

# LITTLE GIRL BLUE

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arr. Seán Doherty

2018

Sop. Solo,

SATB a cappella

SDM123

TEXT

Little Girl Blue

Sit there and count your fingers,  
What can you do?  
Old girl you're through,  
Sit there, count your little fingers,  
Unhappy little girl blue.

Sit there and count the raindrops  
Falling on you.  
It's time you knew  
All you can ever count on  
Are the raindrops  
That fall on little girl blue.

Won't you just sit there  
Count the little raindrops  
Falling on you  
Cause it's time you knew  
All you can ever count on  
Are the raindrops  
That fall on little girl blue.

No use old girl  
You might as well surrender  
'Cause your hopes are getting slender and slender.  
Why won't somebody send a tender blue boy  
To cheer up little girl blue?

'Little Girl Blue' from *Jumbo* (1935), music by  
Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Lorenz Hart

Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out  
On the feast of Stephen  
When the snow lay round about  
Deep and crisp and even  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
When a poor man came in sight  
Gath'ring winter fuel.

'Hither, page, and stand by me  
If thou know'st it, telling  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?'  
'Sire, he lives a good league hence  
Underneath the mountain  
Right against the forest fence  
By Saint Agnes' fountain.'

'Bring me flesh and bring me wine  
Bring me pine logs hither  
Thou and I will see him dine  
When we bear him thither.'  
Page and monarch forth they went  
Forth they went together  
Through the rude wind's wild lament  
And the bitter weather.

Anon. English Carol

PROGRAMME NOTE

This is a choral arrangement of Nina Simone's singing of 'Little Girl Blue' from her debut album of the same name, where she combines this jazz standard with the tune of 'Good King Wenceslas' to exquisite effect. This is, to my knowledge, the first such choral arrangement of this stunning quodlibet. Mixing the two tunes draws out the similarities of their parallel stories: the little girl counting each raindrop that falls on her; the little boy trudging through the snowdrifts after King Wenceslas. Maybe this is the 'tender blue boy' sent to 'cheer up little girl blue'?

Performance Time: *c.* 5 mins

Seán Doherty Music

seandohertymusic.com

# Little Girl Blue

Anon. English Carol,  
'Little Girl Blue' by Lorenz Hart

Anon. English Carol,  
'Little Girl Blue' by Richard Rodgers, arr. Nina Simone,  
arr. Seán Doherty (b.1987)

Largo ♩ = 50

*mp semplice*

Soprano *mp semplice*  
Good King Wen - ces - las looked out on the Feast of Ste - phen, When the snow lay round a - bout,

Alto *p semplice*  
When the snow lay round a - bout, -

Tenor

Bass

4

deep and crisp and ev - en. Bright-ly shone the moon that night, through the frost was cru - el,

deep and ev - en. the moon that night, through the frost was cru - el,

*p semplice*  
deep and ev - en. frost was cru - el,

*p semplice*  
deep and ev - en. frost was cru - el,

7

When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring win - ter fu - - el.

*mp*  
gath'ring win - ter fu - - el,

*mp*  
gath' - - ring win - ter fu -

*mp*  
gath - - - -

10 *cresc.*

gath'ring win - ter fuel, gath'ring win - ter fuel, gath'ring win - ter

gath'ring win - ter fuel, gath'ring win - ter fuel, gath'ring win - ter fuel,

- el, gath' - - - - ring,

- ring win - ter fuel,

12 *f* *rit.*

fuel, gath'ring win ter fuel, gath'ring win ter fuel, gath'ring win ter fuel, gath'ring win ter

gath'ring win ter fuel, gath'ring win ter fuel, gath'ring win ter fuel, gath'ring win ter fuel,

gath - - - ring win - - - ter,

gath' - - - ring win - - - ter,

**Tempo primo**

SOLO sop., or (an octave lower) alto or tenor

14 *mp* *espress.*

Sit there... and count your fin - gers; what can you do?

