

Notes

This arrangement contrasts the unbridled optimism and resolve of a person heading off to war with the bittersweet nostalgia of leaving a special person behind, along with the promise of return. The repeated statements of the refrain are most effective when singers highlight the syncopations and rhythmic differences among them. Tenors should sing the final statement of “Goin’ across the mountain” (m. 39) with a more wistful quality than at the start. All singers should enjoy the harmonic movement of the last line, and their carefully timed roles in it—all the way to the altos’ final, delayed word.

—Ellen Gilson Voth

Text

Refrain:

Goin’ across the mountain, Oh, fare you well,
Goin’ across the mountain, you can hear my banjo tell.

Got my rations on my back, my powder it is dry;
I’m goin’ across the mountain, Chrissie, don’t you cry.

Way before it’s daylight, if nothing happens to me,
I’ll be way down yonder in old Tennessee.

I expect you’ll miss me when I’m gone,
But I’m going through.

When this war is over, I’ll come back to you.

American folk song

Publisher’s Note

As a companion piece to the present edition, please also consider programming *Husbaby* as arranged by Ellen Gilson Voth (SATB *divisi*, Catalog No. 1.3380).

Winner of second place award in the 2013 Athena Festival Composition
Competition (Murray State University, Murray, KY)

Premiered at the OAKE National Conference in Hartford, CT in 2013, and dedicated
to the wonderful musicians of the 2013 OAKE National Chamber Ensemble

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied

Going Across the Mountain

American folk song

Ellen Gilson Voth, arr.

$\text{♩} = 72$
mp

Soprano
Oh, fare you well. —

Alto
Oh, fare you well. —

Tenor
mp
Oh, fare you — well. —

Bass
mp
Oh, fare you — well. —

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)
 $\text{♩} = 72$

♩ = c. 104

f heartily

Go - in'* a-cross the moun - tain, Oh, fare you well, Go - in' a-cross the moun - tain, you can

f heartily

Go - in'* a-cross the moun - tain, Oh, fare you well, Go - in' a-cross the moun - tain, you can

f heartily

Go - in'* a-cross the moun - tain, Oh, fare you well, Go - in' a-cross the moun - tain,

f heartily

Go - in'* a-cross the moun - tain, Oh, fare you well, Go - in' a-cross the moun - tain,

♩ = c. 104

7

hear my ban - jo tell.

hear my ban - jo tell.

hear my ban - jo, hear my ban - jo tell. Got ___ my ra - tions on my back, my

hear my ban - jo, hear my ban - jo tell. Got ___ my ra - tions on my back, my

* Singers: drop the final "g" in "going" throughout.

10

pow-der it is dry; I'm goin' a-cross the moun-tain, Chris-sie, Don't-you, don't-you

pow-der it is dry; I'm goin' a-cross the moun-tain, Chris-sie, Don't-you, don't-you

Don't-you

13

Go - in' a-cross the moun-tain, Oh, fare you well, Go -

cry. Go - in', go - in', Oh, fare you well, Go -

cry. Go - in', go - in', Oh, fare you well, Go -

cry. Go - in' a-cross the moun-tain, Oh, fare you well, Go -

16

- in' a-cross the moun-tain, you can hear my ban-jo, hear my ban-jo tell. _____

- in' a-cross the moun-tain, you can hear my ban-jo, hear my ban-jo tell. _____

- in' a-cross the moun-tain, hear my ban-jo, hear my ban-jo tell. Way be-

- in' a-cross the moun-tain, hear my ban-jo, hear my ban-jo tell. _____

19

I'll be way - down yon - der, _____

if noth-ing hap-pens to me, _____

(only a few tenors sustain)

fore it's day - light, if noth-ing hap-pens to me, _____

Way -

22

way down yon-der in old Ten-nes-see. Oh,
 way down yon-der Ten-nes-see. Oh,
 way down yon-der Ten-nes-see. Oh,
 down yon-der, way down yon-der in Ten-nes-see.

25

fare you well, oh fare you
 fare you well, oh fare, fare you
 fare you well, oh, fare
 Goin' a-cross the moun-tain,

28

well, Go - in' a - cross the moun - tain, you can hear my ban - jo, ban -

well, Go - in' a - cross the moun - tain, you can hear my ban - jo, ban -

well, Go - in' a - cross the moun - tain, hear my ban - jo, ban -

— Go - in' a - cross the moun - tain, hear my ban - jo, ban -

31 *slight rit.* **Much more slowly** ♩ = 64 *mp*

jo, ban - jo tell. Oh, fare

jo, ban - jo tell. Go - in',

jo, ban - jo, — ban - jo tell. I ex - pect you'll miss me when I'm gone, But

jo, ban - jo, — ban - jo tell. I ex - pect you'll miss me when I'm gone, But

slight rit. **Much more slowly** ♩ = 64

Slowly

, *p* with heaviness on each word *molto rit.*

34

— you well, I'm go - in' through. When this war is o - ver, I'll come

I'm — go - in' through. When this war is o - ver, I'll come

I'm go - in' through. When this war is o - ver, I'll come

I'm go - in' through. When this war is o - ver, I'll come

Slowly *molto rit.*

37

back — to you.

back — to you. *p* Go - in' a - cross the moun - tain, —

back to you. *p* Go - in' a - cross the moun - tain, —

back — to you.

Slowly *molto rit.*

40 *mp*

Oh, fare you well, oh, fare you well.
fare - well, fare you well.
Oh, fare you well.
Oh, fare you well.

Copying is illegal
Review copy only