

Songs

The Australian Shepherd

Tom Airedale, published in Bowral Free Press May 1902; tune by Dave Johnson 2015

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is accompanied by guitar chords indicated by letters G, C, A7, and D7. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The score consists of eight staves of music. The final note of the eighth staff is a triplet of eighth notes.

He wand - ers a - - far o'er the lone moun - tain steep,
o - ver pad - docks and logs that are scorched dry and grim;
He tend - er - - ly cares for the lot of his sheep,
And they are all qui - et and eas - y with him.
He list - ens to the sound of their sweet tink - ling bells,
As they spread out to graze in the clear sil - ent air;
The mus - ic of wild bush birds floats o'er the coun - try side
Sooth - ing his lone - ly heart and driv - ing ³ off care.

His old battered billy has many dear charms,
On the embers it sings out its welcoming song;
Its contents can sooth away cares and alarms,
And comfort his loneliness all the day long.

He longs not for the cities' load bustle and toil,
And he envies not mansions and palaces fine;
But loves to be free from strife and turmoil,
Along the Paddys River where the sun loves to shine.

The green banks of the river are homely to him,
Every track, creek, and gully and clearing he knows;
Whether morning be bright, or the evening be dim,
He strolls like a lord where the clear river flows.

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At nightfall he rests on his favorite log,
When the laughing jackass bids adieu to the day;
The bandicoot starts at the sight of his dog,
And off to the hidden scrub it scampers away.

He makes for his hut, and he lies on his bunk;
Cocky's joy on his damper much pleasure affords.
His billy of tea, and his seasoned corn junk,
They make him content as a king or a lord.