

Grainger, Percy Aldridge/arr. Sweeney, Michael. *Horkstow Grange*. (2008), Hal Leonard Publishing, Grade 2. Dur. 2:20

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&type=audio&productID=10051840>

Percy Aldridge Grainger (1882-1961), is best known for his immensely popular setting of “English Folk Song Country Gardens” (which he came to loathe) first published for piano in 1919. Grainger was an innovative composer, a virtuoso concert pianist, and a diligent musicologist. He was immensely talented and also eccentric (his marriage to Ella Viola Sturm in 1928 was held in the Hollywood Bowl in front of 20,000 “witnesses”). Grainger was one of the first to use a phonograph to collect folk tunes performed by the folk singers. This pioneering work in musicology impacted his compositional writing through life. Many of his works for band also make extensive use of folk songs. Grainger recorded George Gouldthorpe performing it under the title “John Bowlin” in 1906 and again in 1908. It was from John Gouldthorpe’s performance that Grainger set *Horkstow Grange*, to be included it in a “posy” of tunes he collected from county of Lincolnshire, in England.

Commissioned by the American Bandmasters Association in 1937, *Lincolnshire Posy* is considered one of the finest work for band ever conceived. “Horkstow Grange” is the second movement of this six-movement masterpiece for winds and percussion. Michael Sweeney’s adaptation for younger players is superbly done. This less-difficult version of *Horkstow Grange* is transposed from the original key of D-Flat Major to B-Flat (down a minor third). Sweeney has addressed several other challenging aspects for less experienced players such re-orchestrating to make it playable with public school players and modifying the changing time signatures when necessary. Percussion has also been added in the form of bass drum and bells. Sweeney retains all of Grainger’s lush harmony and chromaticism. Rhythms are generally straightforward. However, students must understand triplet with ties (hemiola) and be proficient in dotted eighth / sixteenth note patterns. The basic form of the original is maintained in this arrangement including the trumpet solo.

A gifted composer and arranger Michael Sweeney has more 500 of his compositions and arrangements published. Mr. Sweeney’s compositions have been featured in the *Teaching Music Through Performance* series by GIA Publications and his works appear on numerous state contest lists. A multiple ASCAP award winner, he highly sought after as a conductor and clinician. Sweeney joined the Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation in 1982, where he currently is a staff writer and is an editor in the development of products for educational music. — *Jay W. Gilbert, Doane University*

***Horkstow Grange* as sung by George Gouldthorpe**

In Horkstow Grange there lived an old miser,
You all do know him as I've heard say.
It's him and his man that was named John Bowlin'
They fell out one market day.

Chorus (repeated after each verse):

Pity them who see him suffer,
Pity poor old Steeleye Span;
John Bowlin's deeds they will be remembered;
Bowlin's deeds at Horkstow Grange.

With a blackthorn stick old Steeleye struck him,
Oftens had threatened him before;
John Bowlin' turned round all in a passion,
He knocked old Steeleye into t'floor.
John Bowlin' struck him *qui-et* sharply; (*i.e. quite*)
It happened to be on a market day.
Old Steeleye swore with all his vengeance,
He would swear his life away.