

The Cruel War

Level 3

The Cruel War is a traditional ballad that may be as old as the English Civil War (1642–1651). Sadly, the subject of war is still current today. In 1966 this was a hit song for Peter, Paul and Mary.

Largo

Traditional

1. The cruel war is rag - ing John - ny has to fight I
 want to be with him from morn - ing to night. I
 want to be with him it grieves my heart so won't you
 let me go with you? No, my love, no.

2. Tomorrow is Sunday, Monday is the day
 That your captain will call you and you must obey
 Your captain will call you, it grieves my heart so
 Won't you let me go with you? No, my love, no.

3. I'll tie back my hair, men's clothing I'll put on.
 I'll pass for your comrade as we march along.
 I'll pass for your comrade, no one will ever know
 Won't you let me go with you? No, my love, no.

LEARNING GUIDE:

Focus On: ✓ Singing in Harmony ✓ Strumming ✓ Note Reading

This soulful melody can sound even more beautiful in two- or three-part vocal harmony. A fun way to create harmonies is by “singing the strings.” To do this, simply choose a string and sing whichever notes occur on that string throughout the above chord progression. Repeat for other strings to create multiple harmony parts.

