

# MOONDYNE JOE

(SA and Piano version)

Moondyne Joe, or more correctly Joseph Bolitho Johns (c. 1826-13 August 1900) was perhaps Western Australia's best known bushranger.

He is known to have been imprisoned at least 10 times in his life and is best remembered for the many times he escaped. His objections to authority were evident from the first time he was arraigned, when his attitude in an English court whilst up on charges of petty theft led to him being sentenced to 10 years penal servitude, whilst others on similar charges that day received sentences ranging from 3 weeks to 3 months.

Johns was eventually transported to Western Australia, where he managed to gain a conditional pardon. However, a series of petty crimes led to stints in gaol. Some of his escapes and subsequent recaptures are the stuff of legend, being audacious, inept, or both!

Moondyne Joe didn't rob banks or hold up mail coaches, but railed against the severe treatment of prisoners.

Fremantle Prison records state that on January 26 1900, in his 70s, he was found wandering the streets of South Perth, being of "unsound mind." He was ordered to go to the Mount Eliza Invalid Depot for medical attention. The irony is that he absconded three times...not realising that these same buildings were no longer places of detention. He is remembered as a lover of freedom who became a somewhat romantic figure in the public's eyes.

Words from Bryan Lynch's "The Ballad of Moondyne Joe",  
additional words by Mark Puddy  
Music by Mark Puddy

$\text{♩} = 60$  Freely

*ff* **Rit.**  $\text{♩} = 60$  **A Tempo** **Molto Rit.** **Rit.** *sub.p*

'Cause in he goes, and out he goes, and off a - gain he'll go; There's

'Cause in he goes, and out he goes, and off a - gain he'll go; There's

*ff* *sub.p*

3 **Molto Rit.**

not a gaol in "Dou - ble U A", can keep in Moon - dyne

not a gaol in "Dou - ble U A", can keep in Moon - dyne

5  $\text{♩} = 120$

Joe. \_\_\_\_\_

Joe. \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *mf*

9 Unison S & A

*f*

In the Dar - ling Ran - ges, ma - ny years a - go, there lived a dar - ing out - law, by the

*f*

In the Dar - ling Ran - ges, ma - ny years a - go, there lived a dar - ing out - law, by the

12

name of "Moon-dyne Joe." He stole the squat - ters' hor - ses, and a sheep or two or three, he

name of "Moon-dyne Joe." He stole the squat - ters' hor - ses, and a sheep or two or three, he

15

loved to roam the count - ry - side, and swore he would be free; Of be - ing

loved to roam the count - ry - side, and swore he would be free; he dreamt\_ of be - ing

19

free, The

free, The

23

troo - pers said "We'll catch him, but we know it's all in vain, 'cause

troo - pers said "We'll catch him, but we know it's all in vain, 'cause