

# The Goose

J. Frederick Bridge  
(1844-1924)

**Sir John Frederick Bridge** (1844-1924) was born in central England. At age 6, he was admitted as “practising boy” (probationer) to the choir at Rochester Cathedral when his father was appointed a vicar-choral. At age 14, he left the cathedral choir to apprentice with the organist of Rochester Cathedral. While still a student, he was appointed organist of the village church of Shorne and then Strood Parish Church. He studied composition with John Goss, of the Royal Academy of Music, and earned his Bachelor of Music degree at Oxford. He became organist of Holy Trinity Church, Windsor, then at Manchester Cathedral, and earned his Doctor of Music degree at Oxford. He then became organist and master of the choristers at Westminster Abbey. He was in charge of music for great state occasions, including Queen Victoria’s jubilee (1887), the Coronation of King Edward VII (1902), the national memorial service for Edward VII (1910), George V’s coronation (1911), and the re-inauguration of Henry VII’s Chapel as the chapel of the Order of the Bath (1913). For those, he organized and composed some and organized the music. He was professor of harmony and counterpoint at Royal College of Music, professor of music at Gresham College, and professor of music at the University of London. He was also the conductor of the Royal Choral Society, introducing many new works, including those by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Parry.

I knew an old wife, lean and poor,  
Her rags scarce held together;  
There strode a stranger to the door,  
And it was windy weather.

He held a goose upon his arm;  
He uttered rhyme and reason:  
“Here, take the goose, and keep you warm;  
It is a stormy season.”

She caught the white goose by the leg;  
A goose—’twas no great matter.  
The goose let fall a golden egg  
With cackle and with clatter.

She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf,  
And ran to tell her neighbours;  
And blessed herself, and cursed herself,  
And rested from her labours.

And feeding high, and living soft,  
Grew plump and able-bodied,  
Until the grave Church-warden doffed,  
The parson smirked and nodded.

So sitting, served by man and maid,  
She felt her heart grow prouder.  
But, ah! the more the white goose laid,  
It clacked and cackled louder.

It cluttered here, it chuckled there,  
It stirred the old wife’s mettle;  
She shifted in her elbow-chair,  
And hurled the pan and kettle.

“A quinsy choke thy cursèd note!”  
Then waxed her anger stronger:  
“Go, take the goose, and wring her throat;  
I will not bear it longer!”

Then yelped the cur, and yawled the cat,  
Ran Gaffer, stumbled Gammer.  
The goose flew this way, and flew that,  
And filled the house with clamour.

As head and heels upon the floor  
They floundered all together,  
There strode a stranger to the door,  
And it was windy weather.

He took the goose upon his arm,  
He uttered words of scorning:  
“So keep you cold, or keep you warm,  
It is a stormy morning.”

The wild wind rang from park and plain,  
And round the attics rumbled,  
Till all the tables danced again,  
And half the chimneys tumbled.

The glass blew in, the fire blew out,  
The blast was hard and harder.  
Her cap blew off, her gown blew up,  
And a whirlwind cleared the larder.

And while on all sides breaking loose,  
Her household fled the danger,  
Quoth she, “The Devil take the goose,  
And Heaven forget the stranger!”

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

# The Goose

J. Fredrick Bridge

Allegro vivace  $\text{♩} = 80$

S *mf* I knew an old wife, lean and poor, Her rags scarce held to -

A *mf* I knew an old wife, lean and poor, Her rags scarce held to -

T *mf* I knew an old wife, lean and poor, Her rags scarce held to -

B *mf* I knew an old wife, lean and poor, Her rags scarce held to -

S <sup>4</sup> geth - er; There strode a stran - ger to the door, And it was wind - y

A geth - er; There strode a stran - ger to the door, And it was wind - y

T geth - er; There strode a stran - ger to the door, And it was wind - y

B geth - er; There strode a stran - ger to the door, And it was wind - y

## The Goose

8

S wea - ther. He held a goose up - on his arm; and

A wea - ther. He held a goose up - on his arm; He ut - ter'd rhyme and

T wea - ther. He held a goose up - on his arm; and

B wea - ther. He held a goose up - on his arm; and

13

S rea - son: It is a

A rea - son: It is a

T rea - son: It is a

B rea - son: "Here, take the goose, and keep you warm; It is a

SOLO *ad lib.* TUTTI

19

S storm - y sea - son." She caught the white goose by the leg; A goose— 'twas no great

