

JOHNNY HAS GONE FOR A SOLDIER

SSA Voices with Piano

Arranged by
Paul David Thomas

BriLee Music
Part-by-Part 

For Accompaniment and Rehearsal Audio
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Ranges:



Sop 1  Sop 2 
Alto 

Language: English

Use: General/Festival

Time: Approx. 2:49

*Difficulty: Moderate

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Arranger's Notes

The melody of this classic folk tune dates back to late 17th-century Ireland. Known as *Shule Aroon*, this song depicts the lament of a woman over her partner leaving to join the military. The song would eventually make its way to the American colonies where it would take on the lyrics we know today. While originally popularized during the American Revolution, *Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier* speaks to the difficult sacrifices that both soldiers and the ones who stay behind must make.

While maintaining the minor feel of the original song, this adaptation sets the familiar text to a newly composed tune and follows each verse with a refrain on the phrase “he’s gone.” The original tune eventually appears during the third verse, serving as a countermelody above the newly composed line.

About the Arranger

Composer Paul David Thomas’s compositional interests range from church music to electronic avant-garde and everything in between. In addition to composing, Paul is an active choir accompanist and accordionist in the free improvisation ensemble Impulse. Paul serves on the faculty at Texas Woman’s University and has previously taught at Dallas Baptist University and the University of North Texas.

11

John-ny has gone for a sol - dier.

John-ny's gone, John-ny's gone,

14

mp
Me, oh, my, I

John-ny's gone, John-ny's gone,

17

loved him so, *mp* Broke my heart to see him go, And

John-ny's gone, John - ny's

20

on - ly time will heal my woe; John-ny has gone for a
gone, heal my woe; John-ny has gone for a

24

sol - dier. He's gone, He's He's He's He's He's He's
sol - dier. He's gone, He's He's He's He's He's He's

28

gone, gone, He's gone, He's gone, gone, he's gone, He's gone, He's
gone, he's gone, He's gone, He's

32 **a tempo**

gone. *mp*
I'll

gone.

a tempo

p

36

sell my clock, I'll sell my reel, Like - wise I'll sell my
mp
I'll sell my clock, I'll sell my reel, Like-wise I'll sell my

39

spin - ning wheel To buy my love a sword of
spin - ning wheel To buy my love a sword of

42

steel; John-ny has gone for a sol - dier, for a

steel; John-ny has gone for a sol - dier, for a

45

mf sol - dier. He's gone, He's

mf sol - dier. He's gone, He's

mf

48

gone, He's gone, He's

gone, he's gone, He's gone,

52 *f* gone, He's gone, He's

Here I sit on But-ter-milk Hill, Who could blame me, cry my fill?

56 *f* gone. *rit.* *p* Slower ♩ = 90 *p* He's

Ev - 'ry tear would turn a mill; He's gone, He's

60 *p* gone for a sol - dier. *rit.*

John-ny has gone for a sol - dier. *rit.*