

THIS OLD HAMMER

SA and Piano

John Henry was an American folk hero and his story a tall tale. He worked as a "steel-driver"—a man given the job of hammering a steel drill into rock to make holes for explosives to blast the rock away. He died during the construction of a tunnel for a railroad. In the legend, John Henry's prowess as a steel-driver was measured in a race against a steam powered hammer, which he won, only to die in victory with his hammer in his hand.

Traditional
Arr. Mark Puddy

$\text{♩} = 90$ Swing

*NB-the 't' is not pronounced in 'dut'-stop the note with the tongue.

The first system of musical notation is for the piano accompaniment. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 2/2. The tempo is marked as 90 beats per minute in a swing style. The first measure is marked with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The piano part begins with a half note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a half note B2. The rest of the system contains whole rests for both staves.

The second system of musical notation includes a vocal entry marked with a box containing the letter 'A'. The vocal line begins on a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a half note B2. The lyrics 'Ba dut doo dut' are written under the vocal line. The system ends with a double bar line.

The third system of musical notation continues the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a half note B2. The lyrics 'da dut dut Ba dut doo dut Ba da dut Ba da dut da dut dut' are written under the vocal line. The system ends with a double bar line.

The fourth system of musical notation includes a vocal entry marked with a box containing the letter 'B'. The vocal line begins on a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with a half note G2, followed by a half note A2, and then a half note B2. The lyrics 'Ba dut dut doo dut This old ham-mer killed John Hen-ry this old' are written under the vocal line. The system ends with a double bar line.

25

ham-mer killed John Henry this old ham-mer killed John

31

Hen-ry but won't kill me won't kill me This old

37 **C**

ham-mer killed John Hen-ry this old ham-mer killed John

Ba dut doo dut Ba da dut da dut dut Ba dut doo dut

43

Hen-ry this old ham-mer killed John Hen-ry

Ba da dut da dut dut Ba dut doo dut Ba da dut

48 *f*

but won't kill me _____ won't kill me This old

Ba da dut da dut dut Ba dut dut doo dut!

53 **D**

ham - mer _____ shines like sil - ver _____

f This old ham - mer _____ shines like