CHICKEN ON A FENCEPOST

Two-Part Treble Voices with Piano

Taken from 19th century dance reel Hello Susan Brown
Play-Party Song

Arranged by Greg Gilpin

Ranges:

Language: English
Use: General/Festival
Time: Approx. 1:57
*Difficulty: Moderate
Note from the Arranger

*Chicken on a Fencepost* has a long history, as do most party songs. Most likely from African-American descent, it comes from the nineteenth-century reels *Hello, Susie Brown, Four in the Middle* and possibly others.

There were many verses to choose from; I chose the ones I liked the best for this arrangement. As you can see, I made use of the word "chicken" a lot! I love rhythm, and the word "chicken" is so percussive; it's just natural to do something fun with it.

Pay close attention to whether the word "chicken" is sung with quarter notes, eighth notes or both. When the rhythms are put together, the result is a barnyard full of "clucking".

Throughout the entire song, pitches, lyrics and dynamics should have energy, pulse and rhythmic vitality. Explore a variety of dynamics throughout as this will really help create the sound and feel of the piece.

Though this is a novelty piece, it is full of teaching opportunity, rehearsal fun and is sure to be a performance gem. I hope you enjoy learning and singing this piece and even consider adding a dance reel.

About the Arranger

Originally from the “Show-Me” state of Missouri, Greg Gilpin resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. A graduate of Northwest Missouri State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Vocal Music Education, K-12, Greg is a well-known, ASCAP award-winning choral composer and arranger with hundreds of publications to his credit.

In demand as a conductor for choral festivals, all-district and all-state choirs, he is a member of NAfME and ACDA. At home, Greg is busy as a studio musician and producer in the recording industry.
Chicken on a Fencepost
for Two-Part Treble Voices with Piano

Party Song
Arranged with Additional Music by
GREG GILPIN

Chick- en, chick- en, chick- en,
chick-en, chick-en, chick-en. Chick-en, chick-en,

Chick-en, chick-en,

chick-en, chick-en, chick-en, chick-en,

chick-en, chick-en, chick-en, chick-en,

chick-en, chick-en, chick-en, chick-en,

chick-en, chick-en, chick-en, chick-en,

Chick-en, chick-en, chick-en, chick-en, chick-en, chick-en,
en, chicken.

chicken, chicken.

cresc.

chicken on a fence-post, can't dance, Jo-sey.

chicken on a fence-post,
32
Chick-en on a fence-post, can't dance, Jo-sey.
can't dance, Jo-sey. Chick-en on a fence-post, can't dance, Jo-sey.

35
Hel-lo, Sus-ie Brown-ie-oh! Jo-sey can't dance.

Hello, Susie Brown-ie-oh!

39
Jo-sey can't dance. Jo-sey can't dance.
Hello, Susie Brownie-oh! Josey

Chicken on a fence-post,

can't dance, Josey. Chicken on a fence-post, can't dance, Josey.

Josey can't dance. Hello, Susie

Chicken on a fence-post, can't dance, Josey. Hello, Susie
Brown- ie- oh!

Hold my mule, while

Brown- ie- oh!

Hold my mule while

I dance, Jo- sey.

Hold my mule while

I dance. Hold my mule while

I dance, Jo- sey. Big Foot Char- lie can't dance!

I dance, Jo- sey. Big Foot Char- lie can't dance!

I dance, Jo- sey. Big Foot Char- lie can't dance!
chick-en, chick-en, chick-en. Chick-en, chick-
chick-en, chick-en, chick-en, chick-en. Chick-en, chick-en,
chick-en, chick-en, chick-en, chick'en.

81
Chick-en on a fence-post, can't dance, Jo-sey.
Chick-en on a fence-post,
Chicken on a fence-post, can't dance, Josey.
can't dance, Josey. Chicken on a fence-post, can't dance, Josey.

Hello, Susie Brownie-oh! Josey

Hello, Susie Brownie-oh! Chicken on a fence-post,

can't dance. Josey can't dance.
can't dance, Josey. Chicken on a fence-post, can't dance, Josey.