

# BATAVIA

*a music drama work for SA choir and piano*

Score with updated script  
2020

words:

Anne Williams and the  
East Eltham Primary School Choir students 1997

music:

Stephen Leek

*Commissioned by the Eltham East Primary School Choir in 1997*

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Thank you for your honesty.

- I. Maiden Voyage
- II. Moonshine
- III. Water
- IV. Cornelisz
- V. Gallows Waiting

**SCENE 1**

[CABIN BOY 1 is sitting on a tea chest on the ship's deck, writing in a large book. CABIN BOY 2 approaches him]

- C. BOY 2 I haven't seen you on board before. Where are you from? Did you join the ship in Amsterdam?
- C. BOY 1 Yes, I did. I've been on leave. My last voyage was on the Batavia. I was Commander Pelsaert's cabin boy. [indicating book] I've just been writing about it.
- C. BOY 2 Batavia? Pelsaert?? Oh my God! I've heard some of the stories but surely they can't be true! Things like that don't really happen do they? Did you know Cornelisz? Were you scared? It must have been so exciting! Tell me!
- C. BOY 1 Yes, I was scared, but it wasn't exciting...it was hell!..... [as in dream] ...worse than you could possibly imagine.....

# I. Maiden Voyage

C. BOY 2 Please, can you tell about it? [He moves to sit down on the other tea chest as PIANO INTRO begins.]

music: Stephen Leek

C. BOY 1 If you're sure you really want to hear about it...

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, and Piano. The Soprano and Alto parts are mostly rests. The Piano part features a melody with dynamics *fp* and *sim. throughout*.

Piano accompaniment for the first section, showing a melody with dynamics *fp*.

C. BOY 1 [Letter A] She was so beautiful. I couldn't believe it when I saw her. They told us Batavia was bigger and faster than any ship before. We were so proud to sail on the new flagship of the Dutch East India Company.

Musical score for Letter A, featuring a piano accompaniment with dynamics *mp* and *fp*.

[Letter B] We left Amsterdam on the maiden voyage last October, bound for the spice markets in the East Indies. She was such a wonderful ship in the wind. We all loved to stand up on her high rear decks and watch the bow dipping, the painted sails billowing and the sun gleaming on pure gold paintwork.

Musical score for Letter B, featuring a piano accompaniment with dynamics *p*.

2

Piano accompaniment for the first system. The treble clef staff contains a melody of quarter notes, and the bass clef staff contains sustained chords. Dynamics include *fp* (fortissimo piano) in both staves.

[Letter C] I liked to think she flew across the water like an elegant bird.

Piano accompaniment for the second system, marked with a boxed **C**. The treble clef staff contains a melody with dynamics *p*, *mf*, *p*, and *ffp*. The bass clef staff contains chords. A *rall.* (rallentando) marking is present above the treble staff.

[Letter D] For six months we sailed south, down the coast of Africa to Cape Town, then out into the Roaring Forties, the Trade Winds that carried us eastwards. We had more than 300 on board - men, women and children - and such treasures!

Gold and silver coins in gorgeous chests, jewellery, fine cloth, exquisite pottery and huge sandstone blocks for a rich merchant's portico in his fine new house in Java....

Piano accompaniment for the third system, marked with a boxed **D**. The time signature is 5/4. The treble clef staff contains chords with dynamics *mp* and *poco cresc.*. The bass clef staff contains a melody.

Piano accompaniment for the fourth system. The treble clef staff contains chords with a *dim.* (diminuendo) marking. The bass clef staff contains a melody.

Introduction for song only.  
Start Here

**E**

Pno.

**F** 1. *mf*  
2. *pp*

S.  
1. Snor - ing sail - ors drift - ing indreams, Moon - shine on wa - ter,

A.  
1. Snor - ing sail - ors drift - ing indreams, Moon - shine on wa - ter,

Pno.

S.  
moon-lights glis-t'ning streams, Sen - ti-nelmasts reach up to the sky, twi - light of night -

A.  
moon-lights glis-t'ning streams, Sen - ti-nelmasts reach up to the sky, twi - light of night -

Pno.

