

The Wellerman

For SSA* a cappella

Duration: ca. 2:15

Arranged by
ROGER EMERSON

New Zealand Folksong

With a bawdy bounce (♩ = ca. 96)

Solo, Section or All voices throughout

mf


Soprano I



There once was a ship that put to sea, the




3 name of the ship was the Bil - ly of Tea; the winds blew up, her



6 bow dipped down O blow, my bul - ly boys, blow.


9

Sop. I




Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to bring us su - gar and

Sop. II *mf*



Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to bring us su - gar and

Alto *mf*



9 Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to bring us su - gar and

*Available separately: TTBB (00368390), SATB (00368391), SAB (00368392),
2-Part (00368393), TBB (00368394), SSA (00368395)

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tea and rum. One day, when the tongu-in' is done we'll

tea and rum. One day, when the tongu-in' is done we'll

12 tea and rum. One day, when the tongu-in' is done we'll

take our leave and go. She had not been two

take our leave and go.

15 take our leave and go.

div. 17

weeks from shore when down on her a right whale bore; the

18

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cap - tain called all hands and swore he'd take that whale in

21

tow. *Huh!* 25 Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to

24

Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to

Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to

bring us su - gar and tea and rum. One day, when the

bring us su - gar and tea and rum. One day, when the

27

bring us su - gar and tea and rum. One day, when the

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tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and go. *div.* Be -

tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and go.

30 tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and go.

33 fore the boat had hit the wa - ter the whale's_ tail came

up and caught her; all hands to the side, har - pooned and fought her when

36

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41

she dived down be - low. *Huh!* Soon may the

Soon may the

39 Soon may the

Wel - ler - man come to bring us su - gar and tea and rum.

Wel - ler - man come to bring us su - gar and tea and rum.

42 Wel - ler - man come to bring us su - gar and tea and rum.

One day, when the tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and

One day, when the tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and

45 One day, when the tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and

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49

div. *f*

go. No line was cut, no whale was freed, the
for - ty days or e - ven more, the

48 go.

cap - tain's mind was not on greed; but he be - longed to the
line went slack then tight once more; all boats were lost, there were

51

whale - man's creed, she took that ship in tow. } *Huh!*
on - ly four, but still that whale did go. }

54

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57

Soon may the Wel-ler-man come to bring us su-gar and

f

Soon may the Wel-ler-man come to bring us su-gar and

f

57 Soon may the Wel-ler-man come to bring us su-gar and

tea and rum. One day, when the tongu-in' is done we'll

tea and rum. One day, when the tongu-in' is done we'll

60 tea and rum. One day, when the tongu-in' is done we'll

take our leave and go. For go. As

take our leave and go.

63 take our leave and go.

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66

far as I've heard, the fight's still on, the line's not cut and the

66

whale's not gone; the Wel-ler-man makes his reg-u-lar call to en-

69

74

cour-age the cap-tain, crew and all. *ff* Soon may the

ff Soon may the

ff Soon may the

72

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Wel - ler - man come to bring us su - gar and tea and rum.

Wel - ler - man come to bring us su - gar and tea and rum.

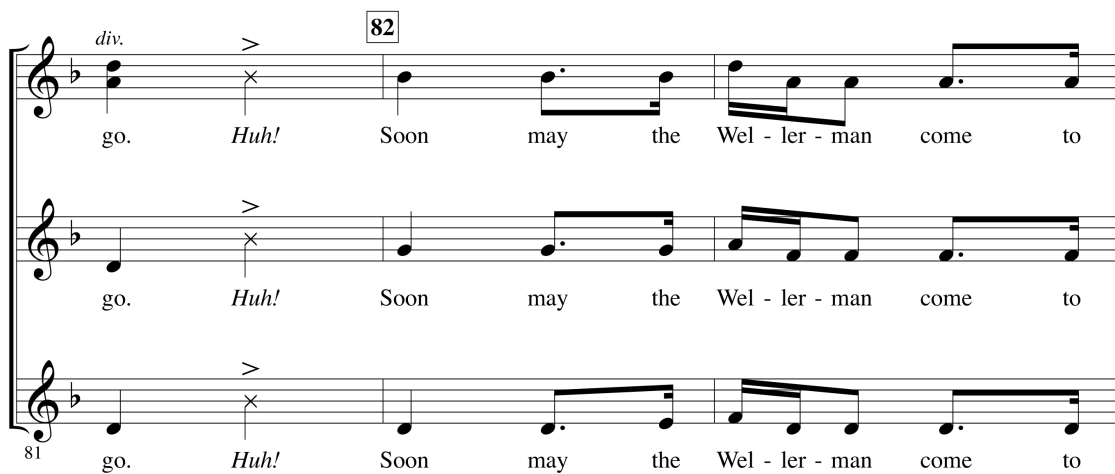
75 Wel - ler - man come to bring us su - gar and tea and rum.



One day, when the tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and

One day, when the tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and

78 One day, when the tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and



div. go. Huh! 82 Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to

go. Huh! Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to

81 go. Huh! Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to

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bring us su - gar and tea and rum. One day, when the

bring us su - gar and tea and rum. One day, when the

84 bring us su - gar and tea and rum. One day, when the

tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and

tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and

87 tongu - in' is done we'll take our leave and

div.
go! _____ *Huh!*

go! _____ Take one leave and go! *Huh!*

90 go! _____ *Huh!*

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A “Wellerman” was an employee of the Sydney-based Weller Brothers’ shipping company, which from 1833 was the major supplier of provisions – such as the “sugar and tea and rum” of the shanty’s refrain – to whaling stations on New Zealand shores.

The whaler’s wistful eye on a future date “when the tonguin’ is done we’ll take our leave and go” refers to the practice of stripping blubber from beached whales.

Elle Hunt - The Guardian

