

Traditional - Child Ballad #26 (Arr. by Sophie Sauveterre)

The Three Ravens

The melodic minor key sets a dreary tone.

In some versions, there are ten verses, because line 1 is repeated three times and line 3 appears once rather than the presentation below, where lines 1, 3, 5, and 6 are all unique.

There were three ravens sat on a tree,
Down a down, hey down, hey down.
They were as black as black might be,
With a down.
The one of them said to his mate,
"Where shall we our breakfast take?"
With a down, derry, derry, derry down, down.

Down in yonder green field,
Down a down, hey down, hey down.
There lies a knight slain under his shield,
With a down.
His hounds they lie down at his feet
So well they do their master keep.
With a down, derry, derry, derry down, down.

His hawks they fly so eagerly
Down a down, hey down, hey down.
No other fowl dare him come nigh,
With a down.
Down there comes a fallow doe
As heavy with young as she might go.
With a down, derry, derry, derry down, down.

She lifted up his bloody head,
Down a down, hey down, hey down.
And kissed his wounds that were so red,
With a down.
She got him up upon her back
And carried him to earthen lake.
With a down, derry, derry, derry down, down.

She buried him before the prime,
Down a down, hey down, hey down.
She was dead herself ere even-song time,
With a down.
God send every gentleman
Such hawks, such hounds, and such leman,
With a down, derry, derry, derry down, down.

The Three Ravens

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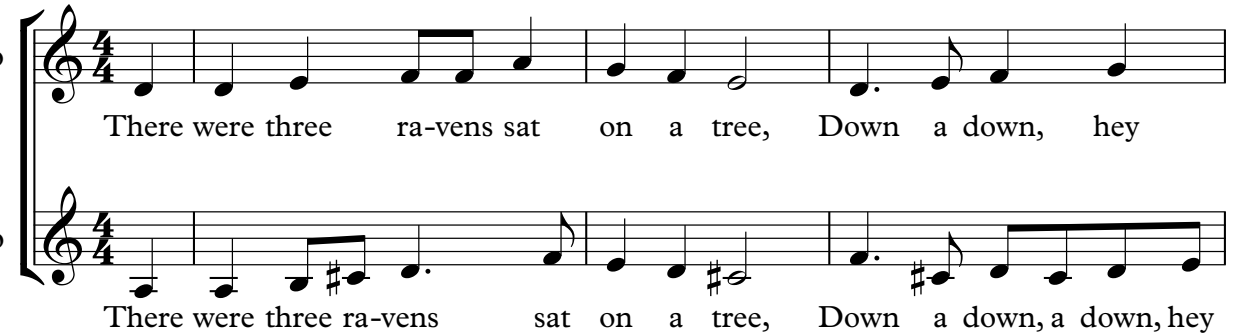
♩ = 120

Soprano Solo

There were three ra-vens sat on a tree, Down a down, hey

Alto Solo

There were three ra-vens sat on a tree, Down a down, a down, hey



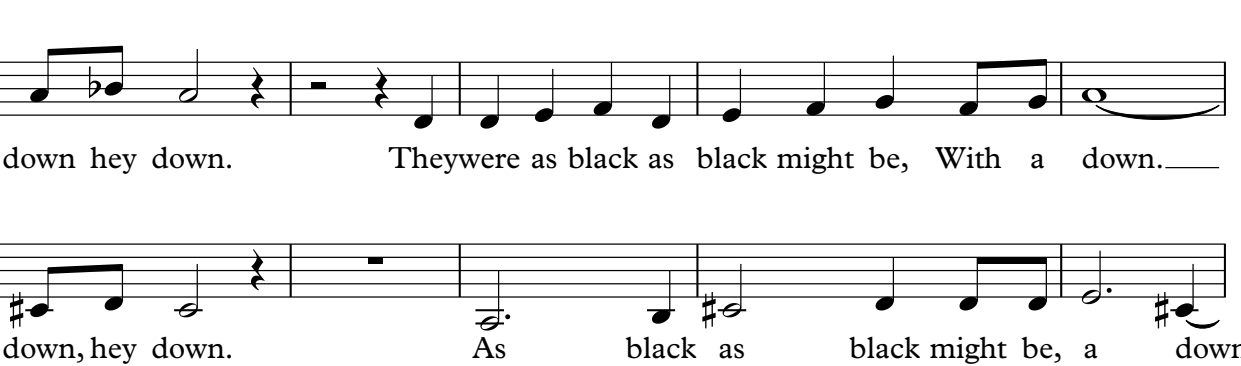
4

S. Solo

down hey down. They were as black as black might be, With a down.

A. Solo

down, hey down. As black as black might be, a down.



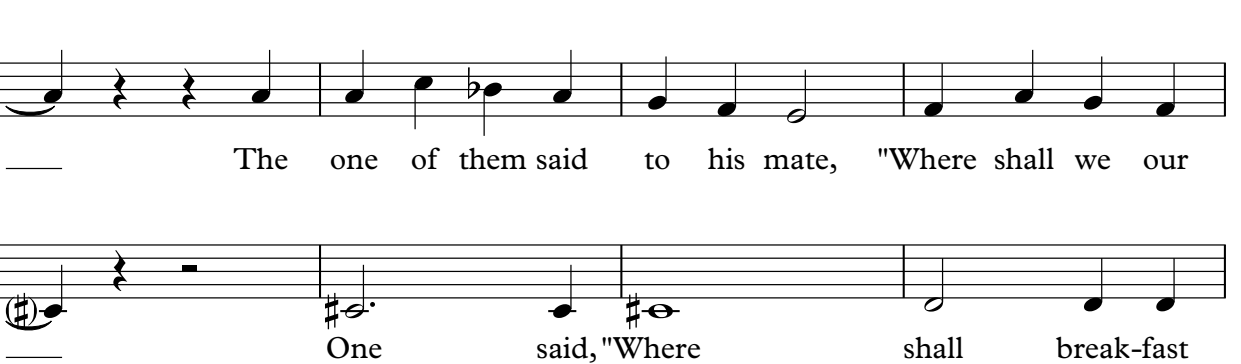
9

S. Solo

The one of them said to his mate, "Where shall we our

A. Solo

One said, "Where shall break-fast



13

S. Solo

break-fast take?" With a down, der-ry, der-ry, der ry down, down.

A. Solo

be?" With a down, a der-ry, der-ry der-ry down, down.

