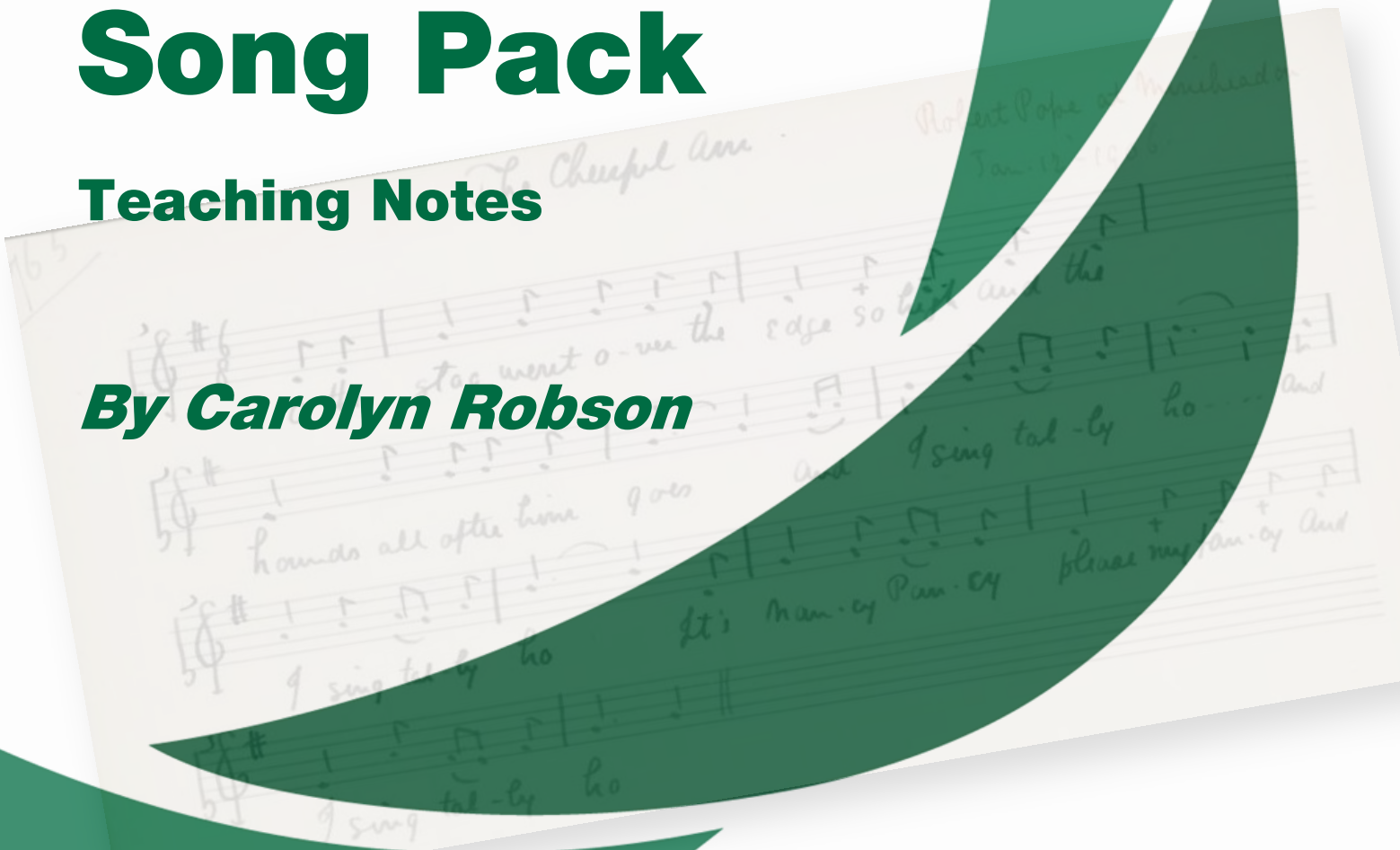




Foxhunting: Cheerful Arn Song Pack

Teaching Notes

By Carolyn Robson



The Full English

The Full English is a unique nationwide project unlocking hidden treasures of England's cultural heritage by making over 58,000 original source documents from 12 major folk collectors available to the world via a ground-breaking nationwide digital archive and learning project. The project is led by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and in partnership with Bristol Plays Music and other cultural partners across England.

