

The origins of the American folk song *Old Dan Tucker* are obscure; the simple tune with its straightforward rhythm serves as a vehicle for the many verses (and even a few chorus variants), the first of which may have been written by 19th-century songwriter Dan Emmett. It was first popularized by the Virginia Minstrels in 1843, became one of the most favored tunes in the two decades before the Civil War, and is still a bluegrass and country music standard today.

This setting of *Old Dan Tucker* is rhythmically a bit tricky, but the aberrations are all in the service of illustrating the text. I would encourage using the “optional” opportunities for movement and crowd noise between the verses at measures 48-51 and 62-69, and if the choir happens to move a bit at other times as well, so much the better.

duration: c. 3:00