

*Music*  
*for*  
*Anglo Saxon & Viking*  
*Instruments*

This music was composed for reconstructed instruments from the 9th to 11th centuries.

Most of this music can be heard on the accompanying CD.

### **Music for Anglo Saxon & Viking Instruments**

#### Track

1	Roger1	01:26
2	Roger2	01:58
3	Roger3	01:07
4	Dance - RB	00:56
5	Wanderer's Song	02:18
6	Song - RB	00:49
7	Dream Song - LW 1	01:38
8	Dream Song - LW 2	01:23
9	Snorri Sang	01:35
10	Yrmenlafes Sang	01:24
11	Snorris Funeral Song	02:23
12	Stowa Sang	04:40
13	Floodrider	00:49
14	Caper	01:28
15	Freedom Song	03:13
16	Feast Song	02:03
17	Dance	00:38
18	Breguswith's Dance	01:39
19	QuernSong	03:03

#### Round

Saexering Boat Song

Yrmenlafes Tumb

Wedding Riddle 1

Wedding Riddle 2

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# Dance

Roger Burton

Flute

$\text{♩} = 180$

4

8

12

16

20

24

28

32

36

40

# Wanderer's Song

Jan-Ellen Harriman

Flute

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score is written for a flute in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4. The second staff contains measures 5 through 8. The third staff contains measures 9 through 16. The music is a simple melody of eighth and quarter notes. Measure 16 ends with a double bar line.

## Mother's Song - <sup>2</sup>

Children from my belly,  
Children from the land,  
Take them to their father,  
He'll take them by the hand.

Some of them are buried;  
Some of them are grown  
Some of them are married  
With children of their own.

# Song

Roger Burton

Flute

$\text{♩} = 180$

4 8

Song is written by Roger Burton

It is one of the themes from his longer work

# Dream Song

Liz Walsh

Flute

$\text{♩} = 84$

5

Dream song is by Liz Walsh. It may be seen as a lullaby, although this is not the only use.

# Snorri Sang

Liz Walsh

♩ = 130

Flute

5

10

15

It was used in slow time as a funeral dirge. It generally goes faster, and can be done on a six-stringed lyre as tune and accompaniment.

# Yrmenlafes Sang

Richard Walsh (aka Yrmenlaf)

♩ = 120

Track-2

5

Drum beats may be played on the first and third beat of every bar.



## Snorri's Funeral Song

Richard Walsh

Flute

$\text{♩} = 120$

5

10

15

The intention is that it is sung without instruments, by a troop of men marching around the funeral tableau.

We start and finish with the chorus, sung by everyone, and each verse is sung as a solo by one member of the chorus. Verses should have a free rhythm (whilst maintaining the slow march pulse), and can be either sung at pitch, transposed up a whole tone or up a minor third, depending on the mood of the lyric.

This piece is also intended to explore possibilities of the modal music; if there were an accompaniment (which is emphatically not the case) the chords used would change completely from one verse to another.

It needs more verses. In particular, I would like a verse (up a whole tone) that describes what he will get up to in the afterlife. I don't know enough to write one.

## **Funeral Song**

**Chorus** (starts, between each verse and ends)

*Sing we of Snorri, that sage of our people  
Dearly beloved, departed to death  
Laid out in his longship, his belongings surround him  
Fire will soon enfold him, to his fathers he will go.*

**Solo Verse** (transposed up a minor third)

Merry in the meadhall, I remember his feasting  
Taking his turn, a story to tell.  
Riddles and rune wit, ribald and laughing  
Or sorrowful saga of slaughter and woe

**Solo Verse** (sung as written)

Shoulder to shoulder in the shieldwall together  
Facing our foemen, no fear did he show  
Hard-faced in his helmet, he won the victory  
Then rejoiced with the ravens at the rout of the foe.

