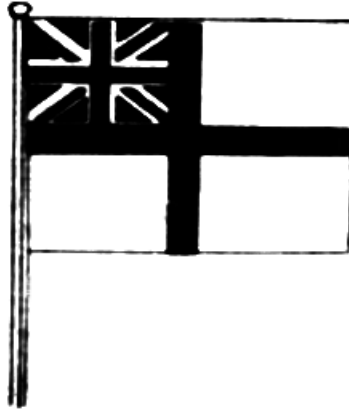


**THE FRINGES
OF
THE FLEET**



RUDYARD KIPLING

2. Fate's Discourtesy

Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

In 1915, The Daily Telegraph commissioned Rudyard Kipling to write articles on aspects of the defense of the nation on the sea. They were subsequently published in a booklet titled "The Fringes of the Fleet". Each section was prefaced by a short poem. In 1916 Lord Charles Beresford asked Elgar to set some of the verses as songs. Elgar chose to set four of them as a song-cycle, originally for four men's voices. They were quite popular and Elgar re-wrote them for mixed voices.

1. The Lowestoft Boat used the words of the poem of the same name
2. Fate's Discourtesy – the poem "A Song in Storm"
3. Submarines – the poem "Tin Fish"
4. The Sweepers – the poem "Mine Sweepers"
5. Inside the Bar – not part of the original cycle; added later with words by Sir Gilbert Parker; not re-set for mixed voices.

The Fringes of the Fleet 1. The Lowestoft Boat
The Fringes of the Fleet 2. Fate's Discourtesy
The Fringes of the Fleet 3. Submarines
The Fringes of the Fleet 4. The Sweepers

Be well assured that on our side
Our challenged oceans fight,
Though headlong wind and heaping tide
Make us their sport to-night.
By force of weather, not of war,
In jeopardy we steer.
Then welcome Fate's discourtesy
Whereby it shall appear
How in all time of our distress,
As in our triumph too,
The game is more than the player of the game,
And the ship is more than the crew!

Out of the mist into the mirk
The glimmering combers roll.
Almost these mindless waters work
As though they had a soul --
Almost as though they leagued to whelm
Our flag beneath their green:
Then welcome Fate's discourtesy
Whereby it shall be seen, etc.

Be well assured, though wave and wind
Have mightier blows in store,
That we who keep the watch assigned
Must stand to it the more;
And as our streaming bows rebuke
Each billow's baulked career,
Sing, welcome Fate's discourtesy
Whereby it shall appear
How in all time of our distress,
As in our triumph too,
The game is more than the player of the game,
And the ship is more than the crew!

No matter though our decks be swept
And mast and timber crack --
We can make good all loss except
The loss of turning back.
So, 'twixt these Devils and our deep
Let courteous trumpets sound,
To welcome Fate's discourtesy
Whereby it shall appear
How in all time of our distress,
As in our triumph too,
The game is more than the player of the game,
And the ship is more than the crew!

Be well assured, though in our power
Is nothing left to give
But chance and place to meet the hour,
And leave to strive to live.
Till these dissolve our Order holds,
Our Service binds us here.
Then welcome Fate's discourtesy
Whereby it is made clear
How in all time of our distress,
As in our triumph too,
The game is more than the player of the game
And the ship is more than the crew!

Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

Verses in alternate font omitted by Elgar

Fate's discourtesy

Edward Elgar

Allegretto ♩ = 80

S
A
T
B



The vocal staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) are shown with rests, indicating that the vocalists are silent during this section of the music.

Allegretto ♩ = 80

Piano



The piano accompaniment is written for the right and left hands. The right hand starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a melodic line with slurs. The left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with a *sonore* marking. The tempo is marked Allegretto at 80 beats per minute.

Fate's discourtesy

5

S

A

T

B

Pno.

f *Quasi recit. ad lib.*

S

Be well as-sured that on our side Our chal-lenged o - ceans fight, Tho'

f *Quasi recit. ad lib.*

A

Be well as-sured that on our side Our chal-lenged o - ceans fight, Tho'

f *Quasi recit. ad lib.*

T

Be well as-sured that on our side Our chal-lenged o - ceans fight, Tho'

f *Quasi recit. ad lib.*

B

Be well as-sured that on our side Our chal-lenged o - ceans fight, Tho'

f *colla parte*

Pno.

Fate's discourtesy

13

S head - long wind and heap - ing tide Make us their sport to - night. By

A head - long wind and heap - ing tide Make us their sport to - night. By

T head - long wind and heap - ing tide Make us their sport to - night. By

B head - long wind and heap - ing tide Make us their sport to - night. By

Pno. *mf*

17

S force of weath - er, not of war, In jeop - ar - dy we steer. *rit.*

A force of weath - er, not of war, In jeop - ar - dy we steer. *rit.*

T force of weath - er, not of war, In jeop - ar - dy we steer. *rit.*

B force of weath - er, not of war, In jeop - ar - dy we steer. *rit.*

Pno. *colla parte*

Fate's discourtesy

S
Then we - lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it shall ap - pear How

A
Then we - lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it shall ap - pear How

T
Then we - lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it shall ap - pear How

B
Then we - lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it shall, it shall ap - pear How

Pno.