**G** *f*

S.  
shine on twi - light, Ba - ta - via glides a - cross the sil-ver sea - Ba -

A.  
shine on twi - light, Ba - ta - via glides a - cross the sil-ver sea - Ba -

Pno.

**H** \*change vowel shapes very slowly to change the colour of the sound

S. ta - via rides si-lent to the lea, sail\*.

A. ta - via rides si-lent to the lea, sail\*.

Pno.

*f* **I**

S. Ba - ta - via glides a-cross the sil-ver sea\_ Ba

A. Ba - ta - via glides a-cross the sil-ver sea\_ Ba

Pno.

**J**

S. ta - via rides si-lent to the lea, sail\*.

A. ta - via rides si-lent to the lea, sail\*.

Pno.

[Letter j +3] Pelsaert was the Commander and senior merchant on board but the Skipper Jacobz hated him. He refused to follow his orders and wanted him off the ship. I heard him one night, plotting with the junior merchant Cornelisz to seize the ship and all its precious cargo.

S. to %

A.

Pno.

Pno. *mf*

**K**

6

**L**

*mp*

S. *mp*  
2. Salt - y smell tastes of the sea fog - gy blank - et co-ver-ing me,

A. *mp*  
2. Salt - y smell tastes of the sea fog - gy blank - et co-ver-ing me,

Pno. *mp*

*p*

S. *p*  
Scent of cinn-a-mon wafts through the hold trea - sure of spic - es

A. *p*  
Scent of cinn-a-mon wafts through the hold trea - sure of spic - es

Pno. *p*

**M**

S. *p*  
damp and mould, Ba - ta - via glides a - cross the sil-ver sea\_ Ba - ta - via rides\_

A. *p*  
damp and mould, Ba - ta - via glides a - cross the sil-ver sea\_ Ba - ta - via rides\_

Pno. *p*



N

S. si-lent to the lea, sail.

A. si-lent to the lea, sail.

Pno. *tr* *p*

S. *f* Ba - ta - via glides a - cross the sil-ver sea\_ Ba - ta - via rides\_

A. *f* Ba - ta - via glides a - cross the sil-ver sea\_ Ba - ta - via rides\_

Pno. *f*

O

S. si-lent to the lea, Sail\*.

A. si-lent to the lea, Sail\*.

Pno. *f* *tr* 3 3 3

rall.

S.

A.

Pno.

[Letter P] We turned north on a peaceful, shimmering, moonlit night. I was up on watch and Skipper Jacobz was grimly pacing up and down the deck: but no-one had any idea we were sailing so close to vicious reefs.

**P** Tempo

S.

Pno.

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

**Q**

Repeat to E♯ CODA

Pno.

*pp*

*fp*

3

3

8va

## 2. Moonshine

9

C. BOY 1 [in panic]: Captain! Captain!! I see surf ahead!!!  
[Bar 2]

JACOBZ Nonsense fool! It's only the moon shining on the water!

SOME CHORISTERS [growing louder in panic, shouting over each other]: No! Look! Surf!  
There! Look out! To port! To port!!

♩ = 120, very smooth, still

Pno.

*pp*

Ped.

Pno.

*pp*

Ped.

**A**

S. Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine  
*p, cresc.*

S. Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on  
*p, cresc.*

A. Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on surf de -  
*p, cresc.*

A. Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us,  
*p, cresc.*

Pno.

*p, cresc.*

*p, cresc.*

*p, cresc.*

*p, cresc.*

Ped.

S.  
shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon -

S.  
surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on

A.  
ceived us, Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on surf

A.  
Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on surf

Pno.  
*cresc.*

**B**  
S.  
shine on surf Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon -

S.  
surf Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on

A.  
Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on surf

A.  
Moon - shine on surf de - ceived us, Moon - shine on surf

Pno.  
*dim.*

**C**

S. shine on surf

S. surf

A.

A.

Pno. *pp*

*accel.*

Pno. *cresc.*

Ped.

**D**

S. Ah Ah crash - ing

A. Ah Thun - der - ing (clap)

Pno. *ff*

S. Ah crash - ing Ah crash - ing

A. Thun - der - ing (clap) Thun - der - ing (clap)

Pno.

