maids to wed,
Said one, “My lady must be fair,
With gold hair on her head.”

Then spake the other knight-at-arms:
“I care not for her face,
But she I love must be a dove
For purity and grace.”

And each knight blew upon his horn
And went his separate way,
And each knight found a lady-love
Before the fall of day.

But she was brown who should have had
The shining yellow hair –
I ween the knights forgot their words
Or else they ceased to care.

For he who wanted purity
Brought home a wanton wild,
And when each saw the other knight
I ween that each knight smiled.

A Ballad of Two Knights

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

John W. Ward (1953-)

Allegro ma non troppo (M.M. ♩ = c. 76) *mf*

Soprano 1
Soprano 2
Alto
Piano

Two knights rode forth at ear-ly dawn a -
Two knights rode forth at ear-ly dawn a -
Two knights rode forth at ear-ly dawn a -

7 *mp* *mf*
S 1 see - king maids to wed, (fal - ral tid - dle-dum - day) Said

S 2 *mp* *mf*
see - king maids to wed, (With a fal - ral tid - dle-dum - day) Said

A *mp* *mf*
see - king maids to wed, (With a fal - ral tid - dle-dum - day) Said

7 *mp* *mf*
Pno.

A Ballad of Two Knights

11

S 1
one, "My la - dy must be fair with gold hair on her head." With a fal, and a

S 2
one, "My la - dy must be fair with gold hair on her head." With a fal - ral - ral and

A
one, "My la - dy must be fair with gold hair on her head." With a fal - ral - ral and

11

Pno.

16

S 1
tid - dle - dum - day, with a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day! Then spake the o - ther knight - at - arms: "I

S 2
tid - dle - dum - day, with a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day! Then spake the o - ther knight - at - arms: "I

A
tid - dle - dum, with a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day, dum - day, Then spake the o - ther knight - at - arms: "I

16

Pno.

21 *mp* *mf* *molto rall.*

S 1
care not for her face, (fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day) *mf* But she I love must

S 2
care not for her face, (With a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day) *mf* But she I love must

A
care not for her face, (With a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day) But she I love must

Pno. *mp* *mf*

26 *mp* *mp* *mp*

S 1
be a dove for pu - ri - ty and grace." *mp* With a

S 2
be a dove for pu - ri - ty and grace." *mp* With a

A
be a dove for pu - ri - ty and, pu - ri - ty and grace. With a

Pno. *mp*

29 **Deliberate** (♩ = 60)

S 1
fal, and a ral, and a fal-ral tid-dle-dum - day; With a

S 2
fal - ral - ral, and a tid-dle-did-dle-dum, and fal-ral tid-dle-dum - day; With a

A
fal - ral, tid-dle-did-dle, fal - ral, tid-dle-did-dle, fal-ral tid-dle-dum, tid-dle-dum - day With a

Pno. *mp*

33

S 1
hey, and a ho, and a

S 2
hey, hi - di - ho, and non - ny, non - ny no and a

A
hi - ho tid - dle - dum fal - ral - ral and a

Pno. *(cresc.)*

35 *mf* *tempo primo*

S 1
fal - ral tid - dle-dum - day. dum - day. And each knight blew u -

S 2
fal - ral tid - dle-dum - day, dum - day. And each knight blew u -

A
fal - ral tid - dle - day, dum - day. And each knight blew u -

Pno. *loco* *mf*

38

S 1
pon his horn and went his se-p'rate way, And each knight found a la - dy - love be -

S 2
pon his horn and went his se-p'rate way, And each knight found a la - dy - love be -

A
pon his horn and went his se-p'rate way, And each knight found a la - dy - love be -

Pno.

43

S 1
fore the fall of day. Witha hey, and a ho, and a

S 2
fore the fall of day. Witha fal - ral tid-dle-dum non-ny, non-ny no and

A
fore, be - fore the fall of day. Witha hi - di - ho and non - ny no and

Pno.

47

S 1
fal - ral tid-dle-dum - day, With a non - ny, non-ny no, and a

S 2
fal - ral tid-dle-dum - day, With a fal - ral tid-dle-dum, ho, ho, ho and

A
fal - ral tid-dle - dum - day, dum - day, With a fal - ral tid - dle fal - ral tid - dle

Pno.

51 $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$ **Freely** $(\text{♩} = 60)$

S 1
fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day. But she was brown who should have had ____ the

S 2
fal - ral tid - dle - day. But she was brown who should have had ____ the

A
fal - ral tid - dle - day. But she was brown who should have had the

Pno.

55 *mp* *mf*

S 1
shi - ning yel - low hair; (fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day) I

S 2
shi - ning yel - low hair; (With a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day) I

A
shi - ning yel - low hair; (With a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day, dum - day) I

Pno.

A Ballad of Two Knights

59 $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$

S 1
ween the knights for - got their words, or else they ceased to care. *mp* With a

S 2
ween the knights for - got their words, or else they ceased to care. *mp* With a

A
ween the knights for - got their words, or else they ceased to care, to care. *mp* With a

Pno.

63 *poco a poco accel. e cresc.*

S 1
fal, and a tid-dle-dum - day, with a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day. *mf* For

S 2
fal - ral - ral and tid - dle - dum - day, with a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day! *mf* For

A
fal - ral - ral and tid - dle - dum, with a fal - ral tid - dle - dum, tid - dle - dum - day, For

Pno. *mf*

67 *tempo primo*

S 1
he who wan-ted pu - ri - ty brought home a wan-ton wild, And when each saw the

S 2
he who wan-ted pu - ri - ty brought home a wan-ton wild, And when each saw the

A
he who wan-ted pu - ri - ty brought home a wan-ton wild, And when each saw the

Pno.

72 *rall.* *a tempo*

S 1
o - ther knight I ween that each knight smiled. With a hey, and a

S 2
o - ther knight I ween that each knight smiled. With a fal - ral - ral and a

A
o - ther knight I ween that each knight, smiled. With a fal - ral - ral and

Pno.

76 *f*

S 1
ho, and a fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day, With a non - ny, non - ny

S 2
non - ny non - ny no and fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day, With a hi, ho tid - dle - dum

A
hi - di - ho and fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day, dum day, With a fal - ral - ral and

Pno. *f*

80 *allargando*

S 1
no, and a fal - ral, tid - dle - dum, hi - ho non - ny no, fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day! —

S 2
fal - ral - ral and fal - ral, tid - dle - dum, hi - ho non - ny no fal - ral tid - dle - dum - day! —

A
ho, ho, ho and fal - ral, tid - dle - dum, hi - ho non - ny no fal - ral tid - dle - dum day. —

Pno.