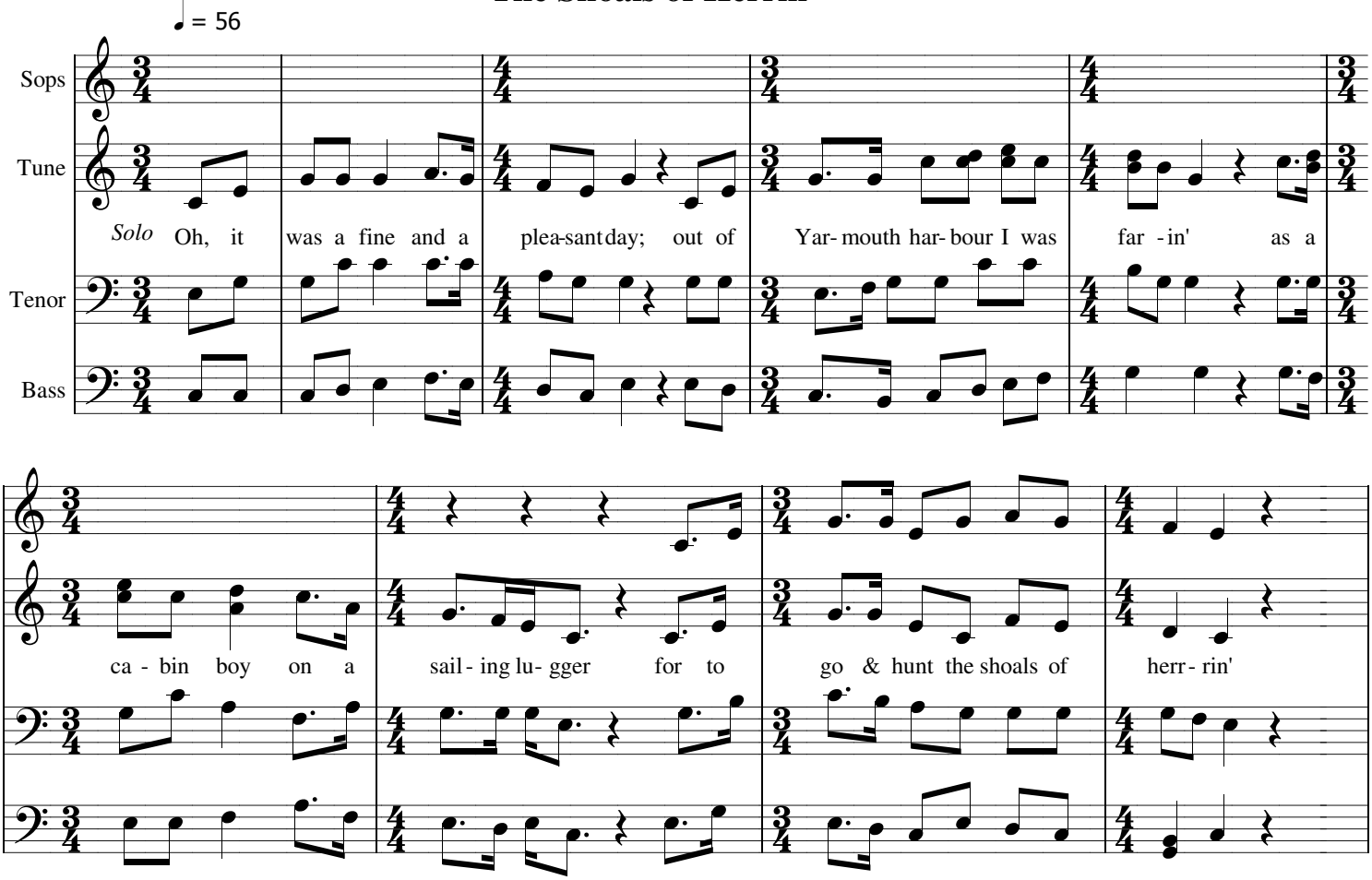
The Shoals of Herrin'

Ewan MacColl



Arranged R Swaine, 20/1/12

Note: Unless marked 'Solo', everyone sings.

Unison 2. Oh the work was hard and the hours were long,
And the treatment, sure, it took some bearin';
There was little kindness, and the kicks were many,
+ *descant* As we hunted for the shoals of herrin'.

Harmony 3.Oh we fished the Swarth, and the Broken Bank
I was cook, and I'd a quarter sharin
And I used to sleep, standin' on me feet
And I'd dream about the shoals of herrin'

Solo 4.Well, we left the home grounds in the month of June,
And to canny Shields we soon were bearin'
With a hundred cran of the silver darlin's;
That we'd taken from the shoals of herrin'.

Harmony 5. Now you're up on deck, you're a fisherman
You can swear, and show a manly bearin'
Take a turn on watch with the other fellows
While you're searchin' for the shoals of herrin'

Harmony 6. In the stormy seas and the livin' gales
Just to earn your daily bread you're darin';
From the Dover Straits to the Faroe Islands;
While you're following the shoals of herrin'.

Solo 7. Well I earned me keep and I paid me way,
And I earned the gear that I was wearin';
Unison Sailed a million miles, caught ten million fishes;
+ *descant* We were followin' the shoals of herrin'.

Text version 15/12/12