

For Rosamund

A Wealden Trio

The Song of the Women

Words by Ford Madox Ford (1873–1939)

Freely (♩ = 72)

SOLO
p cold

SOPRANO 1
When ye've got a child 'ats whist for want_ of food, And a

SOPRANO 2

ALTO

KEYBOARD
(for rehearsal only)

Freely (♩ = 72)

p

3 (S.1 SOLO)

grate as grey's y'r 'air for want_ of wood, And y'r man and you ain't no - wise not much

6 (S.1 SOLO) *mf* **rhythmic** (♩ = 80)

good; Oh It's hard work_ a-Christ-mas-sing, Ca - rol-ing,

S.1 TUTTI *mf*

Oh It's hard work_ a-Christ-mas-sing, Ca - rol-ing,

S.2 *mf*

Oh It's hard work a-Christ-mas-sing, Ca - rol-ing,

A *mf*

Oh It's hard work a-Christ-mas-sing, Ca - rol - ing,

rhythmic (♩ = 80)

mf

This piece was originally intended for three solo voices, but it can be sung by three soloists with chorus, or by one soloist (mezzo-soprano) with chorus, or the whole may be sung *tutti*. It is clear that by using dialect the poet wished to suggest a certain roughness of language. This should be maintained in performance but singers must take care to avoid undue exaggeration.