

## Shady Grove

Appalachian Folk Song

Arranged for SAB Choir by Robert I. Hugh

### Background

*Shady Grove* is an 18<sup>th</sup> century folk song. Frequently associated with music of the Appalachian region of the United States, it has its roots in the British Isles, as it is likely that it is a variant of the English ballad *Matty Groves* (to compare *Shady Grove* to *Matty Groves* check out this recording by Fairport Convention:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1it7BP5PckI>

Robert Hugh's inventive arrangement combines *Shady Grove* with two other Appalachian folk songs in the same mode – *Hop Around*, *Skip Around Old Betty Larkin* and *I Wonder Where Mariah's Gone*.

### Recordings

Publisher provided recording: <http://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&type=audio&productID=10358632>

Henry James Memorial School Select Chorus, Colleen Thompson, conductor.  
Organization of American Kodaly Educator's Conference, Hartford, CT March 22, 2013 (Premiere recording): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAsQ8ElCuyc>

### Analysis

Key: D minor – the arranger has set this as D minor, but technically the song is in Dorian mode.

Meter: mostly 4/4

Structure: Verse/Chorus with variations

Verse and chorus have the same melody. This piece is arranged in 4/4, but probably best felt in 2/4. Thinking this way, each verse (and chorus) consists of two four-measure phrases: 4+4

SECTION	MEASURE	EVENT AND SCORING
Intro	1-2	Two measure instrumental vamp
Chorus 1	3-7	Men sing melody in unison, accompanied by instruments in block chords
Verse 1	8-12	S/A sing melody in unison, accompanied as before
Chorus 2	13-18	S/A sing melody in unison; men sing brief countermelody
Verse 2	19-23	S/A/B sing melody in unison
Chorus 3	24-30	A/B sing melody in unison; S sings brief countermelody; phrase is extended by two

		measures, by singing the penultimate measure 3 times – meter shifts to 2/4
Interlude	31-54	Meter stays in 2/4; Accompaniment changes rhythm to a “boom-chick” pattern; Voices enter with layered ostinati; each pattern is four measures long; B enters first – they sing their pattern 6 x; A II sings 5 x A I sings 4 x plus a short tag S II sings 4x S I sings 2 ½ x
I Wonder Where	55-63	New tune is introduced – A sings in unison
Hop around, skip around	63-70	New tune is introduced – S sings in unison
Partner song (with Chorus 4)	70-87	Three tunes are partnered – S sings Hop Around, A sings I Wonder Where, B sings Shady Grove, but the rhythm is augmented so that it is much slower.
Interlude	88-89	Two measure instrumental
Chorus 5	90-94	Meter shifts back to a combination of 4/4 and 2/4; 4 part harmony – melody shifts from Alto, to S II to S I – unaccompanied;
Chorus 6 and 7	95-107	The chorus is sung twice in unison