

Alton Locke's Song

George A. Macfarren (1813-1887)

Sir George Alexander Macfarren (1813-1887) was born in London. From early youth, he suffered from poor health and weak eyesight. His eyesight continually deteriorated until he became totally blind in 1860. However, his blindness had little effect on his productivity. Macfarren began to study music when he was fourteen and, at sixteen, entered the Royal Academy of Music. Because of his eyesight, he abandoned performance and concentrated on composition. He later taught at the Academy, eventually becoming a principal. He was also appointed professor of music at Cambridge University in 1875. He was conductor at Covent Garden, London; founder the Handel Society; program note writer for the Philharmonic Society; and edited the works of Handel and Purcell. He wrote 18 operas, 13 oratorios and cantatas, 9 symphonies, and 162 songs. He was active as writer of part-songs, literature for the many amateur choirs appearing throughout the country. He was knighted in 1883 on the same day as Arthur Sullivan and George Grove. His brother Walter Macfarren (1826-1905) was a pianist, composer and professor of the Royal Academy.

The Reverend Charles Kingsley (1819-1875) was born at Holne Vicarage near Dartmoor, Devonshire. He was a parish priest and became one of the most prolific authors in Victorian England. He wrote poetry, novels, historical works, sermons;, religious tracts, scientific treatises, and works of political, social, and literary criticism. He was a prominent social reformer, political activist, and held positions as Professor of Modern History at Cambridge, chaplain to Queen Victoria, the private tutor to the future Edward VII, and the canon of Westminster. He entered into social movements to helping the poor. He was committed to the Christian Socialist movement and sympathetic to the Chartist movement- a working-class movement for political reform in 19th century Great Britain. His writings often addressed the deplorable working and living conditions in England, the need for sanitation, the importance of science, the abolition of slavery, and the role of the artist in society.

Alton Locke is Charles Kingsley's 1850 novel about a young tailor-boy with abilities and aspirations beyond the normal expectations of his working-class background. The novel exposes the social injustice suffered by workers in the clothing trade and the hardships of agricultural laborers. It was written in support of the Chartist movement- a working-class movement for political reform in 19th century Great Britain.

Weep, weep, weep and weep For pauper, dolt and slave! Hark! from wasted moor and fen, Feverous alley, stifling den Swells the wail of Saxon men, Work or the grave!

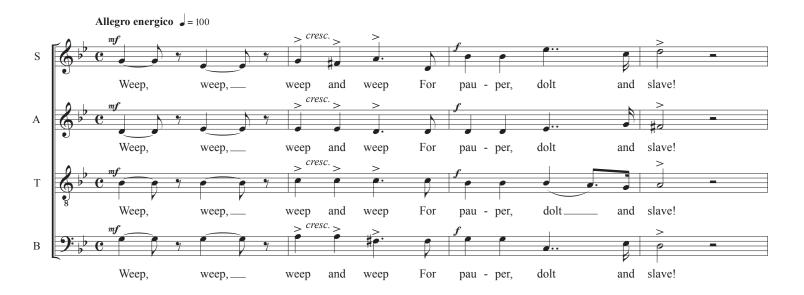
Down, down, down and down With idler knave and tyrant! Why for sluggards cark and moil? He that will not live by toil Has no right on English soil! God's words our warrant!

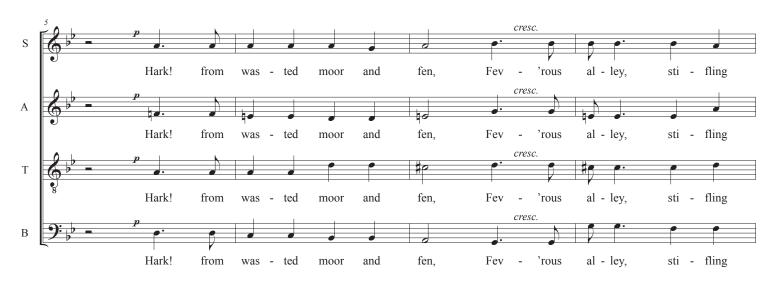
Up, up, up and up!
Face your game and play it!
The night is past, behold the sun!
The idols fall, the lie is done!
The judge is set, the doom begun,
Who shall stay it?

Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)

Alton Locke's Song

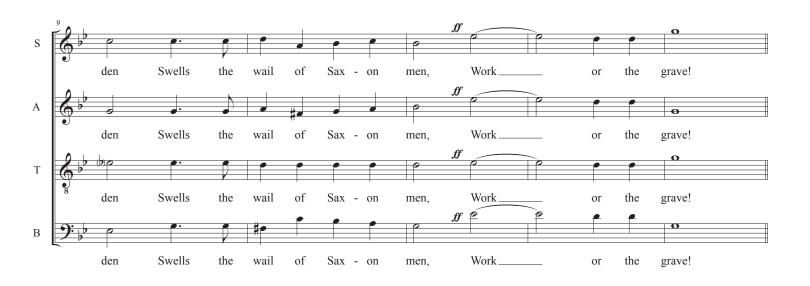
G. A. Macfarren

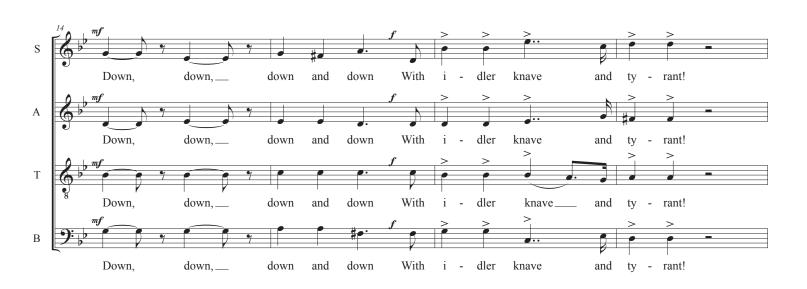


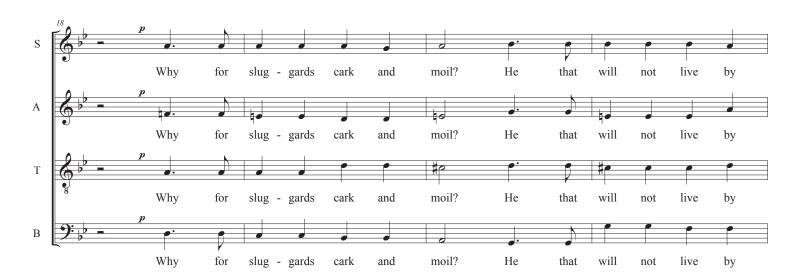


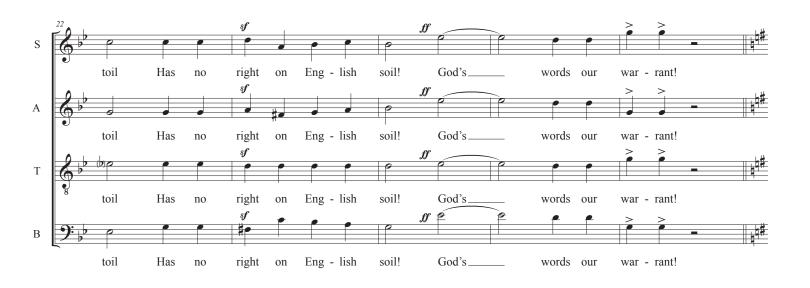


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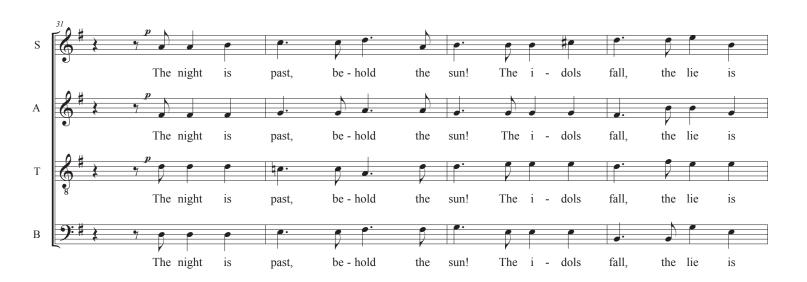


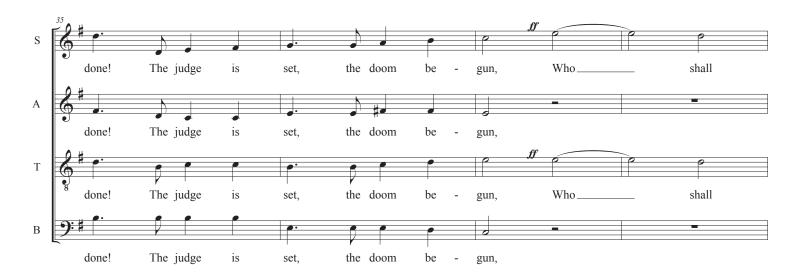


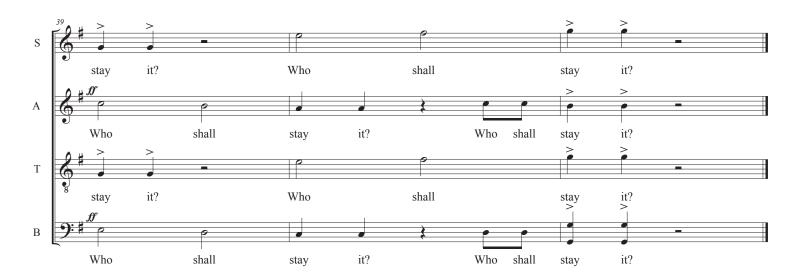












Novello, Ewer and Co. (1860-1885)

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