

Railroad

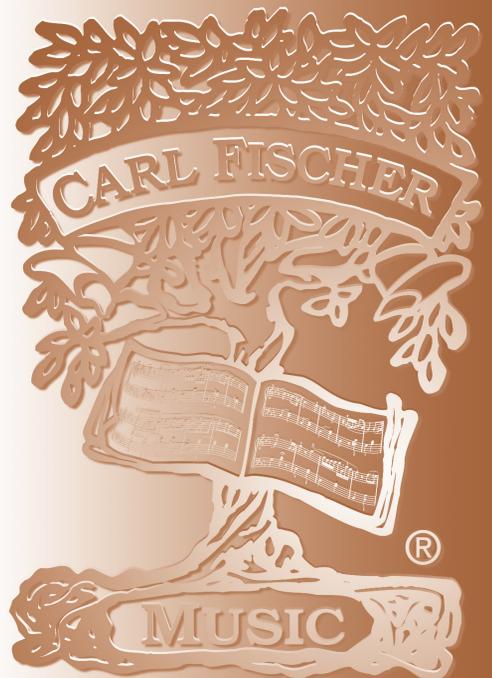
American Folk Song

Arranged by

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

T(T)B Voices with Keyboard

Ranges:



Program Notes

Everybody loves an upbeat folk song! This fun American folk song is one of the most popular “Railroad” songs, although the origin of “Dinah” is somewhat of a mystery and possibly a more recent addition to the main body of the song. Some believe Dinah may have been the name of a particular locomotive; others think she might be a woman; others have considered she may be the “diner” or dining car where the workers would congregate to eat, in that the horn signified the call to break for lunch.

The first part of the song is meant to be sung in a relaxed, easy feel, whereas the “Dinah” section can be a little more raucous, before returning to the original style and tempo for the finish.

In the SATB version, some cues are given for those choirs whose SA sections are capable of *divisi*. It isn’t necessary to divide, but this will fill out the chords nicely. Also, be sure to allow whoever has the melody to be “out front” dynamically – and it’s not always the sopranos. If you’re singing backup, back off and let the melody come through and stand out.

In the TTB version, the melody will bounce back and forth between (usually second) tenor and the baritones. If you’re not singing the melody, back off so the melody will come through and stand out.

Don’t be too serious, especially in the “Dinah” section on those moving notes in mm. 41 and 49. Pronounce each syllable with a little “w” sound at the front of it to emphasize each note. And be careful of your sustained notes in mm. 53–54; support them and don’t let them sag after singing all those fast-paced passages preceding this. When you get back to Tempo I at m. 57, watch your conductor very carefully so you all stay together. Although the last note is *ff*, don’t push; be loud and forceful, but be musical.

And most of all, have fun with this arrangement, and enjoy it!

About the Arranger

Ruth Elaine Schram wrote her first song at the age of twelve, and her first octavo was published twenty years later in 1988. In 1992, she became a full-time composer and arranger and now has over 1,300 published works. Over thirteen million copies of her songs have been purchased in their various venues, and she has been a recipient of the ASCAP Special Award each year since 1990. In addition to her choral music for church and school choirs, her songs appear on thirty albums (four of which have been Dove Award Finalists) and numerous children’s videos, including sixteen songs on four gold videos, and four songs on one multi-platinum video. Her songs have also appeared on such diverse television shows as *The 700 Club* and HBO’s acclaimed series *The Sopranos*.

Ruthie began piano and theory lessons at the age of five. She studied music at Lancaster Bible College and Millersville State College and taught Elementary Music in Pennsylvania for several years. She now lives in Birmingham, Alabama with her husband, Scott, and they have two grown daughters, Crystie and Celsie.

Her current published works, with samples of audio excerpts and select pages of the scores, are listed on her website www.choralmusic.com.

Railroad

for T(T)B Voices with Keyboard*

American Folk Song
Arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram

In fun ♩ = 100–112 Swing! ♩ = $\overset{3}{\text{♩}}$

Keyboard

4 Tenors *mp* *unis. (spoken)*
Who's in the kit-chen?

Bass *mp* (spoken)
Some-one's in the kit-chen;

7 *mf* (sung)
Tell me, who's in the kit-chen? I've been work-ing on the

mf (sung)
some-one's in the kit-chen! I've been work-ing on the

*Also available for SATB Voices (CM9073).