*free improvisation using previous materials* rit.

S. **ff**

A. *free improvisation using previous materials*

Pno. **ff** dim.

**E** Tempo 1

8va

Pno. *p* *mf*

F

S. *mf* Ba - ta - via torn, Ba - ta - via crip - les,

S. *mf* Ba - ta - via torn, Ba - ta - via crip - les,

A. *mf* Ba - ta - via torn, Ba - ta - via

A. *mf* Ba - ta - via torn, Ba -

Pno. *f*

S. Ba - ta - via torn, Ba - ta - via

S. Ba - ta - via torn, Ba - ta -

A. crip - les, Ba - ta - via torn, Ba -

A. ta - via crip - les, Ba - ta - via torn,

Pno.

G

S. crip led *p* Lost, Lost the chests of sil - ver

S. via crip led

A. ta - via crip led *p* Lost, Lost the

A. Ba - ta - via crip - led

Pno. *mp* *p*

S. Lost, Lost the fine silk cloth Lost, Lost, so ma-ny lives,

S. Lost, Lost the chests of sil - ver Lost, Lost the fine silk cloth

A. *P* chests of sil - ver Lost, Lost the fine silk cloth Lost, Lost,

A. *P* Lost, Lost the chests of sil - ver Lost, Lost the

Pno.

S. Lost, Lost, so ma-ny lives...

S. Lost, Lost, so ma-ny lives, Lost, Lost, so ma-ny lives...

A. so ma-ny lives, Lost, Lost, so ma-ny lives...

A. fine silk cloth Lost, Lost, so ma-ny lives, Lost, Lost,

Pno.



**H**

S. lost.

S. lost.

A. lost.

A. so ma - ny lives lost.

Pno.

Detailed description: This section of the score is marked 'H'. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are for Soprano (S.) and Alto (A.). The lyrics are 'lost.' for the first three parts and 'so ma - ny lives lost.' for the fourth. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves with chords and some melodic lines.

**I**

S. Moon - shine on wa - ter, Moon - shine on wa - ter.

A. Moon - shine on wa - ter, Moon - shine on wa - ter.

Pno.

Detailed description: This section is marked 'I'. It features two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'Moon - shine on wa - ter, Moon - shine on wa - ter.' for both parts. The piano accompaniment is marked 'mf' and features a sustained, oscillating accompaniment.

S. de - ceived us

A. de - ceived us

Pno.

(small random oscillations)

(small random oscillations)

Detailed description: This section features two vocal staves (Soprano and Alto) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'de - ceived us' for both parts. The piano accompaniment is marked with '(small random oscillations)' and features a sparse, oscillating accompaniment. The piece concludes with a 3/4 time signature.

### 3. Water

16  $\text{♩} = 54$

**C. BOY 1** [Bar 5] Most of us managed to reach the small sand island whose reefs we hit, but then things only got worse. The sun beat down on us day after day. Never a cloud in the sky. We were sunburned, and blistered and parched, and our lips cracked and bled. Every day we felt more desperate for water.

$\text{♩} = 80$  **B**

We made a few rough shelters from the sails and the wreckage, but we had to find fresh water. So much water all around us - SALT water! Taunting us with its uselessness. Every day the captain and his crew searched the nearby islands while we waited in the never-ending wind, under that merciless Sun.

**PELSAERT** What have you found today?

**JACOBSZ** Plenty to eat... fish, some turtles, birds, seals.

**PELSAERT** Water?

**JACOBSZ** None to be found. We have searched every island close by. Nothing. Not a sign.

**PELSAERT** [to JACOBSZ] Then tomorrow we must take the longboat and some of the crew to look further afield. Cornelisz will remain here in command.

**C. BOY 1** But sir, everyone is so afraid of him. While you're away each day he has violent rages and he hurts and frightens the women and children.

**PELSAERT** We have no other choice!

C

Pno.

Pno.

D

Pno.

