Three Ravens
SCORE
By Ian Stephenson
The Full English

The Full English was 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 was led by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and in partnership with other cultural partners across England.

The Full English digital archive (www.vwml.org) continues to provide access to thousands of records detailing traditional folk songs, music, dances, customs and traditions that were collected from across the country. Some of these are known widely, others have lain dormant in notebooks and files within archives for decades.

The Full English learning programme worked across the country in 19 different schools including primary, secondary and special educational needs settings. It also worked with a range of cultural partners across England, organising community, family and adult learning events.

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Three Ravens

As part of The Full English learning programme, Ian Stephenson was commissioned to write a piece for the Opera North Community Chorus. Opera North was the Yorkshire cultural partner, and is based in Leeds.

Ian chose to work with Three Ravens, which he sourced from the collection of Frank Kidson, the Leeds based folk song collector featured in The Full English project.

You can freely download the score and parts for Three Ravens at www.efdss.org/resourcebank.

Ian also worked a Durham Johnston Comprehensive School, Durham and wrote 4 pieces for their ensembles. The scores for these are also available at www.efdss.org/resourcebank.

Ian Stephenson

Ian Stephenson is a composer and multi-instrumentalist from Selby in North Yorkshire. Since winning the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award in 1999 he has become a respected regular at folk festivals around the world, performing with bands such as Kan, 422 and Baltic Crossing. As well as performing internationally, Ian has been a regular tutor at Folkworks Summer Schools for the last 10 years, this year becoming director of the Youth Summer School. Since graduating with a Folk and Traditional music degree in 2005, he now teaches contemporary compositional techniques, instrumental lessons and music skills at Newcastle University. Most recently Ian has been very productive, having had several commissions to write pieces for choirs, orchestras and Kathryn Tickell's new ensemble The Side. His latest choral piece "On Another's Sorrow" was included as part of BBC Choir of the Year competition 2014.
The Three Ravens
Optional Audience Participation, bars 31, 57 & 82, to be taught to audience by conductor by ear during the concert. www.vwml.org/record/AGG/6/80

FOR REHEARSAL ONLY

J=110
There were three ravens on a tree, A-down, A-down a der-ry down, There

der-ry der-ry down A-down, A-down a der-ry down, There

der-ry down down A-down, A-down a der-ry down, There

There were three ravens on a tree, Heigh ho. The middle-most raven said to me *There lies a dead man

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were three ravens on a tree, Heigh ho. The middle-most raven said to me *There lies a dead man

The middle-most raven said to me *There lies a dead man
comes his lady full of woe A-down a-down a der-ry down There comes his lady full of woe, Heigh

oh...

comes his lady full of woe A-down a-down a der-ry down There comes his lady full of woe, Heigh

ooh...

There comes his lady full of woe, as great with child as she might go

ooh...
Audience joins on this line

S.  Down down der-ry down Heigh ho______ Ah______ ooh______

A.  Down down der-ry down Heigh ho______ Ah______ ooh ooh ooh ooh

T.  Down down der-ry down Heigh ho______ Ah ah______ ah______ ooh______

B.  Down down der-ry down Heigh ho______

Pno.  

Who’s this that’s killed my own true love______ Who’s this that’s killed my own true love______

(sing bracketed notes if this is too low)

who’s this that’s killed my own true love love love______ ooh______
own true love, A-down a-down a der-ry_down Who's this that's killed my own true love Heigh ho

I hope in Heav'n he'll ne-ver rest, Nor e'er en-joy that

q=95 angrily

mf

q=95
Audience joins on this line