The Full English digital archive has thousands of traditional folk songs that were collected from across the country. Some of these songs are known widely, others have lain dormant in notebooks and files within archives for decades. This Bristol Folk Song pack gives schools across Bristol the chance to bring them back to life and give them a new voice in the 21st century! **Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Folk Music Fund and The Folklore Society.**

Bristol Sings Music

Bristol Sings Music is the singing strategy for Bristol Plays Music. It aims to enable all children and young people in our schools to access opportunities to sing, and to develop their skills, knowledge and repertoire to maintain provision in the coming years.

Led by Welsh National Opera, Bristol Sings Music also involves Bristol Plays Music, St George's Bristol, Sing Up, South West Music School, Drake Music, Making Music, Bristol Choral Society and Bristol Schools' Music Society. The Partnership is passionate about singing in Bristol, bringing together good practice and join up the singing sector.

Leading on the project for Welsh National Opera is project manager Laurie Stewart. Laurie has working in the field of music education for many years and was formally Sing Up Area Leader for Bristol. She is also a classically trained singer, studying at the Royal College of Music (BMus Hons) and The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (MMus).

Warm Up

Warm up with the song *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*; learn the song then play this game:

- (i) Sitting on chairs in a circle stand or sit on all the words beginning with the letter 'b' (starts and ends sitting.)
- (ii) Next while sitting down in a circle, clap on all the words that contain an 'o'.
- (iii) Finally stand or sit on words beginning with 'b' and clap on words containing an 'o' at the same time.

My Bonnie lies over the ocean

My Bonnie lies over the sea

My Bonnie lies over the ocean

O bring back my Bonnie to me

Bring back, bring back

O bring back my Bonnie to me, to me

Bring back, bring back

O bring back my Bonnie to me



The Cheerful Arn

Words collected from Tom Pearce by Cecil Sharp, Winford, Somerset, 2 Dec 1908

Tune collected from William Patch by Cecil Sharp, Winford, Somerset, 28 Dec 1908

www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/9/1887

Roud Number: 217
trad. arr. Carolyn Robson

Tune

Harmony

5

9

13

The fox jumps ov - er the hedge so high and the hounds all af - ter him go_____ The

fox jumps ov - er the hedge so high and the hounds all af - ter him go. And

I'll sing tall_____ y ho_____ boys I'll sing tall_____ y ho!_____ For

all my fan_____ cy dwells up - on Nan cy And I'll sing tall_____ y ho!

The fox jumps over the hedge so high
And the hounds all after him go.

O happy the day when we got married
And homeward we did go.

The Cheerful Arn

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Fox Hunting

Fox hunting in the UK dates back to the 16th century. It involves chasing a red fox by a pack of fox hounds and a group of hunters on foot or on horseback led by a *Master of Foxhounds*. Sometimes the fox is killed. Fox hunting is practised all over the world but in 2002 it was banned in Scotland and in 2004 fox hunting became illegal in England and Wales too. However shooting foxes as vermin is still legal.

Boxing Day (the day after Christmas Day) was one of the main days in the hunting calendar for hunts to take place in the UK, where the hunt would meet often in town or village market squares. After a day of hunting it is common for the community to gather for 'hunt suppers' at which it is traditional to sing a broad range of hunting themed songs. Many of these have beautiful tunes and are designed for communal singing.

Fox Facts

Foxes live in underground burrows called earths. They hunt for food around twilight though can often be seen during the daytime especially in towns. They feed largely on earthworms and insects, wild mammals, wild birds, fruit and from scavenging. They also eat a few domestic birds and small pet mammals if the opportunity arises. The weight of an average dog (male) fox is 6.5 Kilos (14 pounds), a vixen (female) is 5.5 kilos (12 pounds); a little heavier and bigger than a domestic cat and smaller than an average dog. A dog fox is about 67 cms (26 inches) long plus a tail length of 41 cms (16 inches) making a total length of 89 cms (42 inches) though foxes in Scotland are larger than those in England.

Foxes live in family groups and have a complex social system. A dog fox and vixen may stay together for life but the mortality rate is high because of disease such as mange, road-kill etc. Foxes mate in February and the vixen will produce about 4 or 5 cubs in late March. They are born blind and deaf until they are 2 weeks old when they open their eyes and ears. After 4 weeks of feeding from the vixen they emerge into the open and are taught to hunt for themselves. They are mature by 6 months but only about 60% of cubs survive to this stage.