E

S.  
A.  
Pno.

Wa - ter search - ing for wa - ter, search - ing for  
 Wa - ter search - ing for wa - ter,

S.  
A.  
Pno.

wa - ter, So much wa - ter al a - round us  
 search - ing for wa - ter, So much wa - ter al a -

**F**

S. all a-round us. Wa - ter search - ing for wa - ter, search - ing for

A. round us Wa - ter search - ing for wa - ter,

Pno.

S. wa - ter, So much wa - ter al a-round us \_\_\_\_\_ s

A. search - ing for wa - ter, So much wa - ter al a - round.

Pno.

**G**

S.

A. Sea wa - ter, salt - wa - ter, sea crea - tures, salt spray,

Pno.

**H** (whispered)

S. *mp* cracked skin dry tongues

A. wind andthirst, wind andthirst, Sea wa-ter, salt-wa-ter, sea crea-tures, salt spray,

Pno.

I

S. parched lips blind-ed in the hot sun ta - sty\_ wa - ter, wa - ter

A. wind and thirst, wind and thirst, ta - sty\_ fresh\_ spark ling wa - ter,

Pno.

S. where? spark ling wa - ter where? Where? Where? Where? Where?

A. ta - sty-fresh, wa - ter-where? Where? Where? Where? Where?

Pno.

J

S. Wap - ter serch - ing for wa - ter, search - ing for

A. Wap - ter serch - ing for wa - ter,

Pno.

S. wa - ter Where?

A. search - ing for wa - ter Where?

Pno.

20 **K**

CORNELISZ [on other side of stage, to cronies] This is our time. Gather round. Let us plan.  
[Letter K] Now we will have everything we ever wanted.

Pno.

**L**

S.  
Sea wa-ter, salt wa-ter, sea crea-tures, blind-ed by the sun, sea

A.  
Crack-ingskin, dry tongues, parched lips, blind-ed by the hot sun, Crack-ingskin,

Pno.

S.  
wa - ter, salt wa - ter, sea crea - tures salt spray

A.  
dry tongues, parched lips, blind - ed by the sun.

Pno.

**M**

S.  
ta - sty wa - ter, wa - ter where? spark - ling

A.  
ta - sty, fresh spark - ling wa - ter, ta - sty - fresh,

Pno.

S. wa - ter where? Where? Where? Where? Where?

A. wa - ter - where? Where? Where? Where? Where?

Pno. (tr)

S. Look there! cool re - fresh - ing wa - ter, cool re - fresh - ing

A. Look there! cool re - fresh - ing wa - ter,

Pno. tr

CABIN BOY: Only ..... mirage.....

(as voices fade)

Da Capo al Fine (p. 16, 7 bars)

S. wa - ter, where?

A. cool re - fresh - ing wa - ter, where?

Pno. (tr) tr sub pp

## 4. Cornelisz

C. BOY 1 The next morning we watched the long boat sail away with dread in our hearts.

[Pause 2] Every day after that got worse...blinding sun, thirst, but most of all terror... of Cornelisz and his men who started playing games – deadly games, with the women as their playthings, and the children as pawns.

*♩* = 116

*ff*

Pno.

Ped.

[Pause 3] Anyone who dared to resist was violently removed. They tricked our small band of soldiers and deliberately marooned them on another island so that they could not help us.

**A**

Pno.

Ped.

[Pause 4] Cornelisz and his men hid away all the drink and the precious cargo they had salvaged and we could hear them at night, plotting to hijack any rescue vessel for their own.

**B**

S.

*ff*

De - vil's son Jer - on - i - mu - s Sa - tan's son

Pno.

*ff*

Ped.



C

S. Corn - e - lisz. Ba - ta - via's curse blood

Pno.

D

S. spilt on sand, Corn - i - lisz, Corn - i - lisz, De - vill's son,

Pno.

E

F

S. Sa - tan's son Corn - i - lisz Corn - i - lisz  
*rpt ad lib* *rpt ad lib*

Pno.

CORNELISZ [inebriated?]; You, boy, bring me that gold necklace! And the rich red cloak! And all those rings!

G  $\text{♩} = 116$

C. BOY 1


Yes, sir. It makes you look like a King, sir.