A storm - y sea - son." She caught the white goose by the leg; A goose— 'twas no great

T storm - y sea - son." She caught the white goose by the leg; A goose— 'twas no great

B storm - y sea - son." She caught the white goose by the leg; A goose— 'twas no great

# The Goose

23

S mat - ter. The goose let fall a gold - en egg

A mat - ter. The goose let fall a gold - en egg With

T mat - ter. The goose let fall a gold - en egg With

B mat - ter. The goose let fall a gold - en egg

This system of music covers measures 23 to 27. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The lyrics are: 'mat - ter. The goose let fall a gold - en egg'. The Soprano and Alto parts end with the word 'With'. The music includes dynamic markings of *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

28

S With cac - kle and with clat - ter, with cac - kle, cac - kle and

A cac - kle and with clat - ter, with cac - kle and with clat - ter, cac - kle and

T cac - kle and with clat - ter, with cac - kle and with clat - ter, cac - kle and

B With cac - kle and with clat - ter, with cac - kle and with

This system of music covers measures 28 to 31. The lyrics are: 'With cac - kle and with clat - ter, with cac - kle, cac - kle and'. The Soprano part has a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic marking. The music continues with the same four vocal parts and key signature.

32

S clat - ter. She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf, And ran to tell her

A clat - ter. She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf, And ran to tell her

T clat - ter. She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf, And ran to tell her

B clat - ter. She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf, And ran to tell her

This system of music covers measures 32 to 35. The lyrics are: 'clat - ter. She dropt the goose, and caught the pelf, And ran to tell her'. The music includes a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking. The system concludes the page.

## The Goose

36

S neigh - bours; And bless'd her - self, and curs'd her -

A neigh - bours; And bless'd her - self, and curs'd her -

T neigh - bours; And bless'd her - self, and curs'd her -

B neigh - bours; And bless'd her - self, and curs'd her -

*p Lento* *Presto ff*

40

S self, And rest - ed from her la - - - bours.

A self, And rest - ed from her la - - - bours.

T self, And rest - ed from her la - - - bours.

B self, And rest - ed from her la - - - bours.

*p Adagio*

*Andante tranquillo con espress.*

S And feed - ing high, and liv - ing soft, Grew

A And feed - ing high, and liv - ing soft, Grew

T And feed - ing high, and liv - ing soft, Grew

B And feed - ing high, and liv - ing soft, Grew

*p*

# The Goose

47

S plump and a - ble - bo - died, Un - til the grave Church - war - den

A plump and a - ble - bo - died, the grave Church - war - den

T plump, grew plump, Un - til the grave Church - war - den

B plump, plump and a - ble - bo - died,

50

S doff'd, The par - son smirk'd and nod - ded,

A doff'd, doff'd, The par - son smirk'd and

T doff'd, doff'd, The par - son smirk'd and

B *f* the grave Church - war - den doff'd, The

53

S nod - ded, the grave Church - war - den doff'd, The

A nod - ded, and nod - ded, The par - son smirk'd, the

T nod - ded, and nod - ded, The par - son

B par - son smirk'd and nod - ded, The par - son

## The Goose

56

S par - son smirk'd, smirk'd and nod - ded. *repeat pp*

A par - son smirk'd, smirk'd and nod - ded. *repeat pp*

T smirk'd, smirk'd and nod - ded. *repeat pp*

B smirk'd, smirk'd and nod - ded. *repeat pp*

*Tempo Imo.*

S *mf* So sit - ting, serv'd by man and maid, She felt her heart grow

A *mf* So sit - ting, serv'd by man and maid, She felt her heart grow

T *mf* So sit - ting, serv'd by man and maid, She felt her heart grow

B *mf* So sit - ting, serv'd by man and maid, She felt her heart grow

62

S proud - er. But, ah! the more the white goose laid, It clack'd and cac - kled

A proud - er. But, ah! the more the white goose laid, clack'd and cac - kled

T proud - er. But, ah! the more the white goose laid, clack'd and cac - kled

B proud - er. But, ah! the more the white goose laid, clack'd and cac - kled

# The Goose

66

*ff*

S loud - er. It clut - ter'd here, it chuc - kled there, It

A loud - er. It clut - ter'd here, it chuc - kled there, It

T loud - er. It clut - ter'd here, it chuc - kled there, It

B loud - er. It clut - ter'd here, it chuc - kled there,

69

S stirr'd the old wife's met - tle; She shift - ed in her el - bow - chair, And \_

