

# OH, DEAR! WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?

OLD ENGLISH (18th CENTURY) SONG

for Chorus (or Quartet) of Mixed Voices unaccompanied

Arranged by  
GRANVILLE BANTOCK

*Allegretto giojoso, tempo rubato*

SOPRANO

CONTRALTO

TENOR

BASS

PIANO  
(for practice only)

Oh, dear!

Oh, dear,

Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be?

Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be?

*Allegretto giojoso, tempo rubato*

*mp espress.*

*p*

*dim.*

*p*

*dim.*

*p*

Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be?

what can the mat-ter be?

mel Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be? Dear, dear,

Oh, dear! Oh,

Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be? Dear, dear,

Dear, dear! what can the mat-ter be? Oh, dear!

Oh, dear! John

what can the mat-ter be? Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be?

— dear! — Oh, — dear!

what can the mat-ter be? John-ny's so long at the fair. He

- ny's so long at the fair.

Oh, dear, oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be?

— Oh, dear, oh, dear!

*mp espress.*

pro-mised he'd buy me a fair-ing should please me,

And then for a kiss, oh! he

what can the mat-ter be? Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be?

Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be? Oh, dear!

*p* *espress.*

*cresc.*  
He promised he'd bring me a bunch of blue rib-bons,  
*cresc.*  
vow'd he would tease me, Oh, dear me! To  
*cresc.*  
Oh, dear! Oh, dear me! To  
*cresc.*  
what can the mat-ter be? Oh, dear! Oh, dear!

*mf*  
And it's oh, dear!  
tie up my bon - ny brown hair. Oh, dear,  
tie up her bon - ny brown hair. Oh, dear,  
Oh, dear me! Oh, dear,

what can the mat - ter be? Dear, dear! what can the mat - ter be?  
me! Dear, dear, me!  
me! Dear, dear, me!  
me! Dear, dear, me!

Oh, dear! what can the mat - ter be? John-ny's so long at the  
 Oh, dear me! John-ny's at the  
 Oh, dear me! John-ny's long at the  
 Oh, dear me! John-ny's at the

fair. John-ny's so long at the *cresc.*  
 fair. *cresc.* Oh, dear, me!  
 fair. John-ny's so long at the fair, long at the *cresc.*  
 fair. Oh, dear! long at the

fair, What can the mat - ter be? *poco a poco rall.*  
 John-ny's so long at the fair.  
 fair,  
 fair, John-ny's so long at the fair,  
 fair, *poco a poco rall.*

a tempo, allegretto

Oh, dear me! Oh, dear me! Oh, dear me! Oh, dear me! Oh, dear me!

Oh, dear me! Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be?

a tempo, allegretto

*mp espress.*

Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be?

what can the mat-ter be? Oh, dear!

me! Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be? Dear, dear!

Oh, dear! Oh,

Dear, dear! what can the mat-ter be? Oh, dear!

Oh, dear! John

what can the mat-ter be? Oh, dear! what can the mat-ter be?

dear! Oh, dear,

what can the mat - ter be? John-ny's so long at the fair. He  
 - ny's so long at the fair.  
 Oh, dear! Oh, dear! what can the mat - ter be?  
 Oh, dear, oh, dear.

*espress.*  
 pro-mised he'd bring me a bas-ket of po - sies, *pp* *espress.*  
 A gar-land of li - lies, a  
*pp* what can the mat - ter be? Oh, dear! what can the mat - ter be?  
*pp* Oh, dear! what can the mat - ter be? Oh, dear!

*cresc.*  
 A lit - tle straw hat to set off the blue rib - bons,  
*cresc.* gar-land of ro - ses, Oh, dear me! that  
*cresc.* Oh, dear! Oh, dear me! that  
*cresc.* what can the mat - ter be? Oh, dear! Oh, dear!

And it's Oh, dear!

tie up my bon - ny brown hair. Oh, dear

tie up her bon - ny brown hair. Oh, dear

Oh, dear me! Oh, dear

what can the mat - ter be? Dear, dear! what can the mat - ter be?

me! Dear, dear me!

me! Dear, dear me!

me! Dear, dear me!

Oh, dear! what can the mat - ter be? John - ny's so long at the

Oh, dear me! John - ny's at the

Oh, dear me! John - ny's long at the

Oh, dear me! John - ny's at the

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fair. *cresc.* John-ny's so long at the

fair. *cresc.* Oh, dear me!

fair. *cresc.* John-ny's so long at the fair, long at the

fair. Oh, dear! long at the

fair,

John - ny's so long at the fair.

fair,

fair, John - ny's so long at the

*allargando* what can the mat - ter be? Oh, dear! Oh, dear *ff* *sost.* me!

Oh, dear! Oh, dear *ff* *sost.* me!

Oh, dear! Oh, dear *ff* *sost.* me!

fair. *allargando* Oh, dear me!