



Ship Ahoy!

**Benjamin Jepson
(1832-1914)**

Benjamin Jepson (1832-1914) was born in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, and very soon after his birth, the family emigrated to Connecticut. He pursued music as a career and became one of the first primary school music teachers in the United States. In 1865, he established a music program in the public schools of New Haven, Connecticut. He served in the New Haven schools for fifty years. He contributed to the development of music in public schools through his many publications including the "New Standard Music Reader." The Benjamin Jepson Inter-district Magnet School and the Jepson School are named after him. His son Harry Benjamin Jepson taught was also a composer and music at Yale.

For days and nights we've cheerless gone,
Oh they who've felt it know how sweet,
Some sunny morn a sail to meet.

Sparkling at once is ev'ry eye.
"Ship ahoy!" "Ship ahoy!" our joyful cry;
While answ'ring back we faintly hear,
"Ship ahoy!" "Ship ahoy!" What cheer? what cheer?

When sails are back'd, we nearer come,
Kind words are said of friends and home;
And soon, too soon, we part in pain,
To sail o'er silent seas again.

Then o'er the ocean's dreary plain,
With toil her distant port to gain,
Our gallant ship has near'd the strand,
We claim our own, our native land.

Sweet is the seaman's joyous shout;
"Land ahead!" Look out! look out!
Around on deck we gaily fly,
"Land ahead!" with joy we cry.

Yon beacon light directs our way;
While grateful vows to heaven we pay;
And soon our long lost joys renew,
And bid the boisterous main adieu.

First four verses: Thomas Moore (1779-1852)

Ship Ahoy!

B. Jepson

Tempo 1

S *mf* When o'er the si - lent seas a - lone, For days and nights we've cheer - less gone, Oh

A *mf* When o'er the si - lent seas a - lone, For days and nights we've cheer - less gone, Oh

T *mf* When o'er the si - lent seas a - lone, For days and nights we've cheer - less gone, Oh

B *mf* When o'er the si - lent seas a - lone, For days and nights we've cheer - less gone, Oh

S⁶ they who've felt it know how sweet, Some sun - ny morn a sail to meet, Some

A they who've felt it know how sweet, Some sun - ny morn a sail to meet, Some

T they who've felt it know how sweet, Some sun - ny morn a sail to meet, Some

B they who've felt it know how sweet, Some sun - ny morn a sail to meet, Some



Ship Ahoy!

10

S sun - ny morn a sail to meet. Spark - ling at once is ev - 'ry eye. "Ship a-

A sun - ny morn a sail to meet. Spark - ling at once is ev - 'ry eye. "Ship a-

T sun - ny morn a sail to meet. Spark - ling at once is ev - 'ry eye. "Ship a-

B sun - ny morn a sail to meet. Spark - ling at once is ev - 'ry eye. "Ship a-

14

S hoy!" "Ship a-hoy!" our joy - ful cry; While an - sw'ring back we faint - ly hear, "Ship a-

A hoy!" "Ship a-hoy!" our joy - ful cry; While an - sw'ring back we faint - ly hear, "Ship a-

T hoy!" "Ship a-hoy!" our joy - ful cry; While an - sw'ring back we faint - ly hear, "Ship a-

B hoy!" "Ship a-hoy!" our joy - ful cry; While an - sw'ring back we faint - ly hear, "Ship a-

Allegro

S hoy!" "Ship a-hoy!" What cheer? what cheer? When sails are back'd, we near - er come, Kind

A hoy!" "Ship a-hoy!" What cheer? what cheer? When sails are back'd, we near - er come, Kind

T hoy!" "Ship a-hoy!" What cheer? what cheer? When sails are back'd, we near - er come, Kind

B hoy!" "Ship a-hoy!" What cheer? what cheer? When sails are back'd, we near - er come, Kind

Ship Ahoy!

