

4. POOR SONG

Music: Gary Daverne
Words: Ruth Hamilton

Chorus **Marching - With Pride** ♩ = 112

Piano **Marching - With Pride** ♩ = 112

(Verses could be solo lines) They *f*

5

left their wives and child - ren. They left their homes and friends. To
new bill of en - clos - ure. Has left us with - out homes. They've
fac - tories can't em - ploy them. They're turned a - way in scorn. And

9 **Everyone:**

fight a - gainst Na - po - le - on. So Bone - y would not win. They
lost their way of liv - ing. And hung - er threat - ens them. Their
par - lia - ment and mer - chants. In - creased the price for corn. Their

13

fought to suc - cour Eng - land. So free - dom could bear fruit. But
child - ren work in fac - tor - ies. Their wives are their slaves too. They
child - ren die from hun - ger. Their wives are maimed at work. The

17

Eng - land did not suc - cour them. She's left them des - ti - tute. But
toil for six - teen hours a day. But still can't pay for food. They
rich care but for rich re - ward. Their lives the price that's paid. The

21

Eng - land did not suc - cour them. She's left them des - ti - tute. But
toil for six - teen hours a day. But still can't pay for food. They
rich care but for rich re - ward. Their lives the price that's paid. The

1.-3.

25

And
f

29

if they steal a rab-bit, to fill their child-ren's mouths. They're

33

hanged or they're trans-po-r-ted. The price for be-ing poor. They're

37

sent if they owe m-o-ney. Off to the deb-tor's goal. *mp* Then

41

they can nei-ther pay their bills or buy their fam-il-ies food. And

45

Eng-land did not suc-cour them. She left them des-ti-tute. *rit.* She

49 **Slower** ♩ = 86

left them des - ti - tute. **ff**

Narrator:
1816 - Men, women, children toil for 16 hours a day in appalling conditions.

54 **Stagger breathing**

Women: Wah! **p** **f** **p** **f** **p** Wah! **f**

(Under narrator. Repeat as required)

Narrator: Many are maimed or killed at work.
Most die young from occupational diseases.
Many are forced to apply for poor relief as wages are below subsistence level.
Among the common people a savage anger breaks out.

Everyone: (ad lib – animated shouting and screaming in anger)

Stop child labour - Shorter working hours - Improve working conditions
Higher wages - Minimum fixed wages - Repeal the Corn Law
Votes for all men - We want manhood suffrage.

57 ♩ = 86

Everyone: **ff**

Burn the mills, burn them. Smash machines, smash them. Sack the towns, sack them. Burn the mills, burn them.

59

Burn Burn, Burn Burn, Burn Burn, Burn Burn, Burn

Narrator: 1817. The situation has intensified.

Straight on

64 With Anger ♩ = 108

Women: My son, hus - band

f

Women: My son, hus - band broth - er love - er

68

Ar - rest - ed im - pris - oned

Ar - - rest - ed im - pris - oned de - port - ed.

71

Hanged for his part in the *ff* ri - ots.

Hanged for his part in the ri - ots.

Narrator: *The rioting has been stopped by hanging or transporting those involved.*

1818: The plight of the common people is unchanged.