A stirr'd the old wife's met - tle; She shift - ed in her el - bow - chair, And \_

T stirr'd the old wife's met - tle; She shift - ed in her el - bow - chair, And \_

B She shift - ed in her el - bow - chair, And \_

73

*pp*

S hurl'd the pan and ket - tle. "A quin - sy choke thy

A hurl'd the pan and ket - tle. "A quin - sy choke thy

T hurl'd the pan and ket - tle. "A quin - sy choke thy

B hurl'd the pan and ket - tle. "A quin - sy choke thy

## The Goose

76

S curs - èd note!" Then wax'd her an - ger strong - er: "Go, take the goose, and

A curs - èd note!" Then wax'd her an - ger strong - er: "Go, take the goose, and

T curs - èd note!" Then wax'd her an - ger strong - er: "Go, take the goose, and

B curs - èd note!" Then wax'd her an - ger strong - er: "Go, take the goose, and

80

S wring her throat; I will not bear it long - er!" and

A wring her throat; I will not bear it long - er!" and

T wring her throat; I will not bear it long - er!" and

B wring her throat; I will not bear it long - er!" Then yelp'd the cur,

84

S yawl'd the cat, stum - bled Gam - mer. *con fuoco* The goose flew this way,

A yawl'd the cat, stum - bled Gam - mer. *con fuoco* The goose flew this way,

T yawl'd the cat, stum - bled Gam - mer. *con fuoco* The goose flew this way,

B Ran Gaf - fer, stum - bled Gam - mer. *con fuoco* The goose flew this way,

