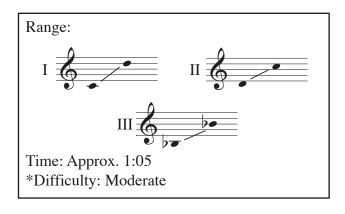
Srilee Music the Voice of Choral Music

RONDELAY-OH

SSA, a cappella, optional accompaniment

Arranged by PEGGY CARTER





Performance Notes

Jeremiah Savile was a 17th century English composer whose tune, used here, *The Waits*, is one of just a few surviving *Waits* tunes and was traditionally the last piece sung at meetings of the English Madrigal Society and other similar bodies.

Waits were musicians who sang and played instruments at municipal functions dating back to the 15th century. These were trained musicians who served apprenticeships and were paid well for their services. They were distinguished from the common minstrels who were itinerant players with varied capabilities, but no formal training, and some were no more than rogues and vagabonds.

This arrangement is for treble choir with lyrics that are appropriate for a festive occasion at any season of the year. It should be sung in a light, happy style at a fairly fast tempo. In characteristic madrigal style, many of the lyrics are nonsense syllables that emulate the sound of medieval and renaissance wind instruments.

Singing Techniques:

Exaggerate the consonants, particularly the D's and T's, with the tongue right behind the front teeth, rather than further back, using the tongue, teeth and lips to project the sound. Observe the dynamic markings to keep the performance interesting.

While the clear, crisp consonants will give rhythm definition, the vowels should open and "tall." This will produce a mature, polished performance and avoid a thin tone that comes only from the front of the mouth. (Example: "flowers" would be "flaw-oors" rather than a flat, "flah-ers.") It is also suggested that in words like "sing," spring," and "winging" that the "ee" sound of the "i" vowel be softened by using the flat tongue to sound the "ee" while at the same time, shaping the lips into an "ooo" to add fullness to the tone.

Academic Connections:

Students might enjoy learning more about music of the 17th century and specifically *Waits* as a profession or the long-standing tradition of English Madrigal singing. The following websites will provide some interesting information.

Waits: http://www.townwaits.org.uk/ or http://www.gloucesterwaites.org.uk/

Madrigals: http://oldmusicproject.com/madrigals.html or http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrigal_(music)

RONDELAY-OH A Carol for Spring SSA, a cappella, with optional accompaniment

