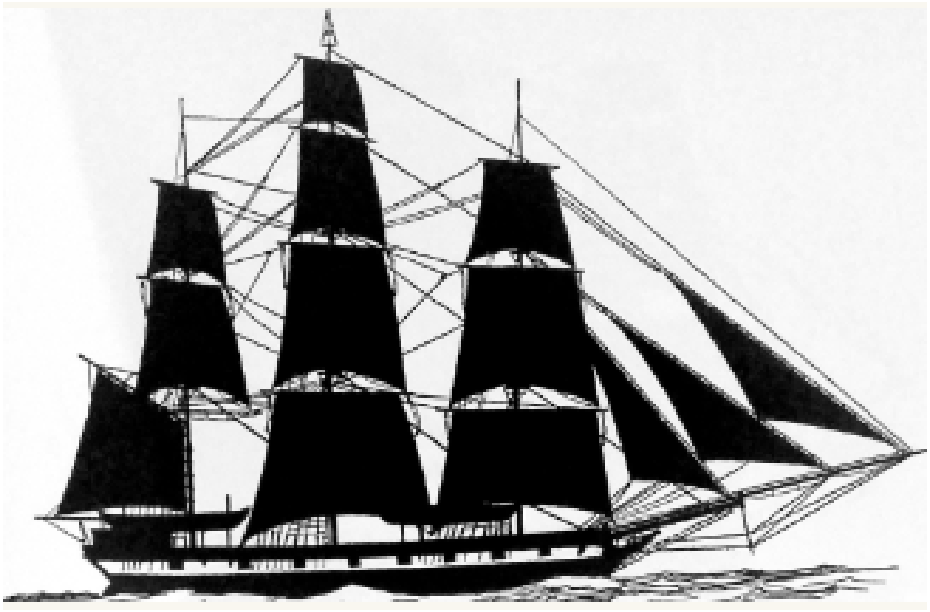
Traditional (New Zealand)

Soon May the Wellerman Come



This edition for guitar quartet 2023 Rod Protheroe

Wellerman

"Soon May the Wellerman Come", also known as "Wellerman" or "The Wellerman", is a folk song in ballad style first published in New Zealand in the 1970s. The song refers to the "wellermen", pointing to supply ships owned by the Weller brothers, who were amongst the earliest European settlers of Otago.

Weller

In 1831, the British-born trio of Weller brothers - Edward, George, and Joseph - created a whaling station at Otakou on the South Island of New Zealand. The Weller brothers were known then for shipping many important items, including luxury supplies like rum and gunpowder. From 1833, the Weller brothers made a name for themselves, supplying whalers in New Zealand with what they needed. Their employees, thus, became known as "wellermen."

Social media

In early 2021, a cover by Scottish singer Nathan Evans became a viral hit on the social media site TikTok, leading to a "social media craze" around sea shanties and maritime songs.

The words

The song's lyrics describe a whaling ship called the Billy o' Tea, its hunt for a Right Whale, and how the ship's crew hope for a "wellerman" to arrive and bring them supplies of luxuries.

There once was a ship that put to sea
The name of the ship was the Billy O' Tea
The winds blew up, her bow dipped down
Oh blow, my bully boys, blow

Soon may the Wellerman come
To bring us sugar and tea and rum
One day, when the tonguing is done
We'll take our leave and go

She'd not been two weeks from shore
When down on her a right whale bore
The captain called all hands and swore
He'd take that whale in tow (huh)

Soon may the Wellerman come… etc for five more verses

Title page

A 19th-Century Whaling Ship

This arrangement

Effects

Crossed strings

The piece starts with the crossed strings effect, which should sound like a snare drum

Tapping

Further percussion effect, tap the top of the guitar

Tambour

Hold a chord down and hit the strings next to the bridge with the side of the thumb