Adult foxes tend to range around an area of between 5 and 15 square kilometres (2–6 square miles) but their range can be as much as 20 square kilometres (7.7 sq mi). The red fox can run at up to 48 km/h (30 mph).

On the whole they are inquisitive but seldom aggressive. Scare stories of them attacking children were proven to be false.

Ref: **Urban Foxes** (Stephen Harris and Phil Baker)

Foxy Tales 3 Aesop's Fables

The Fox and the Crow

An old crow stole a lump of cheese and carried it to a nearby tree. She was just about to eat it when she heard a noise on the ground below her. A fox had seen the cheese and wanted to eat it himself. He said to the crow: 'You are such a beautiful bird with lovely feathers and bright shining eyes.' The crow ruffled her feathers in pleasure. The fox continued: 'I feel sure you must also sing very sweetly too.' The vain crow opened her throat to sing for the fox and out fell the cheese to the ground. The fox snatched it quickly and swallowed it up. The fox thanked the crow and wandered off with a greedy smile.

Moral: **Don't always believe people who flatter you!**

The Fox and the Stork

A fox invited a stork to have dinner with him. The stork was hungry and looked forward to the meal with the fox.

The Fox went into the kitchen and brought out two shallow bowls of delicious hot soup and gave one to the stork and one for himself. He lapped up his own soup but the stork could not drink hers. Her beak was too long and narrow. The fox grinned slyly and said: 'What is wrong with the soup? Don't you like it?' and he drank up the stork's soup. So the stork went home hungry and angry at the trick the fox had played on her. The following week the stork invited the fox for a dinner of soup. But she put the soup into two tall, thin jugs. The fox could not get his nose into the thin jug so the stork ate his dinner and the fox went away hungry.

Moral: **If you play tricks on people, they may play them on you in return.**

The Fox and the Grapes

One day a fox was strolling through a vineyard when he saw a bunch of grapes just ripening on a vine that was hanging down. It was a hot day so he decided to jump up for the grapes to quench his thirst. He ran and jumped but missed the bunch of grapes. He tried again taking a longer run and higher jump but again missed the grapes. After several attempts he had to give up and peevishly walked away saying: 'I expect they were sour anyway!'

Moral: **It is easy to despise what you can't get!**

Teaching ideas

- 'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog' used to be a typing / writing exercise because it uses all the letters of the alphabet.
In your best handwriting on A4 paper write the above phrase and illustrate.
- Read notes on fox hunting and urban foxes. Debate pros and cons of foxhunting; choose two speakers, one for and one against and two teams to research further information.
- Design a poster: either to **BAN FOX-HUNTING** or to advertise the **BOXING DAY MEET** in your local town square
- Aesop's fables; The fox and the crow / or The fox and the stork / or The Fox and the Grapes; learn one of these three fables to tell to the rest of the class. Practice with a partner.
- Make a shoe-box theatre: turn a shoe-box on its side and make a backdrop of a country scene; with slits in the top make card puppets (stuck on to lollypop sticks or strips of card) of a fox and other characters to tell your story. It may be one of Aesop's fables or a story of Mr Todd or Jemima Puddleduck by Beatrix Potter.
- Draw a cartoon strip to tell one of the Aesop's fables or a Beatrix Potter tale about foxes
- Write a story or play of a fox / fox hunt from the fox's point of view (ref: Belstone Fox; Hants fox song)
- Illustrate your story or act out your play

Book / film ref

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • Fantastic Mr Fox | Film / book |
| • Chicken Run | Film |
| • The Belstone Fox | Film |
| • Beatrix Potter | Books The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck
The Tale of Mr Tod |

Carolyn Robson

Carolyn is a professional singer and musician specialising in traditional folk song and dance. Her extensive repertoire consists mainly of songs from her native Northumberland and Scotland as well as from other parts of the British Isles. Carolyn is also a qualified teacher and has taught at schools in England, Scotland and Wales. She has been a consultant for a BBC TV Folk Dance series for schools, and until 1996 she was the Education Officer for the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Carolyn directs several community choirs and runs workshops at festival and events across the country. www.carolynrobson.com



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