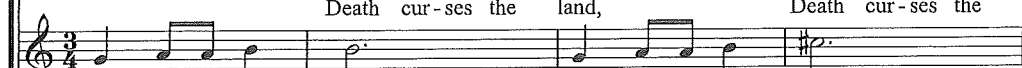
CORNELISZ I will be a King! [Raucous, scary laughter]


Pno.

Pno.

**H**

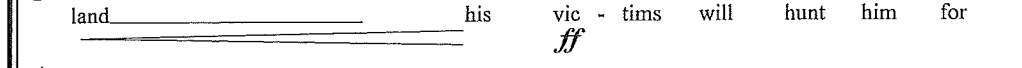
S.  Death cur-ses the land, Death cur-ses the

A.  Self po-wers his soul, Self pp-wers his soul


Pno. 


**I**


S.  land his vic - tims will hunt him for *ff*

A.  Death cur - ses the land his vic - tims will hunt him for - *ff*

Pno.  *ff*

S.  e - ver more 'til Corn - e - lisz per - i - shes for

A.  e - ver more 'til Corn - i - lisz per - i - shes for

Pno. 


**J**

S.  e - ver in hell. Corn - e - lisz, corn - e - lisz,

A. 

Pno.  *ff*

K

S.   
A.   
Pno. 

S.   
A.   
Pno. 

# 5. Gallows Waiting

C. BOY 1  
[Bar 2]

Three whole months dragged by..... three months of horror, torture, cruelty, murder.....every single day I was terrified that I'd be next. Then there was a huge battle. The soldiers on their island had discovered fresh water and Cornelisz and his men were desperate to have it. Finally they attacked but the soldiers were too strong for them now and they were all captured. Thank God! I don't know how many of us were dead by then.

SOLDIER Why are you all so reluctant to help guard the prisoners?

C. BOY 1 Please sir, those evil eyes of his and his persuasive tongue make the men doubt themselves and what is right. He is even beginning to convince some of them that he has done nothing wrong. He's the Devil and everyone is terrified to be near him!

SOLDIER God grant that help will reach us soon!

$\text{♩} = 60 - 76 \text{ heavy}$

C. BOY 1  
[Letter A]

Then, on the 106<sup>th</sup> day, we saw it! The billowing sails of the Zaandam on the horizon, coming from the north, from Batavia. It was Pelsaert, bringing rescue and the discovery of all those cruel pointless deaths...more than a hundred innocent souls!

PELSAERT These monstrous deeds must be punished here and now. Justice cannot wait  
 [Letter B] another day. We will hold the trials tomorrow, on this very island.

**B**

Pno. *mf*

C. BOY 1 [Overlapping into the start of the song] They all looked so weak and pitiful by  
 [Letter C] then. I almost felt sorry for some of them. All except Cornelisz. I looked at his  
 eyes. Oh my God! They were wild with evil and madness!

**C**

S. *mf*  
 Trial and judge-ment, ga - llovs wait - ing, Trial and judge-ment ga - llovs wait.

Pno.

S.  
 Hands chopped off — gall - ovs wait

Pno.

**D**

S.  
 Ev-'ry mur-der-er whis-pers his last — word - s(z)

A.

Pno.

E

S. Ev-'ry mur-der-er whis-pers his last word Ga - llovs wait - ing on

A. Ga - llovs wait - ing on

Pno.

*rit.*

S. trial and judge-ment, ga - llovs wait - ing still

A. trial and judge-ment, ga - llovs wait - ing still

Pno.

F  $\text{♩} = 60 - 76$

S. Trial and judge-ment, ga - llovs wait - ing, Trial and judge-ment ga - llovs wait.

A. Trial and judge-ment, ga - llovs wait - ing, Trial and judge-ment

Pno.

G

S. Hands chopped off gall - ovs wait ga - llovs wait - ing still(II)

A. ga - llovs wait. Hands chopped off Ga - llovs wait - ing,

Pno.

S. *still*(ll)

A. Ga - l lows wait - ing, Ga - l lows wait - ing, Ga - l lows wait - ing still.

Pno.

H

S. Look in their eyes their te-rror grins, *f*

A.

