

The Wellerman

For SATB* 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

Bass

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

Soprano

mf

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

Alto

mf

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

Tenor

mf

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

Bass

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

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. *div.* 17

take our leave and go.

take our leave and go.

15 take our leave and go. She had not been two

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

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

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

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

THE WELLERMAN – SATB

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

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

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

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

33

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

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

THE WELLERMAN – SATB

41

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

Huh! Soon may the

Huh! Soon may the

Huh! Soon may the

42

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.

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.

45

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

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

THE WELLERMAN – SATB

49

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

51 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

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

THE WELLERMAN – SATB

57 *f*

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

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

8 *f*

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

57 *f*

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

8

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

1 2

take our leave and go. go.

take our leave and go. go.

8

take our leave and go. go.

63

take our leave and go. For go. As

ff

THE WELLERMAN – SATB

66

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

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

74

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

ff Soon may the

ff Soon may the

THE WELLERMAN – SATB

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.

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

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

82

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

go. *Huh!* 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

THE WELLERMAN – SATB

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

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

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 our leave and go! *Huh!*

go! *Huh!*

90 go! Take our leave and go! *Huh!*

THE WELLERMAN – SATB



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