*pp sub.*

*pp sub.*

*pp sub.*

*pp sub.*

18

Oh, girl\_ you're through. Sit there\_ count your\_ lit-tle

22

fin - gers, un-hap-py lit-tle girl\_ blue.

*mp solo*  
Good King Wen-ces-las looked out on the Feast of Ste - phen,

26

*mf* Sit there\_ and count\_ the rain - drops\_

*p* Drop, drop, drop, drop,

*p* Drop, drop, drop, drop,

*mp tutti* 'Hi - ther, page, and stand by me, if you know it, tell - ing,

*p* Drop, drop, drop, drop,

28

fall - ing on you.

drop, drop Where his dwell - ing?

drop, drop. Where his dwell - ing?

Yon - der pea - sant, who is he? Where and what his dwell - ing?

drop, drop. Where his dwell - ing?

30

It's\_ time\_ you knew\_ all\_ you can

'Sire, he lives a good league hence, un - der - neath the moun - tain, Right a - gainst the for - est fence,

'Sire, he lives a good league hence, un - der - neath the moun - tain, Right a - gainst the for - est fence,

'Sire, hence, un - der the moun - tain, Right be - side the

'Sire, hence, un - der the moun - tain, Right be - side the

33

ev - er count on\_ are\_ the rain - drops that fall on lit - tle girl blue. Won't\_ you

by Saint Ag - nes' foun - tain, by Saint Ag - nes' foun - tain.'

by Saint Ag - nes' foun - tain, by Saint Ag - nes' foun - tain.'

foun - tain, be - side the foun - - - tain.'

foun - tain, be - side the foun - - - tain.'

37

just sit there, count the lit-tle rain drops fall-ing on you;

*p* ahh. ahh.

*p* ahh. ahh.

*mp* 'Bring me food and bring me wine,bring me pine logs hi - ther,You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thi - ther.'

*p* ahh. ahh.

41

'cause it's time you knew all you can ev - er

Page and mon-arch, forth they went, forth they went to - ge - ther, Through the cold wind's wild la - ment

Page and mon-arch, forth they went, forth they went to - ge - ther, Through the cold wind's wild la - ment

Forth they went to - ge - ther, the wild la - ment

Forth they went to - ge - ther, the wild la - ment

44

*Più mosso*

count on are the rain - drops that fall on lit-tle girl blue. No use, old

*f* *pp*

and the bit-ter wea - ther, and the bit-ter wea - ther.

*pp*

and the bit-ter wea - ther, and the bit-ter wea - ther.

*pp*

and the wea - ther, bit - ter wea - - - ther.

*pp*

and the wea - ther, bit - ter wea - - - ther.

48

girl; you might as well sur-ren-der, 'cause your hopes are get-ting slen - der and slen - der.

*mp* doo-wah *fp* ahh *f*

*mp* doo-wah *fp* ahh *f*

*mp* doo-wah *fp* ahh *f*

*mp* doo - wah *fp* ahh *f*

52

Why won't some-bo-dy send a ten-der blue boy to

*mp* *f* *mf*

ahh *mp* ahh *p* *mp* *p* Good King Wen-ces-las looked out

ahh *mp* ahh *p* *mp* *p* Good King Wen-ces-las looked out

ahh *mp* ahh *p* *mp* *p* Good King Wen-ces-las looked out

ahh *mp* ahh *p* *mp* *p* Good King Wen-ces-las looked out

57

cheer up lit-tle girl blue?

*mp* *rit.* *p*

on the Feast of Ste - phen, When the snow lay round a bout, deep and crisp and ev - en.

*poco* *pp*

on the Feast of Ste - phen, When the snow lay round a bout, deep and crisp and ev - en.

*poco* *pp*

on the Feast of Ste - phen, When the snow lay round a bout, deep and crisp and ev - en.

*poco* *pp*

on the Feast of Ste - phen, When the snow lay round a bout, deep and crisp and ev - en.

*poco* *pp*