

THE BALLAD OF THE OYSTERMAN

Arranged for Choral Speaking

by
Oliver Wendell Holmes



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CHORUS: It was a tall young oysterman lived by the river-side,
His shop was just upon the bank, his boat was on the tide.

FEMALE CHO.: The daughter of a fisherman, that was so straight and slim
Lived over on the other bank, right opposite to him.

CHORUS: It was the pensive oysterman that saw a lovely maid,
Upon a moonlight evening, a-sitting in the shade;
He saw her wave her handkerchief, as much as if to say,

SOLO I: "I'm wide awake, young oysterman, and all the folks away."

CHORUS: Then up arose the oysterman, and to himself said he

SOLO II: "I guess I'll leave the skiff at home, for fear that folks should see;
I read it in a story-book, that for to kiss his dear,
Leander swam the Hellespont,--and I will swim this here."

MALE CHO.: And he has leaped into the waves, and crossed the shining stream,
And he has clambered up the bank, all in the moonlight gleam;

FEMALE CHO.: O there were kisses sweet as dew, and words as soft as rain,
But they have heard her father's step and in he leaps again!

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