Pno. *p mp f mf*

S. now they will pay for their dread-ful sins, screams of te-rror, gar-bled prayer, re-

A. screams of te-rror, gar-bled prayer, re- *f*

Pno.

**I**

S. fleets the men-ace of their stare. Look in their eyes their te-rror grins,  
*f*

A. fleets the men-ace of their stare. In their eyes their te-rror grins,  
*f*

Pno.

S. now they will pay for their dread-ful sins, screams of te-rror, gar-bled prayer, re-

A. now they will pay for their dread-ful sins, screams of te-rror, gar-bled prayer, re-

Pno.

**J**

S. fleets the men-ace of their stare. Look in their eyes their te-rror grins,

A. fleets the men-ace of their stare. In their eyes their te-rror grins,  
*gwa-----*

Pno.



S. now they will pay for their dread-ful sins, screams of te-rror, gar-bled prayer, re-

A. now they will pay for their dread-ful sins, screams of te-rror, gar-bled prayer, re-

(8)

Pno.

S. flects the men-ace of their stare.

A. flects the men-ace of their stare.

(9)

Pno. *cresc. molto*

**K** **L**

S. Trial and judge-ment, jus - tice served.

A. Trial and judge-ment served.

Pno. *fff* *ff*

C. BOY 1 By the time I reached Amsterdam again I think the whole world knew the story.  
 [Letter L + 3] [pause] I don't want to talk about it anymore. I pray to God that one day the  
 nightmares will go and I'll be able to forget everything that happened except the  
 joy of sailing on the most beautiful ship in the world..... on her one... and  
 only... voyage. Let's go below and get some rest now. [They walk off together.]

Pno.

Pno.

**M** (as if in a mist)

*pp*

Pno.

*mf*


*pp*


**N**


S.  
 Mem-'ries of sail - ors drift - ing in dreams, Moon-shine on wa - ter, float in glis-t'ning streams,

A.  
 Mem-'ries of sail - ors drift - ing in dreams, Moon-shine on wa - ter, float in glis-t'ning streams,

Pno.

S.  Sen - ti - nel masts re - flect in the deep, un - told ho - rror sad

A.  Sen - ti - nel masts reach up to the sky, un - told ho - rror sad

Pno. 


*f* **O**


S.  mem-'ries that you keep. Ba - ta - via lies\_ in the troubled sea\_ Ba -

A.  mem-'ries that you keep. Ba - ta - via lies\_ in the trou-bled sea\_ Ba -

Pno. 

**P**

S.  ta - via sleeps en tombed in the lea, waves\*

A.  ta - via sleeps en tombed in the lea, waves\*

Pno. 

\* (move through the word slowly)

(sim.) *f*

S. waves waves Ba-

A. waves waves Ba-

Pno.

**Q**

S. ta - via glides a - cross the sil - ver sea Ba - ta - via rides

A. ta - via glides a - cross the sil - ver sea Ba - ta - via rides

Pno.

**R**

S. si - lent to the lea, waves\*

A. si - lent to the lea, waves\*

Pno.

S. waves\* waves\*

A. waves\* waves\*

Pno.

The first system of music consists of three staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (S.) and the middle for the Alto (A.). Both vocal staves contain two measures of music. Each measure begins with a half note followed by a quarter note, with a wavy line above the notes. The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5. The word 'waves\*' is written below the notes in each measure. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) is on a grand staff with two staves. It features a rising eighth-note line in the bass clef and a block chord in the treble clef.

S. waves\* M

A. waves\* M

Pno. dim.

The second system of music consists of three staves. The vocal parts (S. and A.) have two measures. The first measure is identical to the first system, with 'waves\*' markings. The second measure contains a whole note chord, marked with 'M'. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) has two measures. The first measure continues the rising eighth-note line. The second measure features a block chord in the treble clef, marked with 'dim.'.

rall.

S.

A.

Pno.

The third system of music consists of three staves. The vocal parts (S. and A.) have two measures, each containing a single whole note. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) has two measures. The first measure continues the rising eighth-note line. The second measure features a block chord in the treble clef. The tempo marking 'rall.' is placed above the first measure of the vocal staves.

