Three Ravens
SATB

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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Written by: Ian Stephenson

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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 wwwefdssorg/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 wwwefdssorg/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
Audience Participation, bars 31, 57 & 82
(to be taught to audience by conductor by ear beforehand)  Trad. Arr. Ian Stephenson
with additional material composed Stephenson

There were three ravens on a tree down down der-ry down down der-

There were three ravens on a tree down down der-ry down down der-

There were three ravens on a tree, A down, a-down a der-ry down, There
der-ry der-ry down  There were three ravens on a tree, A down, a-down a der-ry down, There
der-ry down down  There were three ravens on a tree, A down, a-down a der-ry down, There
der-ry down down Oh....
were three ravens on a tree, Heigh ho__ The middle-most raven said to me "There lies a dead man

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

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

Audience joins on this line

at yon tree," Down down der-ry down heigh ho__ Three-ee

at yon tree," Down down der-ry down heigh ho__ There were three ravens on

at yon tree," Down down der-ry down heigh ho__ There were three

at yon tree," Down down der-ry down heigh ho__ There were three ravens on

aah- (ah)__ ooh__ There comes his lady

aah__ der-ry down down der-ry der-ry down__ ooh...

der-ry down down der-ry down down__ There comes his lady

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

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

oh______ ooh______ as great with child as she might go

ho______ ooh______ as great with child as she might go

oh______ ooh______ as great with child as she might go

Down down der-ry down Heigh ho______ Ah, divisi ooh______

Down down der-ry down Heigh ho______ Ah ooh ooh ooh ooh ooh

Down down der-ry down Heigh ho______ Ah ah ah ooh______ who's this that's

Down down der-ry down Heigh ho______ who's this that's
Ah ah ah, Who's this that's killed my own true love, A-

Ah ah ah ah, ooh

Killed my own true love love love, Who's this that's killed my own true love, A-

(sing bracketed notes if this is too low)

Killed my own true love love love, ooh

Down a-down a der-ry down Who's this that's killed my own true love Heigh ho, I

Down a-down a der-ry down Who's this that's killed my own true love Heigh ho, I

Who's this that's killed my own true love, A-

Killed my own true love love love, Who's this that's killed my own true love, A-

I

I

Heigh ho

I

I

Heigh ho

I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hope in Heav'n he'll ne- ver rest, Nor e'er en- joy that
Audience joins on this line