S²⁵ *sostenuto* *mf* in all time of our dis-tress, As in our tri-umph too, *f* *risoluto* The

A *sostenuto* *mf* in all time of our dis - tress, As in our tri - umph too,

T *sostenuto* *mf* in all time of our dis - tress, As in our tri - umph too, *f* *risoluto* The

B *sostenuto* *mf* in all time of our dis - tress, As in our tri - umph too,

Pno. *mf* *f*

Fate's discourtesy

29

S
game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! The *ff*

A
ff
The

T
game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! The *ff*

B
ff
The

Pno.

33

S
game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *allargando*

A
allargando
game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *allargando*

T
allargando
game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *allargando*

B
allargando
game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *allargando*

Pno.

Fate's discourtesy

S
A
T
B

Pno. *mf a tempo*

Detailed description: This system shows the vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are currently at rest, indicated by horizontal lines with a fermata at the end of the phrase. The piano accompaniment consists of a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both in a key signature of two sharps (D major). The piano part begins with a dynamic marking of *mf* and a tempo marking of *a tempo*.

S
A
T
B

mf Be well as-sured, tho' wave and wind Have might-ier blows in store, That

mf Be well as-sured, tho' wave and wind Have might-ier blows in store, That

mf Be well as-sured, tho' wave and wind Have might-ier blows in store, That

mf Be well as-sured, tho' wave and wind Have might-ier blows in store, That

Pno. *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains the vocal entries with lyrics and the piano accompaniment. The lyrics for all parts are: "Be well as-sured, tho' wave and wind Have might-ier blows in store, That". The vocal parts enter with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The piano part features a steady accompaniment pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Fate's discourtesy

45

S we who keep the watch as-signed Must stand to it the more; And

A we who keep the watch as-signed Must stand to it the more; And

T we who keep the watch as-signed Must stand to it the more; And

B we who keep the watch as-signed Must stand to it the more; And

Pno.

49

S as our stream-ing bows re - buke Each bil - low's baulked ca - reer, _____ *rit.*

A as our stream-ing bows re - buke Each bil - low's baulked ca - reer, _____ *rit.*

T as our stream-ing bows re - buke Each bil - low's baulked ca - reer, _____ *rit.*

B as our stream-ing bows re - buke Each bil - low's baulked ca - reer, _____ *rit.*

Pno. *colla parte*

Fate's discourtesy

S
Sing, we - lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it shall ap - pear How

A
Sing, we - lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it shall ap - pear How

T
Sing, we - lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it shall ap - pear How

B
Sing, we - lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it shall, it shall ap - pear How

Pno.
p a tempo

S
sostenuto
in all time of our dis-tress, As in our tri-umph too, The

A
sostenuto
in all time of our dis - tress, As in our tri - umph too,

T
sostenuto
in all time of our dis - tress, As in our tri - umph too, The

B
sostenuto
in all time of our dis - tress, As in our tri - umph too,

Pno.
mf

Fate's discourtesy

61 *risoluto*

S game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *ff* The

A *ff* The

T *risoluto* game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *ff* The

B *ff* The

Pno. *ff*

65 *allargando*

S game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *allargando*

A *allargando* game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *allargando*

T *allargando* game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *allargando*

B *allargando* game is more than the play - er of the game, And the ship is more than the crew! *allargando*

Pno. *allargando*

Fate's discourtesy

S
A
T
B

Pno.

a tempo
f

S
A
T
B

Be well as-sured, tho' in our pow'r Is noth-ing left to give But

Be well as-sured, tho' in our pow'r Is noth-ing left to give But

Be well as-sured, tho' in our pow'r Is noth-ing left to give But

Be well as-sured, tho' in our pow'r Is noth-ing left to give But

Pno.

f colla parte

Fate's discourtesy

77

S chance and place to meet the hour, And leave to strive to live. Till

A chance and place to meet the hour, And leave to strive to live. Till

T chance and place to meet the hour, And leave to strive to live. Till

B chance and place to meet the hour, And leave to strive to live. Till

Pno. *mf*

81 *marcato*

S these dis - solve our Or - der holds, Our Ser - vice binds us here.

A *marcato* these dis - solve our Or - der holds, Our Ser - vice binds us here.

T *marcato* these dis - solve our Or - der holds, Our Ser - vice binds us here.

B *marcato* these dis - solve our Or - der holds, Our Ser - vice binds us here.

Pno.

Fate's discourtesy

S
Then we-lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it is made clear How

A
Then we-lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it is made clear How

T
Then we-lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it is made clear How

B
Then we-lcome Fate's dis - cour - te - sy Where - by it is, it is made clear How

Pno.

89 *sostenuto*
S in all time of our dis-tress, As in our tri-umph too, The *f*

A *sostenuto*
in all time of our dis - tress, As in our tri - umph too,

T *sostenuto*
in all time of our dis - tress, As in our tri - umph too, The *f*

B *sostenuto*
in all time of our dis - tress, As in our tri - umph too,

Pno.

Fate's discourtesy

93 *risoluto* *ff*

S game is more than the play - er of the game And the ship is more than the crew! The

A *ff* The

T *risoluto* *ff* game is more than the play - er of the game And the ship is more than the crew! The

B *ff* The

Pno. *ff*

97 *allargando*

S game is more than the play - er of the game And the ship is more than the crew!

A *allargando* game is more than the play - er of the game And the ship is more than the crew!

T *allargando* game is more than the play - er of the game And the ship is more than the crew!

B *allargando* game is more than the play - er of the game And the ship is more than the crew!

Pno. *allargando*

ff

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