



for Diane Simons

# Clipper Ships and Captains

For S.S.A. Voices, accompanied

Text by Stephen Vincent Benet

Music by B. Wayne Bisbee

Warm & expressive ♩ = ca. 64  
(unhurried, with a bit of rubato (ocean waves!))

silky, unhurried  
*mp*

All unis.

1 2

There was a

Piano *mp*

All

3 4

time (man) le-fore our time, It

All

5 6

will not come a-gain, it will not come a-gain, When the



Slightly faster and steady (no rubato) ♩ = ca. 72

*stronger, more accented*

All

7 8

best ships still were wood - en ships, But the

All

9 10

men, the men were iron men, the men were

*div.*

All

11 12

iron men.

*hold back a little*

*legato* *f*

All

13 14

The skip - pers with the lit - tle beards And the

*go on crisply* *mf* *unis. mp* *articulate* *p* *div.*

*without pedal*

15 *smoothly* 16 *mf*

S. 1 New Eng - land drawl, Who knew

S. 2 *smoothly* *mf*  
New Eng - land drawl, Who knew

Alto *smoothly* *mf*  
New Eng - land drawl, Who knew

*smoothly* *crisply*

*with pedal* *without*

17 *f* 18 *f* *only 1 or 2 voices on top notes*

S. 1 Hong Kong and Mar - ble - head And the Pole Star o - ver

S. 2 Hong Kong and Mar - ble - head And the Pole Star o - ver

Alto Hong Kong and Mar - ble - head And the Pole Star o - ver

*mf* *f*

*normal pedaling*

*ff*  
19 *2.*

S. 1  
all, o - ver

S. 2  
*ff*  
all, o - ver

Alto  
*ff*  
all, o - ver

*brilliantly*

*ff*

20 *o*

S. 1  
all.

S. 2  
all.

Alto  
all.

S. 1  
21 22 23 *mp*  
State - ly as church - es, swift as

S. 2  
*mp*  
State - ly as church - es, swift as

Alto  
*mp*  
State - ly as church - es, swift as

*broadly (hold back)*  
*ff* big rich tone  
*move on*  
*mp*

S. 1  
24 25 26  
gulls, They trod the o - cean, then;

S. 2  
*smooth, but firm*  
gulls, They trod the o - cean, then;

Alto  
*smooth, but firm*  
gulls, They trod the o - cean, then;

*mf* *richly*

27 28 *hold back* *mp* 29 **Steady at ca. 72**

S. 1  
No man has seen such

S. 2  
No man has seen such

Alto  
No man has seen such

*hold back* **Unhurried & steady** ♩ = ca. 72

*l.h.*

30 31 *gradually louder*  
*each note accented a little*

S. 1  
ships be - fore, no man has seen such

S. 2  
ships be - fore, no man has seen such

Alto  
ships be - fore, no man has seen such

*gradually louder*  
*each note accented a little*

*gradually louder*  
*each note accented a little*

*l.h.*

S. 1 *mf* 32 *mf* 33 *growing in intensity*  
ships be - fore And none will see a -

S. 2 *mf* *growing in intensity*  
ships be - fore And none will see a -

Alto *mf* *growing in intensity*  
ships be - fore And none will see a -

S. 1 34 35 *hold back* *(9) f*  
gain, and none will see a -

S. 2 *hold back* *(9) f*  
gain, and none will see, and none will see a -

Alto *hold back* *(9) f*  
gain, and none will see, and none will see a -

S. 1  
gain.

S. 2  
gain.

Alto  
gain.

*move on with a bit of rubato*

*gradually slower and softer to the end*

*f*

All  
38 *mf*  
(hum)

*gradually slower & softer*

39 *mp*

*(still slowing)*

*linger*

*mf*

*mp*

All  
40 *p*

41 *long*

*freely (hold back)*

*(move along)*

*(slowing)*

*8va long*

*mp*

