

## A MELODY FOR BELLOC'S BALLADE



Lady and Queen and Mystery manifold  
And very Regent of the untroubled sky,  
Whom in a dream St Hilda did behold  
And heard a woodland music passing by:  
You shall receive me when the clouds are high  
With evening and the sheep attain the fold.  
This is the faith that I have held and hold,  
And this is that in which I mean to die.

Steep are the seas and savaging and cold  
In broken waters terrible to try;  
And vast against the winter night the wold,  
And harbourless for any sail to lie...  
But you shall lead me to the lights, and I  
Shall hymn you in a harbour story told.  
This is the faith that I have held and hold,  
And this is that in which I mean to die.

Help of the half-defeated, House of gold,  
Shrine of the Sword, and Tower of Ivory;  
Splendour apart, supreme and aureoled,  
The Battler's vision and the World's reply.  
You shall restore me, O my last Ally,  
To vengeance and the glories of the bold.  
This is the faith that I have held and hold,  
And this is that in which I mean to die.

ENVOI

Prince of the degradations, bought and sold,  
These verses, written in your crumbling sty,  
Proclaim the faith that I have held and hold  
And publish that in which I mean to die.

Here is a simple melody to accompany Belloc's *Ballade to Our Lady of Częstochowa* represented by the famous icon housed in the Jasna Góra Monastery, Częstochowa, Poland. (Cf. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_Madonna\\_of\\_Cz%C4%99stochowa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Madonna_of_Cz%C4%99stochowa))

The *Envoi* repeats the final 12 bars. The value of a dotted crochet (quarter note) is about 60 per minute.

Michael Baker


September 8, 2019—*Birthday of the Blessed Virgin*


# Ballade to Our Lady of Czestochowa


Hilaire Belloc


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M Baker

Soprano    
La - dy and Queen and My - ste - ry ma - a - ni - fo - ld  
Steep are the seas and sa - a - va - gi - ing and co - ld  
Help of the half - de fe - at - ed Ho - use of go - ld,

S.    
And ve - ry Re - gent of the un - troub - led sk - y  
In bro - ken wa - ters terr - i - bl - e to tr - y;  
Shrine of the Sword, and Tower of I - i - vor - y - y;

S.    
Whom in a dream St Hi - il - da di - id be - ho - ld,  
And vast a - gainst the wi - in - ter ni - ight the wo - ld,  
Splendour a - part, su - pre - me and au - au - re - ol - ed,


S.    
And heard a wood - land mu - sic pa - a - ssing b - y:  
And har - bour - less for an - y sa - il to l - ie...  
The Bat - tler's vi - sion and the Wo - rld's re - pl - y,

S.    
You shall re - ceive me when the clouds are hi - igh With  
But you shall lead me to the lights, and I - Shall  
You shall re - store me, O my last Al - l - y, To  
Prince of the de - grad - a - tions bought and so - ld, These

S.    
eve - ning and the sheep at - tain the fo - ld.  
hymn you in a har - bour stor - y to - ld.  
ven - geance and the glor - ies of the bo - ld.  
ver - ses writ - ten in your crumbl - ling st - y,

19  
S. 

This is the faith that I have held and ho - ld, And this is that in  
This is the faith that I have held and ho - ld, And this is that in  
This is the faith that I have held and ho - ld, And this is that in  
Pro-claim the faith that I have held and ho - ld, And pub - lish that in

23  
S. 

which I mean to di - e.  
which I mean to di - e.  
which I mean to di - e.  
which I mean to di - e,