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10

8 rail - road, all the live - long day, long day!_

8 rail - road, all the live - long day, long day!_

13

8 I've been work-ing, oh, I've been work - ing, just to pass the

I've been work-ing on the rail - road, just to pass the time a-way..

16

8 time a - way.. Can't you hear the whis-tle blow - ing?

Can't you hear _____ the whis-tle blow - ing,

19

morn, in the morn! unis.

Rise up so ear-ly in the morn! Can't you hear the cap-tain

rise up so ear-ly, ear-ly in the morn! Can't you hear the cap-tain

22

shout - ing, "Di - nah, blow your horn, your horn, _____

shout - ing, "Di - nah, blow your horn, your horn, _____

25

poco rall.

your horn, Di - nah, won't you blow that horn?"

poco rall.

your horn, Di - nah, won't you blow that horn?"

poco rall.

28 With more urgency (even eighths) ♩ = 92-100 $\text{♪} = \overset{\text{3}}{\text{♪}}$

Di - nah,
Di - nah, won't you blow,

31 unis.

Di - nah,
Di - nah won't you blow, Di - nah won't you blow that horn? It's lunch - time!

34 unis.

Di - nah,
Di - nah, Di - nah, Di - nah won't you blow that

Di - nah, won't you blow,
Di - nah won't you blow,
Di - nah won't you blow that

37

horn? Some-one's in the kit-chen with Di - nah,

horn? Some one's in the kit-chen with Di - nah,

40

some-one's in the kit-chen, I know!* _ Some-one's in the

some-one's in the kit-chen, I know!* _ Some-one's in the kit-chen with

43

kit-chen with Di - nah, strum-ming on the old ban - jo, _ sing - ing,

Di - nah, strum-ming on the old ban - jo, sing - ing,

*If desired, pronounce as "know-whoa-whoa-whoa."

46

Fi, fie, fid - dly - i - o, fi, fie, fid - dly - i -

Fi, fie, fid - dly - i - o, fi, fie, fid - dly - i -

49

- o,* fi, fie, fid - dly - i - o,

- o,* fi, fie, fid - dly - i - o,

52

poco rall.
strum - ming on the old ban - jo.

poco rall.
strum - ming on the old ban - jo.

poco rall.

*If desired, pronounce as "oh-whoa-whoa-whoa."

Tempo I ♩ = 100-112 Swing! $\text{♩} = \overset{\text{3}}{\text{♩}}$

55

(spoken)
Some-one's in the kit-chen,

58 (spoken)
unis.

Who's in the kit-chen? Tell me, who's in the kit-chen?
some-one's in the kit-chen!

61

I've been work-ing on the rail - road, all the live - long
I've been work-ing on the rail - road, all the live - long

64

day, long day!_ I've been work-ing, oh, I've been work - ing,
 day, long day!_ I've been work-ing on the rail - road, just to

67

just to pass the time a - way... Can't you hear the whis-tle
 pass the time a - way.____ Can't you hear_____

70

blow - ing? Rise up so ear-ly in the morn!
 — the whis-tle blow - ing, rise up so ear-ly, ear-ly in the morn!

73 unis. *f*

Can't you hear the cap-tain shout - ing, Di - nah, _____

Can't you hear the cap-tain shout - ing, Di-nah,

76

Di - nah, _____ oh, Di - nah, _____ it's lunch - time!

Di-nah, Di-nah, it's lunch - time!

79 unis. *ff*

I've been work-ing all the live long day; - all the day!

I've been work-ing all the live long day; - all the day!

Choral

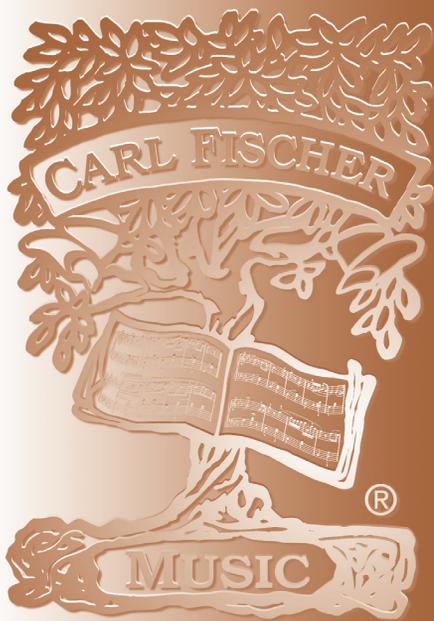
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