Harmonics

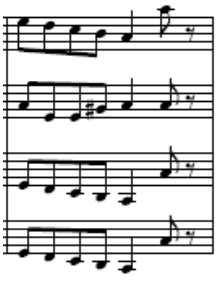
With harmonics 'more is less', especially with ensemble playing Played hard, harmonics tend to have a lot of ancillary noise, which will sound like a barn-full of chickens suddenly joined the group

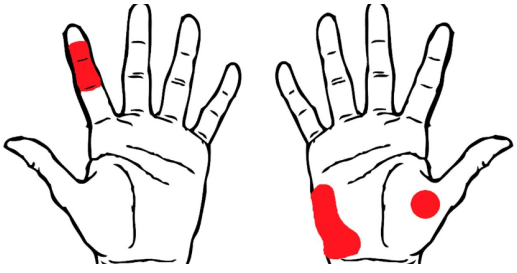
Pizzicato

Rest the palm of your right hand on the strings near the bridge and pay the notes with your thumb.

Rests

Make sure the rests are crisply <u>silent</u>, especially when all parts have them. Stop all the strings with any (or all!) of the parts of the hands as indicated





Enjoy!

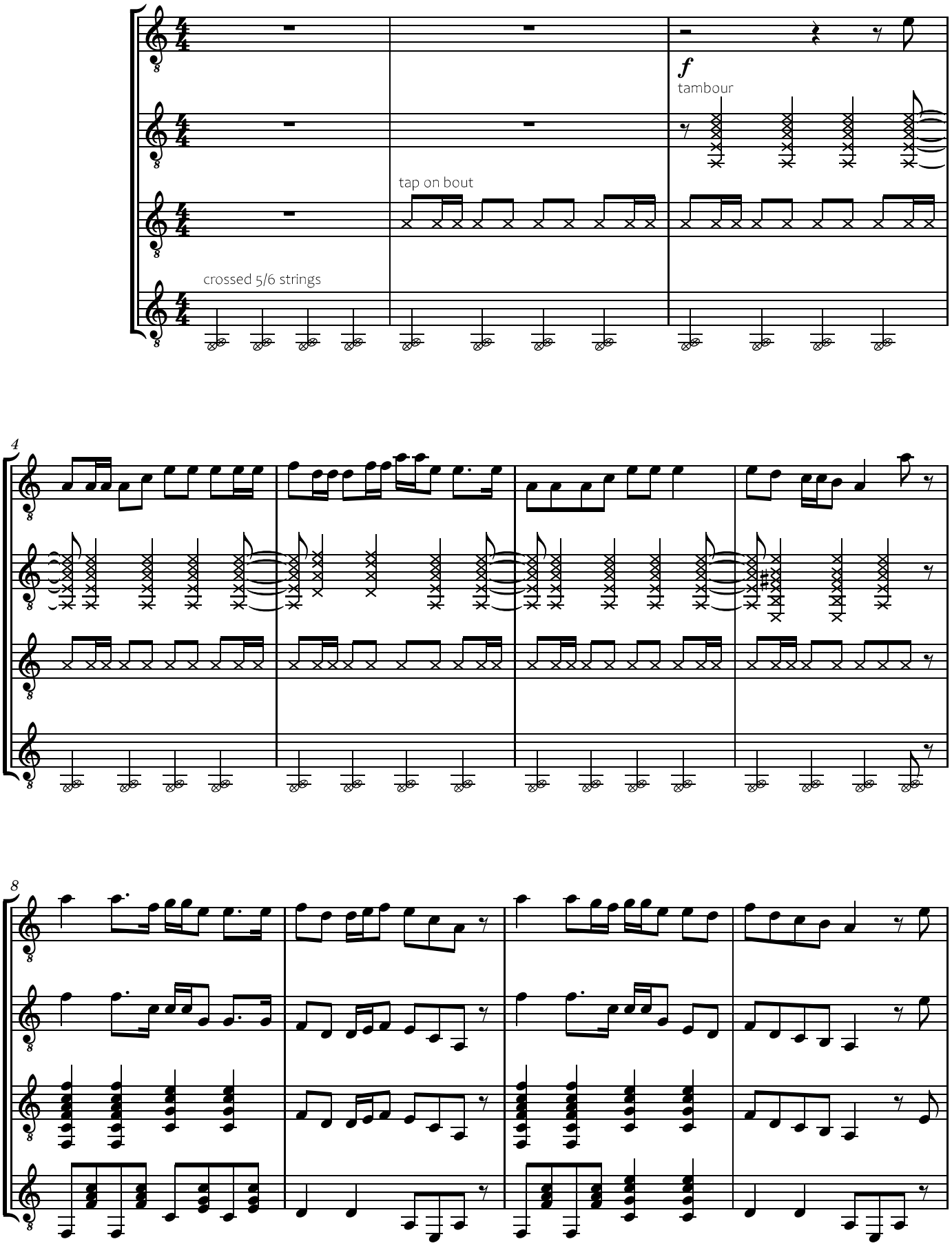
Rod Protheroe August 2023

Soon May the Wellerman Come

Guitar Quartet

Traditional, New Zealand

This arrangement Rod Protheroe



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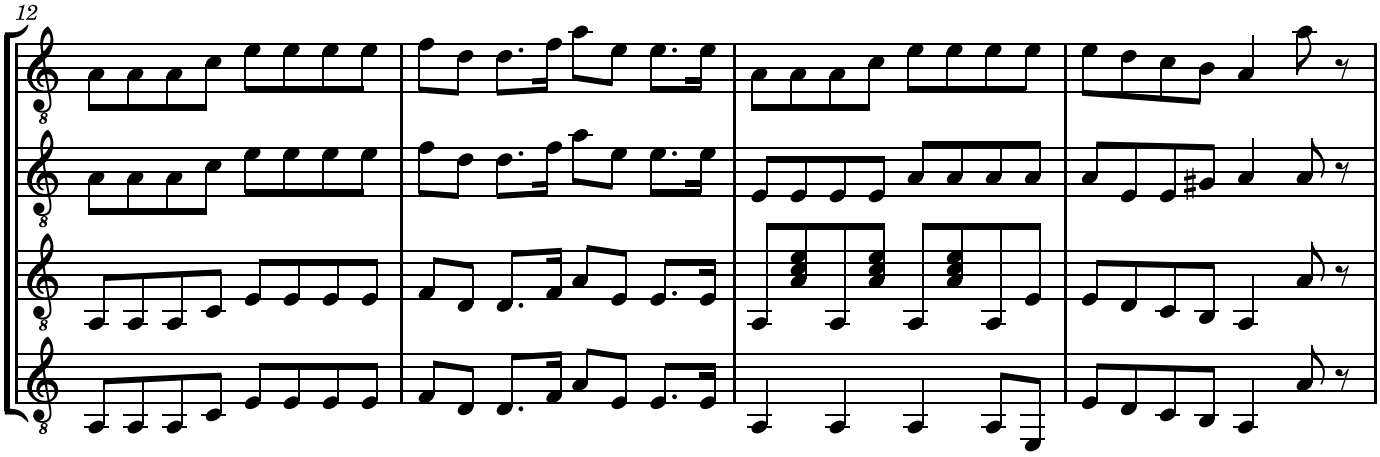

