Santiana
A sea shanty in 3-parts for choir and piano

Traditional, arranged by Katie Teage with children from Primrose Hill Primary School, Camden, London

Photograph: © EFDSS; photographer: Roswitha Chesher
The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is the national development organisation for folk music, dance and related arts, based at Cecil Sharp House, a dedicated folk arts centre and music venue, in Camden, North London. Cecil Sharp House is also home to EFDSS' Vaughan Williams Memorial Library (VWML), England’s national folk music and dance archive, which provides free online access to thousands of searchable folk manuscripts and other materials. EFDSS creates and delivers creative learning projects for children, young people, adults and families at Cecil Sharp House, across London and around the country; often in partnership with other organisations.

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Resource credits
Produced by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), January 2020
Santianna song: traditional, arranged by Katie Teage www.katieteage.com
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Introduction: About this resource

This sea shanty was collected by Cecil Sharp from Charles Robbins in a workhouse in Marylebone, London in 1909. It is a song that would have been sung on a ship to accompany work. The theme of this shanty, which dates from at least the 1850s, may have been inspired by topical events in the news related to conflicts between the armies of Mexico, commanded by Antonio López de Santa Anna, and the USA commanded by Zachary Taylor, in the Mexican-American War.

The scan of the original manuscript of this song can be seen in the Vaughan Williams' Memorial Library online digital archive https://www.vwml.org/record/CJS2/10/2110 (Please note: material in this archive is not censored or expurgated and may contain material considered offensive by modern standards.)

This version was created through The Full English, a national project led by the English Folk Dance and Song Society 2013 – 2014 supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Primrose Hill Primary School was one of 19 schools across England that worked with folk artists on creative learning projects inspired by The Full English digital archive.

This 3-part harmony arrangement is for SSA (two soprano and one alto part) with piano accompaniment and guitar chords. It is upbeat and catchy with a 1990’s UK Garage feel, including a simple rap section, making it particularly appealing for singing by children and young people.

The song words for verse 1, refrain and chorus are traditional. The remaining verses and rap section were written by children from Primrose Hill Primary School with their teacher Katie Teage. The words are about coastal formations and erosion can support learning in the National Curriculum for Geography at Key Stage 2.

Performers: Children from Primrose Hill Primary School, Camden led by their music teacher Katie Teage, with folk artists Hazel Askew (melodeon), Ed Hicks (banjo) and Pete Ord (bass guitar).

This resource, with the accompanying audio and video is freely downloadable from the EFDSS Resource Bank: wwwefdssorglearningresourcessantiana
Santiana – song words

Verse 1
I was young and in my prime
Away Santiana
I went to sea and I served my time
All along the plains of Mexico

Chorus
Heave her up and away we go
Away Santiana
Heave her up and away we go
All along the plains of Mexico

Verse 2
I was laying down on the beach
Away Santiana
I saw a cave, an arch and a stack
All along the plains of Mexico

Chorus

Verse 3
All along the headland and the bays
Away Santiana
They both erode by the crash of the waves
All along the plains of Mexico

Chorus

Rap section
Don’t lay near the bays, or the waves might raise to your face
and they might pull you under, that would be a big disgrace to the human race
‘cause the waves are loud like thunder
wave erosion is beastly, it breaks all the rocks into little tiny pieces
so pack up your bags, if you live near the waves your insurance won’t pay
Hash tag YOLO!

Verse 4
Headlands jut out into the sea
Away Santiana
Caves are formed by the crash of the waves
All along the plains of Mexico

Chorus

Verse 5
Arches are formed from the caves
Away Santiana
Stacks are formed from the arches and cracks
All along the plains of Mexico

Chorus x 2

[Note: the song words for verse 1, refrain and chorus are traditional. The remaining verses and rap section were written by children from Primrose Hill Primary School with their teacher Katie Teage.]
SANTIANA

TRADITIONAL ARR. KATIE TEAGE

1980s UK GARAGE FILL

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I was young and in my prime a-way Sand-i-a-n-a I went to see and I tarried my time all along the plains of Mex-i-co and its

S. A. I was young and in my prime a-way Sand-i-a-n-a I went to see and I tarried my time all along the plains of Mex-i-co and its

have her up and a-way we, go a-way Sand-i-a-n-a. Have her up and a-way we, go all along the plains of Mex-i-co. As

S. A. I was laying down on the beach a-way Sand-i-a-n-a. I saw a cave and an arch and a stock all along the plains of Mex-i-co and its

B
RAP SECTION

33

S.

ley near the beys or the waves might raise to your face and they might pull you under that would be a big disgrace to the human race cause the

S.

ley near the beys or the waves might raise to your face and they might pull you under that would be a big disgrace to the human race cause the

A.

ley near the beys or the waves might raise to your face and they might pull you under that would be a big disgrace to the human race cause the

D

Gm  Bb  Gm  Am  Fm

Phno.

36

waves are loud like train seats. Waves are- no- di on in beast-hy. It breaks all the rocks in to

waves are loud like train seats. Waves are- no- di on in beast-hy. It breaks all the rocks in to

waves are loud like train seats. Waves are- no- di on in beast-hy. It breaks all the rocks in to

Bb  Dm  Bb  Gm  Am

Phno.

39

pick up your bags if you live near the waves your insur- ance won’t pay. Hashtag YO LO

pick up your bags if you live near the waves your insur- ance won’t pay. Hashtag YO LO

pick up your bags if you live near the waves your insur- ance won’t pay. Hashtag YO LO

Fe  Bb  Gn  Bb
Katie Teage is an educator, choir conductor, composer, arranger and soprano with the London Vocal Project. Katie studied BA Music at Middlesex University (2005), a MMus in Composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (2008) and a MA in Music Education at the Institute of Education (University College London) (2014). Katie is also a qualified teacher (QTS 2010). Katie’s 15 years’ experience in primary education and work as an Assistant Headteacher puts her in high demand as an educator. Katie works for schools in London as primary music specialist, a choral and musicianship leader for The Voices Foundation and a trainer for Musical Futures. Katie is the Musical Director for ‘Hart and Soul Community Choir’ (Northampton), ‘IGD choir’ (a corporate community choir in Watford) and for the ‘Kings Langley Community Choir’; she regularly runs workshops for other choirs. Katie is a founder-member of the London Vocal Project, performing at many of the UK’s most prestigious venues and recently in New York. As a multi-instrumentalist, Katie has performed all over Europe and the USA with many different bands. www.katieteage.com
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Including more arrangements of sea songs and shanties

Another version of the song Santiana can be found in the resource Using Folk Song in Secondary Schools -