# The Goose

88

S and flew that, And fill'd the house with clamour. As

A and flew that, And fill'd the house with clamour. As

T and flew that, And fill'd the house with clamour. As

B and flew that, And fill'd the house with clamour. As



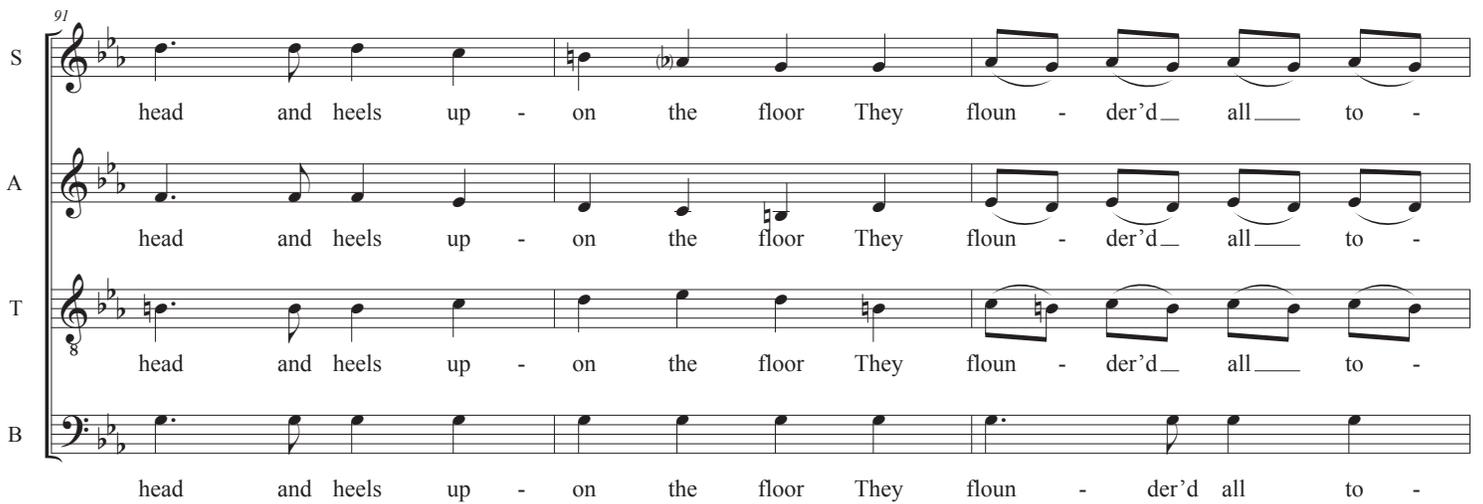
91

S head and heels up - on the floor They floundered all to -

A head and heels up - on the floor They floundered all to -

T head and heels up - on the floor They floundered all to -

B head and heels up - on the floor They floundered all to -



94

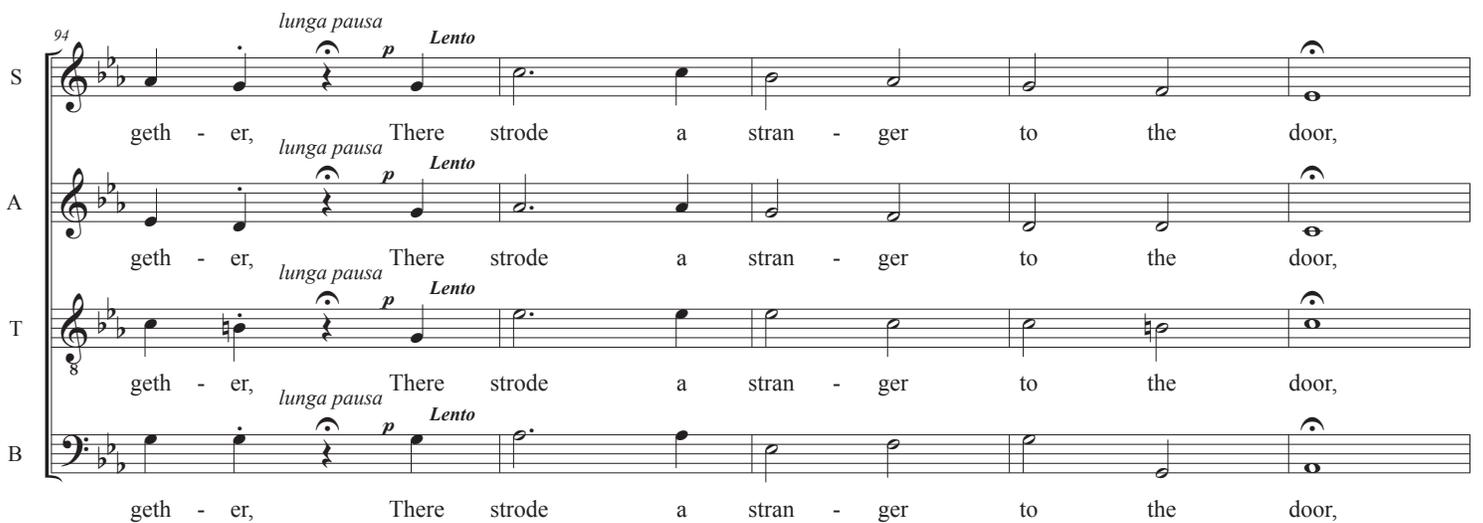
S geth - er, *lunga pausa* There strode a stran - ger to the door,

A geth - er, *lunga pausa* There strode a stran - ger to the door,

T geth - er, *lunga pausa* There strode a stran - ger to the door,

B geth - er, *lunga pausa* There strode a stran - ger to the door,

*Lento*



## The Goose

99 *Tempo Imo.*

S *f* And it was wind - y wea - ther. He took the goose \_\_\_\_\_ up - on his

A *f* And it was wind - y wea - ther. He took the goose \_\_\_\_\_ up - on his

T *f* And it was wind - y wea - ther. He took the goose \_\_\_\_\_ up - on his

B *f* And it was wind - y wea - ther. He took the goose \_\_\_\_\_ up - on his

104

S arm, of scorn - ing:

A arm, He ut - ter'd words of scorn - ing:

T arm, of scorn - ing:

B arm, of scorn - ing: SOLO *ad lib.* "So keep you

109 *a tempo*

S *p* It is a storm - y morn - ing." The

A *a tempo* *p* It is a storm - y morn - ing." The

T *a tempo* *p* It is a storm - y morn - ing." The

B *a tempo* *p* cold, or keep you warm, It is a storm - y morn - ing." The

TUTTI

# The Goose

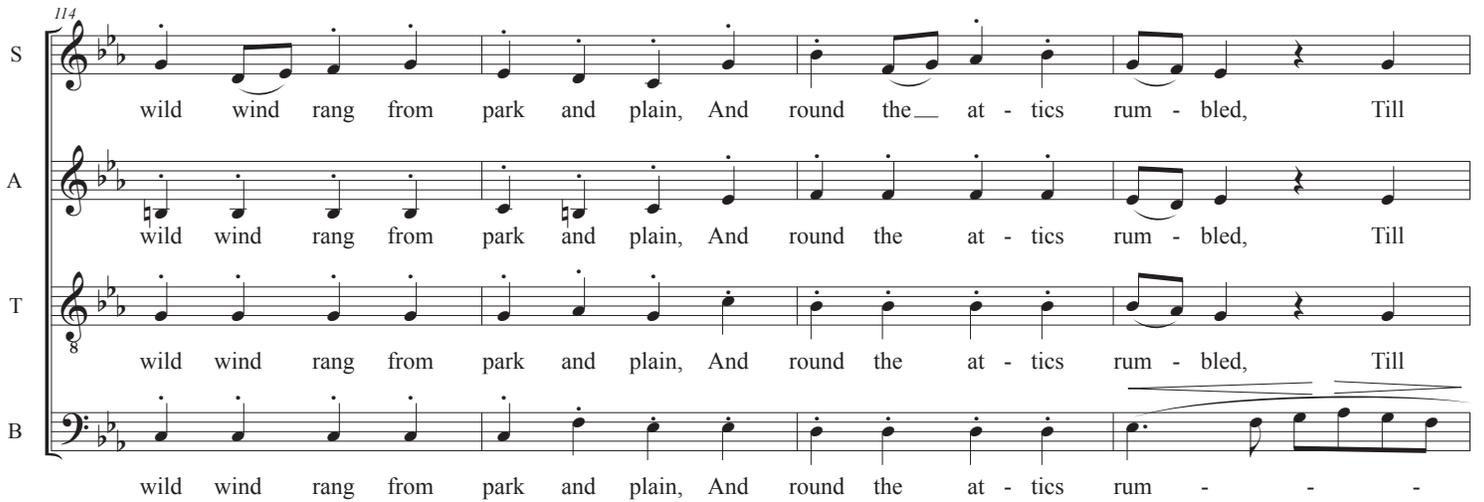
114

S wild wind rang from park and plain, And round the at - tics rum - bled, Till

A wild wind rang from park and plain, And round the at - tics rum - bled, Till

T wild wind rang from park and plain, And round the at - tics rum - bled, Till

B wild wind rang from park and plain, And round the at - tics rum - - -



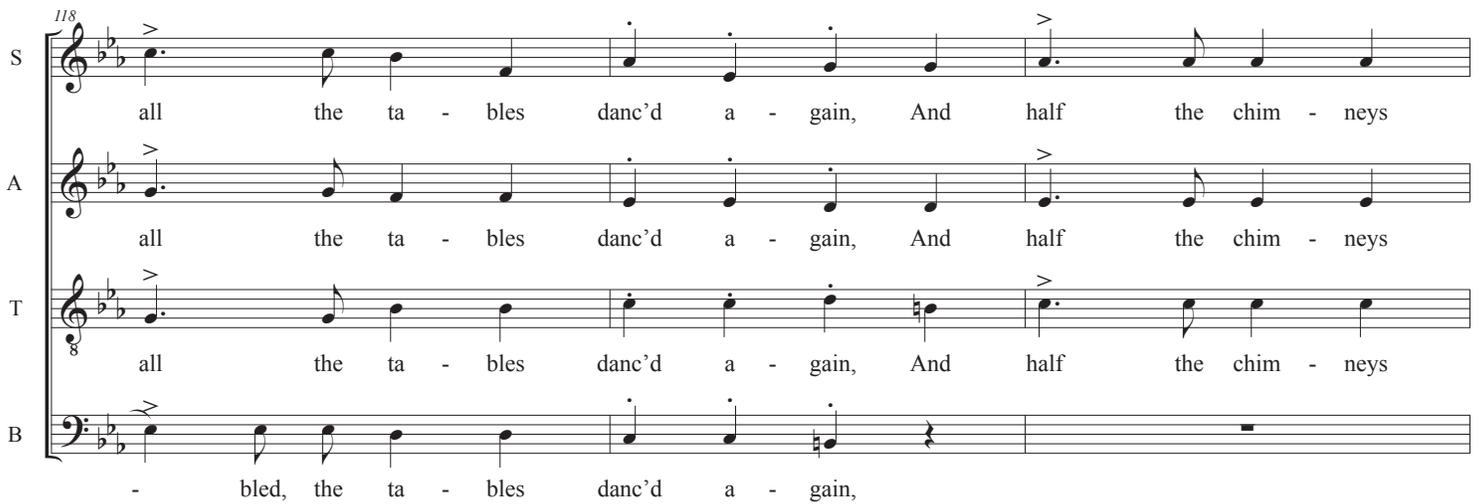
118

S all the ta - bles danc'd a - gain, And half the chim - neys

A all the ta - bles danc'd a - gain, And half the chim - neys

T all the ta - bles danc'd a - gain, And half the chim - neys

B - bled, the ta - bles danc'd a - gain,



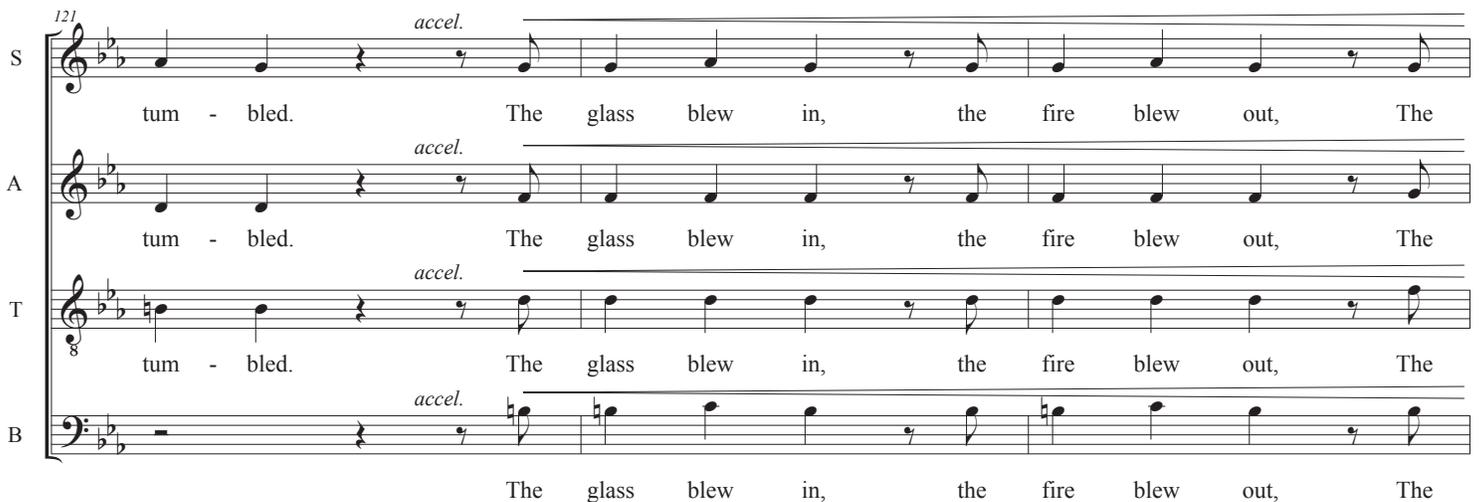
121

S tum - bled. *accel.* The glass blew in, the fire blew out, The

A tum - bled. *accel.* The glass blew in, the fire blew out, The

T tum - bled. *accel.* The glass blew in, the fire blew out, The

B *accel.* The glass blew in, the fire blew out, The



## The Goose

124

S blast was hard and hard - er. Her cap blew off,

A blast was hard and hard - er. her

T blast was hard and hard - er. Her cap blew off, her

B blast was hard and hard - er.

127

S And a whirl - wind clear'd the lar - der. And

A gown blew up, And a whirl - wind clear'd the lar - der. And

T gown blew up, And a whirl - wind clear'd the lar - der. And

B And a whirl - wind clear'd the lar - der. And

130

S while on all sides break - ing loose, Her house - hold fled the

A while on all sides break - ing loose, Her house - hold fled the

T while on all sides break - ing loose, Her house - hold fled the

B while on all sides break - ing loose, Her house - hold fled the

# The Goose

133

S dan - ger, Quoth she, "The De - vil take the

A dan - ger, Quoth she, "The De - vil take the

T dan - ger, Quoth she, "The De - vil take the

B dan - ger, Quoth she, "The De - vil take the

137

S goose, And Heav'n for - get the stran - ger!"

A goose, And Heav'n for - get the stran - ger!"

T goose, And Heav'n for - get the stran - ger!"

B goose, And Heav'n for - get the stran - ger!"

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