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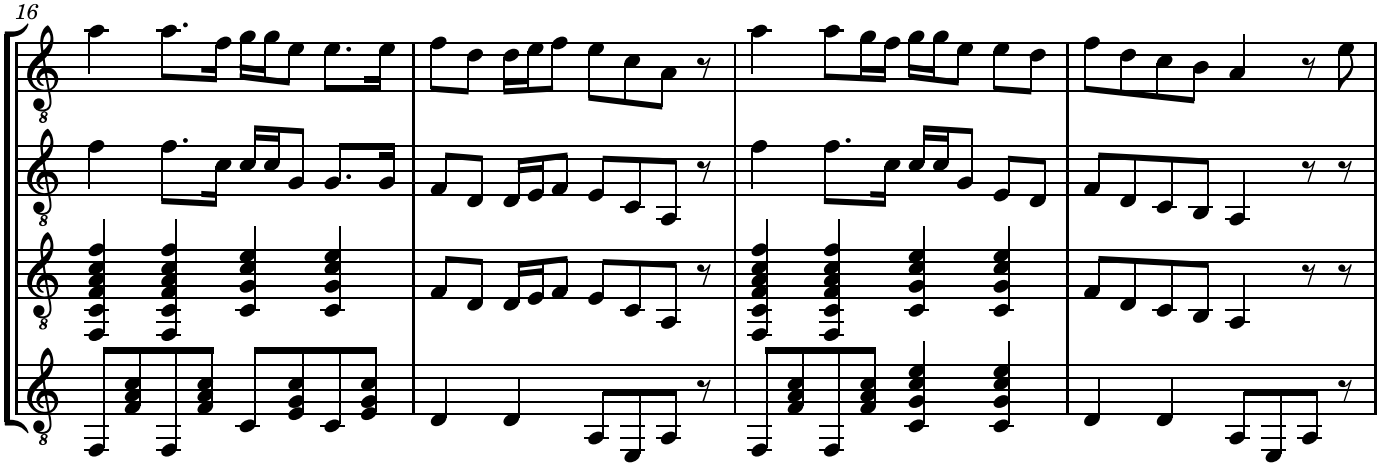

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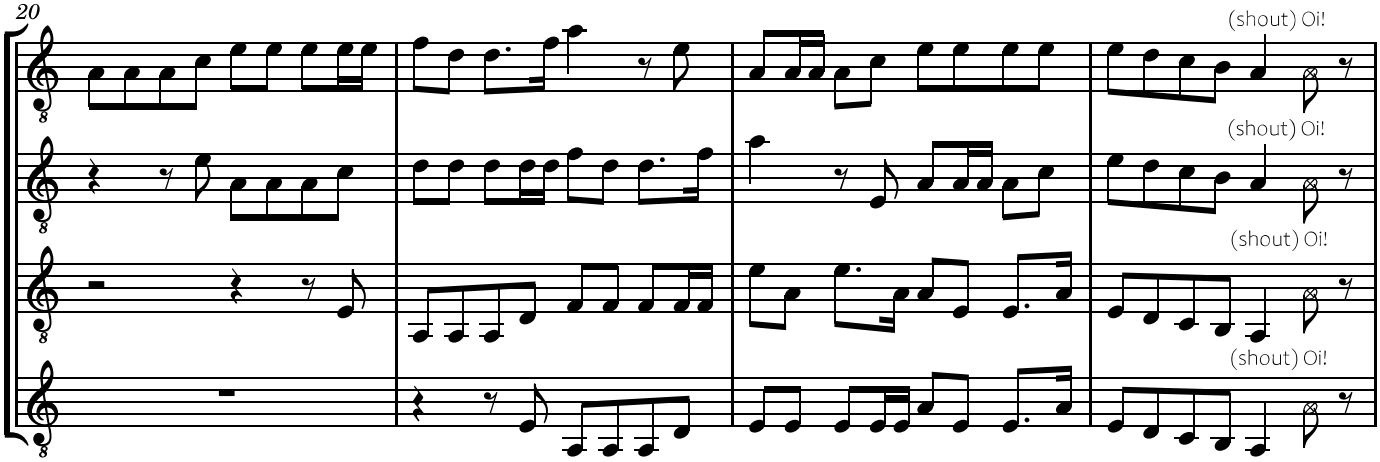

