

# If I were a blackbird

Anon

Alison West

The musical score consists of four staves, one for each voice: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is mostly common time (indicated by '4'). The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 80$ . The vocal parts are primarily sustained notes with occasional rhythmic patterns. The lyrics are provided below the music, corresponding to the vocal parts. Measure numbers 1 through 16 are indicated on the left side of the score.

**Soprano:**

Ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_

**Alto:**

Ooo \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_

**Tenor:**

Ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_

**Bass:**

Ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_

**Lyrics (Measures 9-16):**

I once was all lone - ly and sad, I once went a-court-ing a brave sail - or  
I was once a poor maid-en all lone - ly and sad, I once court-ed a sail - or  
I once was all lone - ly and sad, once court-ed a sail - or  
Ooo \_\_\_\_\_ once court-ed a sail - or

**Continuation (Measures 16+):**

lad, I court-ed him fond-ly by night and by day, ooo \_\_\_\_\_ ooo \_\_\_\_\_  
lad, by night, and by day, And now like a sail - or he's gone far a - way...  
lad, by night, and by day, now he's gone far a - way...  
lad, by night, and by day, now he's gone far a - way...

2

*d* = 112

25

If I were a black-bird I'd whistle and sing, I'd follow the vessel my  
 Black - bird, whistle and sing, Fol - low my  
 Black - bird, whistle and sing, Fol - low my  
 Black - bird, whistle and sing, Fol - low my

32

true love sailed in, And in the top rig-ging I'd there build my nest, And pil-low my  
 true love, Fol - low my true love, Pil -  
 true love, Fol - low my true love, Pil -  
 true love, Fol - low my true love, Pil -

*d* = 80  
*tempo primo*

39

head on his li - ly - white breast. Ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_  
 low, li - ly - white breast. Ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_  
 low, li - ly - white breast. Ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_  
 low, li - ly - white breast. Ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ 000, \_\_\_\_\_

46

ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ My love, \_\_\_\_\_ my love, \_\_\_\_\_ His  
ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ My love he was hand-some, in ev-ery de-gree,  
ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ love, hand-some, ev-ery de-gree,  
ooo, \_\_\_\_\_ love, hand-some, ev-ery de-gree,

55

par - ents des pised him be-cause he loved me, my love, he loved me, my  
my love, he loved me, my love, he loved me, while I've  
my love, he loved me, but they can des-pise him and say what they will,  
my love, he loved me, my love, my love, my love,

63

$\text{j} = 66$   $\text{j} = 112$

love, \_\_\_\_\_ my love. If I were a black-bird I'd whist-le and  
breath in my bo-dy, I'll love that lad still. Black - bird, whist-le and  
my love, love that lad still. Black - bird, whist-le and  
my love, love that lad still. Black - bird, whist-le and