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S words are said of friends and home; And soon, too soon, we part in pain, *rall.*

A words are said of friends and home; And soon, too soon, we part in pain, *rall.*

T words are said of friends and home; And soon, too soon, we part in pain, *rall.*

B words are said of friends and home; And soon, too soon, we part in pain, *rall.*

a tempo

S To sail o'er si - lent seas a - gain, To sail o'er si - lent seas a - gain.

A To sail o'er si - lent seas a - gain, To sail o'er si - lent seas a - gain.

T To sail o'er si - lent seas a - gain, To sail o'er si - lent seas a - gain.

B To sail o'er si - lent seas a - gain, To sail o'er si - lent seas a - gain.

Tempo 1

S Then o'er the o - cean's drear - y plain, With toil her dis - tant port to gain, Our *mf*

A Then o'er the o - cean's drear - y plain, With toil her dis - tant port to gain, Our *mf*

T Then o'er the o - cean's drear - y plain, With toil her dis - tant port to gain, Our *mf*

B Then o'er the o - cean's drear - y plain, With toil her dis - tant port to gain, Our *mf*

Ship Ahoy!

33

S gal - lant ship has near'd the strand, We claim our own, our na - tive land, We

A gal - lant ship has near'd the strand, We claim our own, our na - tive land, We

T gal - lant ship has near'd the strand, We claim our own, our na - tive land, We

B gal - lant ship has near'd the strand, We claim our own, our na - tive land, We

Detailed description: This system contains the first four staves of music for the song. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) all sing the same lyrics. The music features a steady eighth-note rhythm in the vocal lines, with a bass line that provides harmonic support. A dynamic marking of > (accent) is placed above the final note of each vocal line.

37

S claim our own, our na - tive land. Sweet is the sea - man's joy - ous shout; "Land a-

A claim our own, our na - tive land. Sweet is the sea - man's joy - ous shout; "Land a-

T claim our own, our na - tive land. Sweet is the sea - man's joy - ous shout; "Land a-

B claim our own, our na - tive land. Sweet is the sea - man's joy - ous shout; "Land a-

Detailed description: This system contains the next four staves of music. The lyrics continue from the previous system. The vocal lines have a more varied rhythm, including some dotted notes and rests. The bass line continues with a steady eighth-note pattern. Dynamic markings include > (accent) and *ff* (fortissimo) at the end of each vocal line.

41

S head!" land a-head!" Look out! look out! A - round on deck we gai - ly fly, "Land a-

A head!" land a-head!" Look out! look out! A - round on deck we gai - ly fly, "Land a-

T head!" land a-head!" Look out! look out! A - round on deck we gai - ly fly, "Land a-

B head!" land a-head!" Look out! look out! A - round on deck we gai - ly fly, "Land a-

Detailed description: This system contains the final four staves of music on the page. The lyrics conclude with the phrase "Land a-head!". The vocal lines feature a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes marked with a fermata. The bass line remains consistent with the previous systems. Dynamic markings include > (accent) and *pp* (pianissimo) at the end of each vocal line.

Ship Ahoy!

45 *f* **Allegro**

S head!" "land a-head!" With joy we cry. Yon bea - con light_ di - rects our way; While

A head!" "land a-head!" With joy we cry. Yon bea - con light_ di - rects our way; While

T head!" "land a-head!" With joy we cry. Yon bea - con light di - rects our way; While

B head!" "land a-head!" With joy we cry. Yon bea - con light di - rects our way; While

49 *rall.*

S grate - ful vows to heav'n we pay; And soon our long lost joys re - new,

A grate - ful vows to heav'n we pay; And soon our long lost joys re - new,

T grate - ful vows to heav'n we pay; And soon our long lost joys re - new,

B grate - ful vows to heav'n we pay; And soon our long lost joys re - new,

a tempo

S And bid the bois - t'rous main a - dieu, And bid_ the bois - t'rous main a - dieu.

A And bid the bois - t'rous main a - dieu, And bid the bois - t'rous main a - dieu.

T And bid the bois - t'rous main a - dieu, And bid_ the bois - t'rous main a - dieu.

B And bid the bois - t'rous main a - dieu, And bid_ the bois - t'rous main a - dieu.

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