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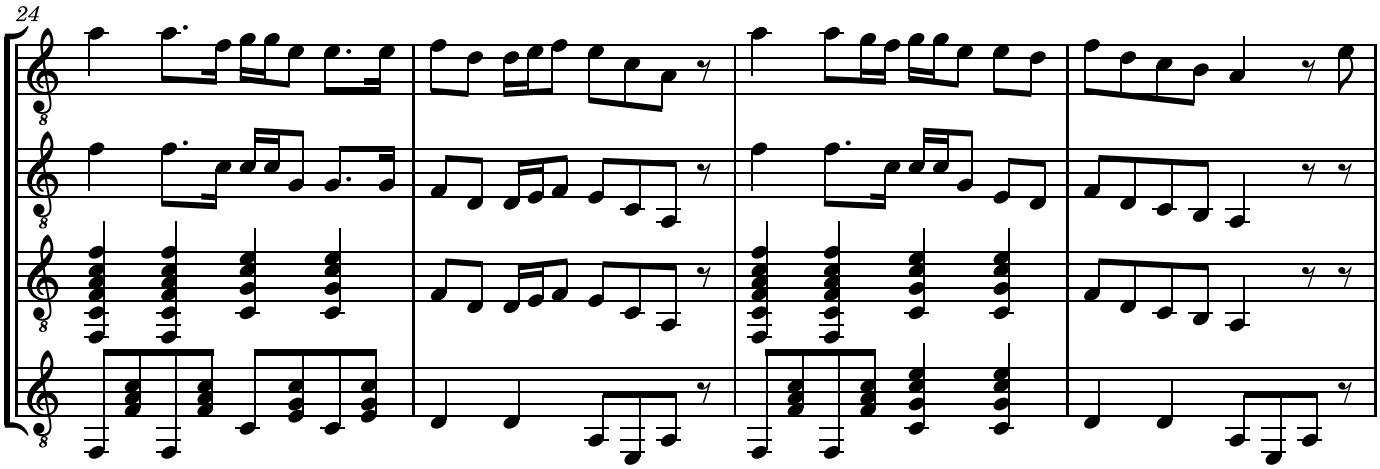
