

THE APPLE TREE

Round for 6 voices

by **JENNIFER FOWLER**

Text by the composer, based on traditional texts.

Duration: 3'20"

Programme note.

THE APPLE TREE

by Jennifer Fowler

The Apple Tree is part of a collection of songs with the overall title of “Eat and Be Eaten”. The collection revolves around the subject of food in all its significance. The subject matter allows for a range of moods, from deadly serious (literally) to humorous.

Several themes recur and the apple features in a number of items. In this song, the apple tree is used as an illustration of the growth cycle of seed-plant-bud-flower-fruit-seed. The text is by the composer, and is based on elements of traditional verses.

As an illustration of the subject matter, the music is devised as a 6-part round, and has an ending extended by a further three lines.

The cycle of songs was commissioned by The Song Company of Sydney.

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THE APPLE TREE

TEXT (by Jennifer Fowler based on traditional texts):

Here there stands an apple tree,
Apple forms a seed,
Seed makes a root,
Root grows a shoot,
And shoot raises a stout stem,
Stem grows strong, branches out to a bough,
Hold fast bough!
Bough sprouts bud,
And bud, a bossom now,
For the blossom bears an apple sweet.

Hatful, capful, pocketful,
Lapful, mouthful,
Holla, hip, hipparah, hurrah,
For the blossom bears an apple sweet.

Preview File Only

NOTES:

This is a 6-part round.

Suggested order of entry: Bass; baritone; sop 2; sop 1; tenor; alto.
(or alternative arrangements of: male, male, female, female, male, female).

The first 4 voices sing the following lines:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

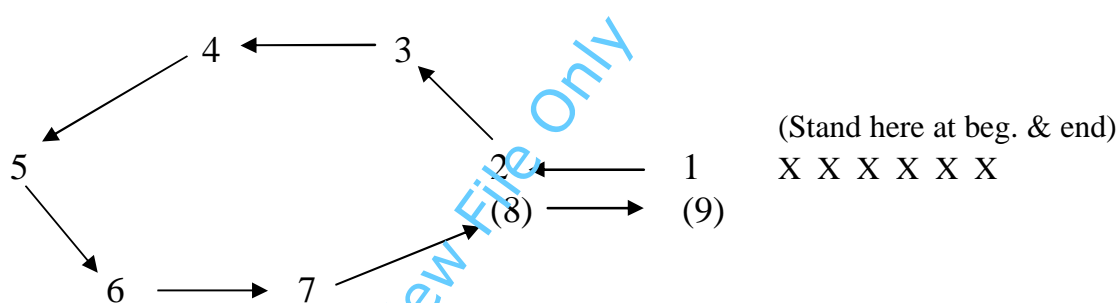
The last 2 voices sing the lines:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

The last 2 voices therefore drop out first. Sop 1 (or the 4th singer) finishes alone, and can indulge in a slight rall at the end, with pause on the last note.

Suggestion:

The singers could learn this round by heart and then choreograph it, as a round dance. The positions they take up could be something like this:



In the 1st bar of each line, pace on to a new position, in time with the crotchet beat. In the 2nd bar, bring feet together and face front. During the 3rd & 4th bars, make a gesture expressive of that line. Make gesture on the strongest word or beat, and hold briefly. Prepare to move on.

Gestures should feel natural to the singers, and be worked out in agreement. Then each singer makes the same gesture as he/she arrives at the particular line. Or if the singers feel uncomfortable with gestures, they could just do the movements around the circle, without the gestures.

Possible gestures:

1. Stand firmly, arms pointing to the floor but slightly away from body.
2. Both index fingers pointing upwards, then one finger points downwards for "root".
3. One arm raised.
4. Both arms raised, in Y shape.
5. Hands clasped above head.
6. Both hands outraised, palm upwards.
7. Hands cupped together.
8. Some kind of exuberant gesture.
9. Something like 7.

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Lightly (q = 80)

1 Here there stands an ap - ple tree,

2 Ap - ple forms a seed, Seed makes a root,

3 Root grows a shoot, And shoot rais-es a stout stem,

4 Stem grows strong, Branch - es out to a bough,

5 Hold fast bough, hold fast.

6 Bough sprouts bud and bud a blos - som now, For the

7 blos - som bears an ap - ple sweet.

8 Hat - ful, cap - ful, pocketful, lapful, mouth - ful, Hol - la, hip, hipparah, hur - rah,

9 For the blos - som bears an ap - ple sweet.

Return to 2 or straight on.