# Stowe Sang

Liz Walsh

♩ = 196

Flute or Voice

5

10

15

20

25

30

The intention is that verses are added or taken away, depending on who is present / visible / on site. There are other verses already in existence, which can be supplied on request – but it is probably more fun to make up verses ad hoc (rhyme not necessary, rhythm can vary a bit as long as it fits the melody). It should be quite possible for even a temporary audience to pick up the words for the chorus. It could degenerate into a rather appalling camp-fire song....

## **Stowa Sang**

**Chorus** (after each verse)

*Here are the folk of the village of Stow  
Each has a task that needs to be done  
Working from dawn until twilight's last glow  
To bed when it's dark, and rise with the sun*

The children are turning the quern stone  
Grinding the corn for the baking of bread  
Feast in the evening, with story and song  
This story's done, pass the harp along

Gyric is making some new shoes  
The old ones have holes that let in the rain  
Feast in the evening, with story and song  
This story's done, pass the harp along

Hereswith's doing some dyeing  
Weld for yellow and madder for red  
Feast in the evening, with story and song  
This story's done, pass the harp along

Yrmenlaf's playing some music  
Making a song for the feasting tonight  
Feast in the evening, with story and song  
This story's done, pass the harp along

Using the yarn is Snorri  
Weaving some cloth on his warp weighted loom  
Feast in the evening, with story and song  
This story's done, pass the harp along

Ælfflæd is sitting and spinning  
Making fine yarn from the fleece of a sheep  
Feast in the evening, with story and song  
This story's done, pass the harp along

The smith is working with iron  
Pattern welding a blade for a knife  
Feast in the evening, with story and song  
This story's done, pass the harp along

# Floodrider

Roger Burton

Voice

$\text{♩} = 150$

Take the Strain, Pull the oar, Sail it down, We head for shore

# Caper

Roger Barton

Flute

$\text{♩} = 185$

5

10

15

# Freedom Song

Liz Walsh

Flute

$\text{♩} = 120$

5

It is designed to provide some creative space for each musician, or indeed a singer or so. It could be used as a work-song.

# Feast Song

Liz Walsh

♩ = 150

Flutes

5

10

15

20

25

30

In this form, it is a round of (up to) four voices / instruments, with the voices entering every 4 bars. It could also be used straight (i.e. not a round) or as a much more complicated round of 16 parts beginning every 2 bars (this sounds less 'pleasant' but does work and provides more of a challenge!)

The beat is not always obvious, so it will help if a drummer plays the first beat of every bar (plus others if desired). Some practice may well be necessary.



# Round

Roger Burton

♩ = 140

Flute

5

10

Up to three voices / instruments, starting every four bars.

# Saexering Boat Song

Roger Burton

Flute  $\text{♩} = 132$

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

It should be noted that the last section is beyond the range of some of our instruments – consider possibilities before playing in public!

# Yrmenlafes Tumb

Richard Walsh

♩ = 120


Flute

5


# Wedding Riddle 1

je

Soprano



Goodly growing under garments strongly swiftly lifts its shirt go and grip it




grasp it daughter heat of hearth will make it work

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a soprano part. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "Goodly growing under garments strongly swiftly lifts its shirt go and grip it". The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2. The lyrics are: "grasp it daughter heat of hearth will make it work".

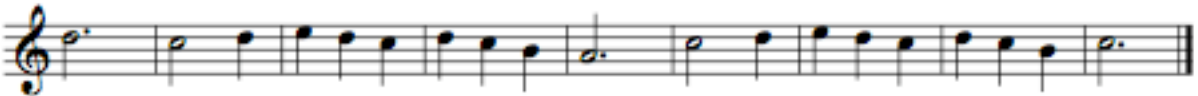
# Wedding Riddle 2

je

Soprano



Hard it hangs by his swelling thigh, waiting and wanting the willing



hole. Find it fill it fr-u-it ful there, tempting treasures it's u-n-locked goal.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a soprano part. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, followed by a half note G4. The lyrics 'Hard it hangs by his swelling thigh, waiting and wanting the willing' are aligned under this staff. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, followed by a half note G4. The lyrics 'hole. Find it fill it fr-u-it ful there, tempting treasures it's u-n-locked goal.' are aligned under this staff.