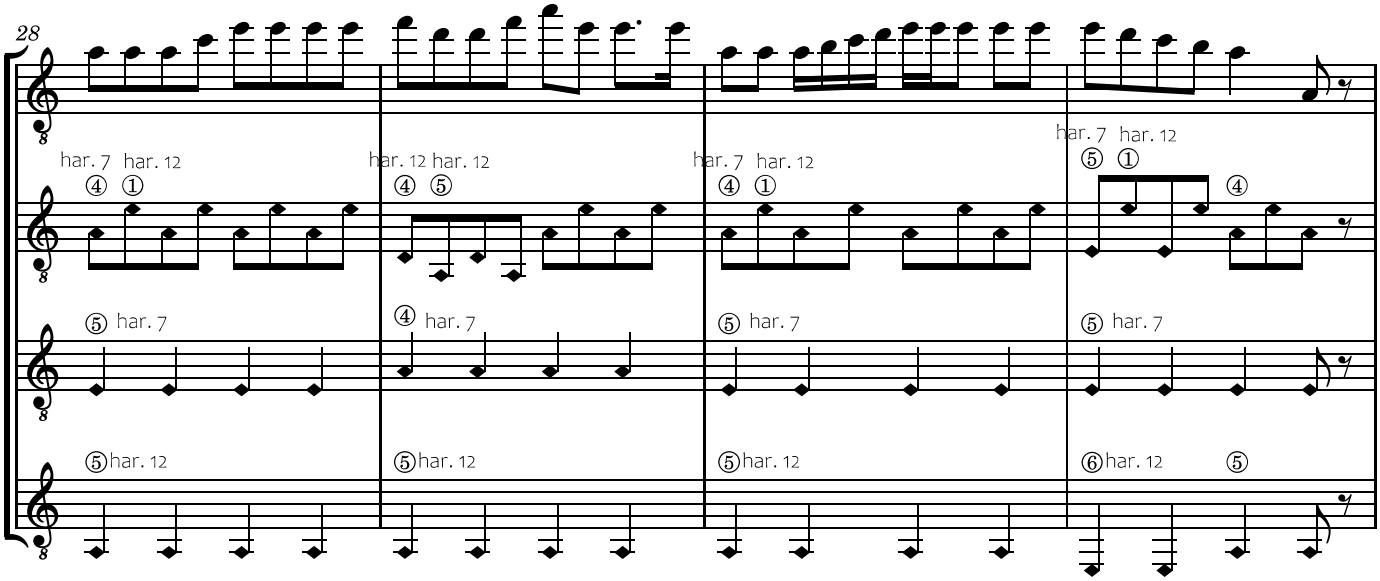
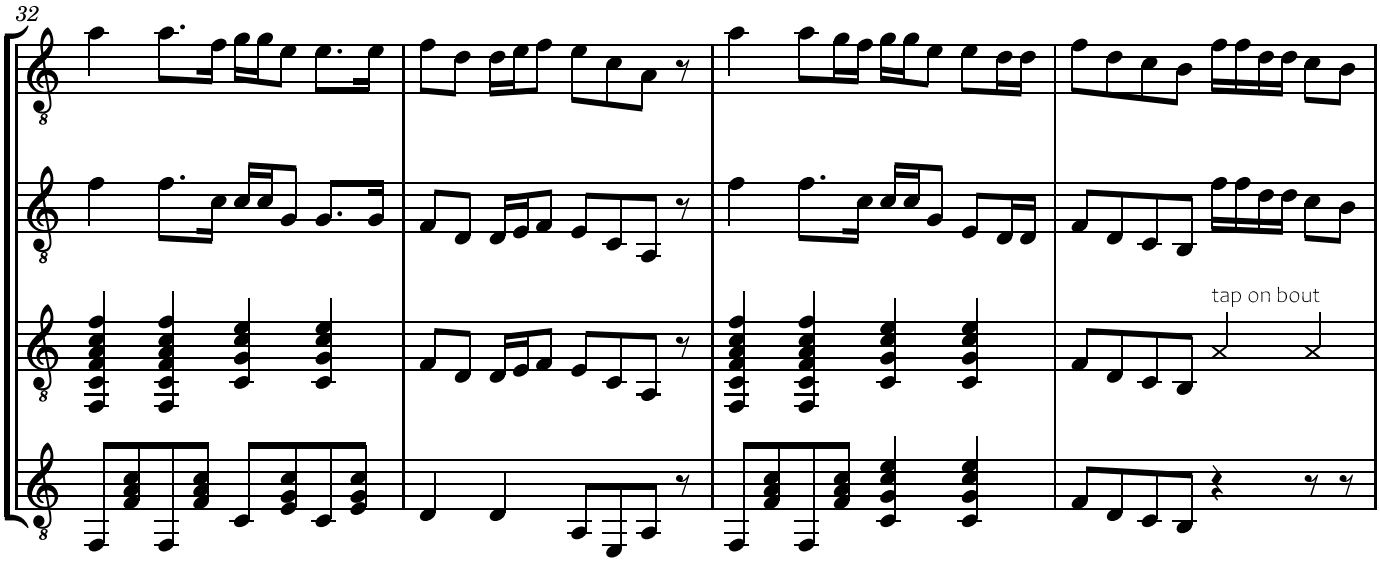
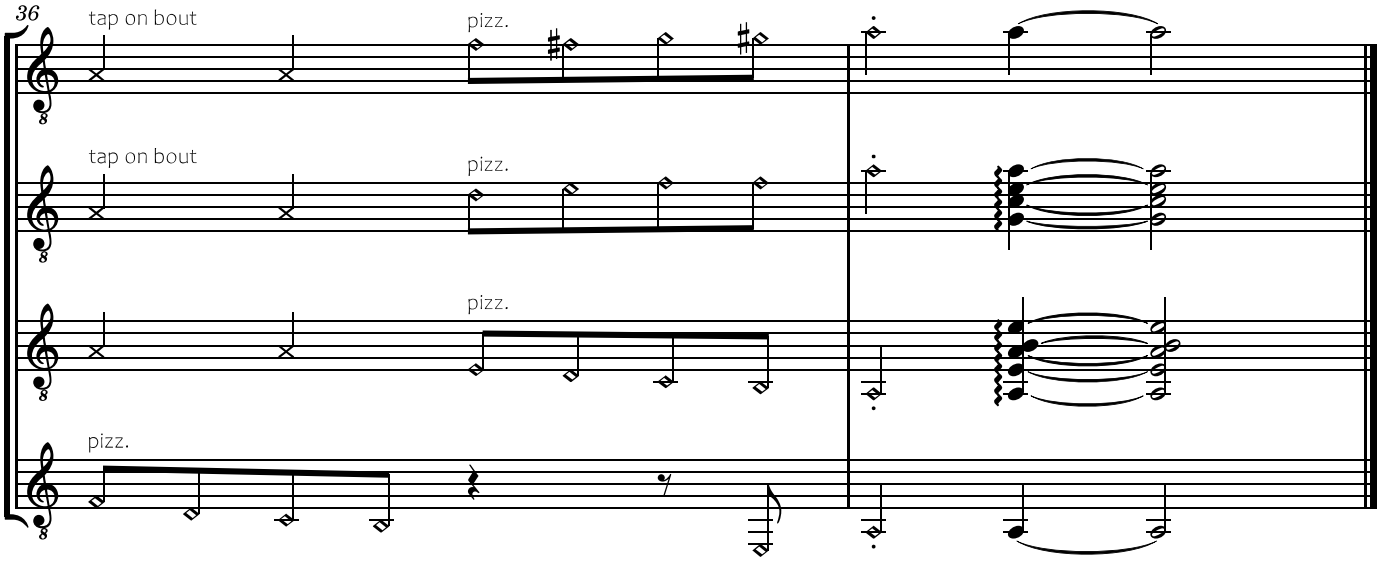



