

# NELLY BLY

TTB Voices with Piano

Stephen Foster (1826-1864)  
Arranged by Glenda E. Franklin

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**Ranges:**

Tenor 1



Tenor 2



Baritone



Language: English  
Use: General/Festival  
Time: Approx. 1:46  
\*Difficulty: Moderate

## Note from the Arranger

Stephen Collins Foster (1826-1864) is often referred to as the Father of American Music. At a historical time when the majority of music was either gospel or classical, there were few songs “of the people” known as folksongs, especially in America.

Foster was born into a middle-class family prominent in business and politics. He was encouraged to pursue educational experiences but above all else, loved music. At that time, it was believed that music should be kept within reasonable limits as a pleasant pastime, not pursued as a career. He taught himself to play the clarinet, violin, flute and piano.

Within his short life of only 38 years, Foster wrote over 200 songs with his first being published at the age of 18. Many of Foster’s compositions reflect life in the South, although he only visited once in his lifetime. Foster sought to portray the characters in his compositions as real humans regardless of their social, ethnic, or economic class. He sought to convey that all people share the same feelings and needs for home and family.

Among Foster’s most famous compositions are *Oh! Susannah*, *Camptown Races*, *Old Folks At Home*, *My Old Kentucky Home*, *Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair*, and *Beautiful Dreamer*.

It is believed that Nelly Bly was the name of a servant girl who enjoyed listening to Foster serenade his friends at small gatherings. The name “Nelly Bly” also appears in the lyrics of “*Oh! Lemuel!*” written by Foster. With many of his pieces being melancholy and/or sad in nature, this is one of the few happy songs written by Foster.

*Nelly Bly* is a lively work that should be performed with a solid, full sound. Enunciation should be crisp and clean allowing a mental picture to evolve of the character, Nelly Bly. Don’t allow the harmony parts to overshadow the melody, which moves between the Tenor 1 and Tenor 2 vocal parts. Careful use of dynamics will help with this.

Work towards a relaxed, beautiful tone quality on the higher notes, supporting them with good breath control.

The accompaniment will support the energy of this piece making it a fun piece for male voices. Enjoy!

—Glenda E. Franklin

## 3

**♩ = 92**

The image shows a musical score for a song titled "The Rose Tree". The score is written for four parts: Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, and Piano. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. A tempo marking indicates a quarter note equals 92 beats per minute. The piano part is marked with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The vocal parts (Tenors and Baritone) are currently silent, indicated by whole rests. The piano part begins with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A large, diagonal watermark reading "MusicalScoreCloud.com" is overlaid across the entire score.

4

*mf*

1. Nel-ly Bly! bring the broom a-long, We'll  
2. Nel-ly Bly! like the tur-tle dove, I

*mf*

1. Nel-ly Bly! bring the broom a-long, We'll  
2. Had a voice like the tur-tle dove, I

*mf*

1. Nel-ly Bly! bring the broom a-long, We'll  
2. Had a voice like the tur-tle dove, I

*mp*

sweep the kitch - en clean, my dear, and have a lit - tle song.  
hear it in the mea - dow and I hear it in the grove.

sweep the kitch - en clean, my dear, and have a lit - tle song.  
hear it in the mea - dow and I hear it in the grove.

sweep the kitch - en clean, my dear, and have a lit - tle song.  
hear it in the mea - dow and I hear it in the grove.

Poke the wood, And make the fire burn, And  
Nel - ly Bly! As warm as cup of tea, And

My la - dy love And make the fire burn, And  
She had a heart as warm as cup of tea, And

My la - dy love And make the fire burn, And  
She had a heart as warm as cup of tea, And



16

\*dul-cet mel-o-dy. Heigh! Nel-ly, Ho! Nel-ly, Lis - ten love, I'll

\*dul-cet mel-o-dy. Heigh! Ho! lis-ten love, to me, I'll

\*dul-cet mel-o-dy. Heigh, Ho! Lis - ten love,

19

1. sing for you, play for you, A dul-cet mel-o-dy. 2. dul-cet mel-o-dy. I'll *mp*

1. sing for you, play for you, A dul-cet mel-o-dy. 2. dul-cet mel-o-dy. I'll *mp*

1. play for you, A dul-cet mel-o-dy. 2. dul-cet mel-o-dy. I'll *mp*

\* dulcet - pleasing to the ear

22

*mf*

sing for you, play for you, A dul-cet mel - o -

*mf*

sing for you, play for you, A dul-cet mel - o -

*mf*

sing for you, play for you, A dul-cet mel - o -

*mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

25

*sfz*

dy, Nel - ly Bly.

*sfz*

dy, Nel - ly Bly.

*sfz*

dy, Nel - ly Bly.

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