28
har. 7 har. 12
④ ①
har. 12 har. 12
④ ⑤
har. 7 har. 12
④ ①
har. 7 har. 12
⑤ ①
④
⑤ har. 7
④ har. 7
⑤ har. 7
⑤ har. 7
⑤har. 12
⑤har. 12
⑤har. 12
⑥har. 12 ⑤


32
tap on bout


36
tap on bout
pizz.
tap on bout
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.

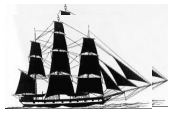
Guitar 1

Soon May the Wellerman Come

Guitar Quartet

Traditional, New Zealand

This arrangement Rod Protheroe



2

f

7

12

17

22

(shout) Oi!

26

30

34

tap on bout

pizz.

Guitar 2

Soon May the Wellerman Come

Guitar Quartet

Traditional, New Zealand

This arrangement Rod Protheroe

2

tambour

7

12

17

22

(shout) Oi!

27

har. 12
har. 7
④①

har. 12
har. 12
④⑤

har. 12
har. 7
④①

har. 12
har. 7
⑤①
④

32

36

tap on bout

pizz.

Guitar 3

Soon May the Wellerman Come

Guitar Quartet

Traditional, New Zealand

This arrangement Rod Protheroe

tap on bout

5

10

15

20

(shout) Oi!

25

har. 7 ⑤

har. 7 ④

har. 7 ⑤

31

har. 7 ⑤

tap on bout

pizz.

37

Guitar 4

Soon May the Wellerman Come

Guitar Quartet

Traditional, New Zealand

This arrangement Rod Protheroe

crossed 5/6 strings

6

12

17

23

(shout) Oi!

har. 12 ⑤

29

har. 12 ⑤

har. 12 ⑤

har. 12 ⑥ ⑤

35

pizz.