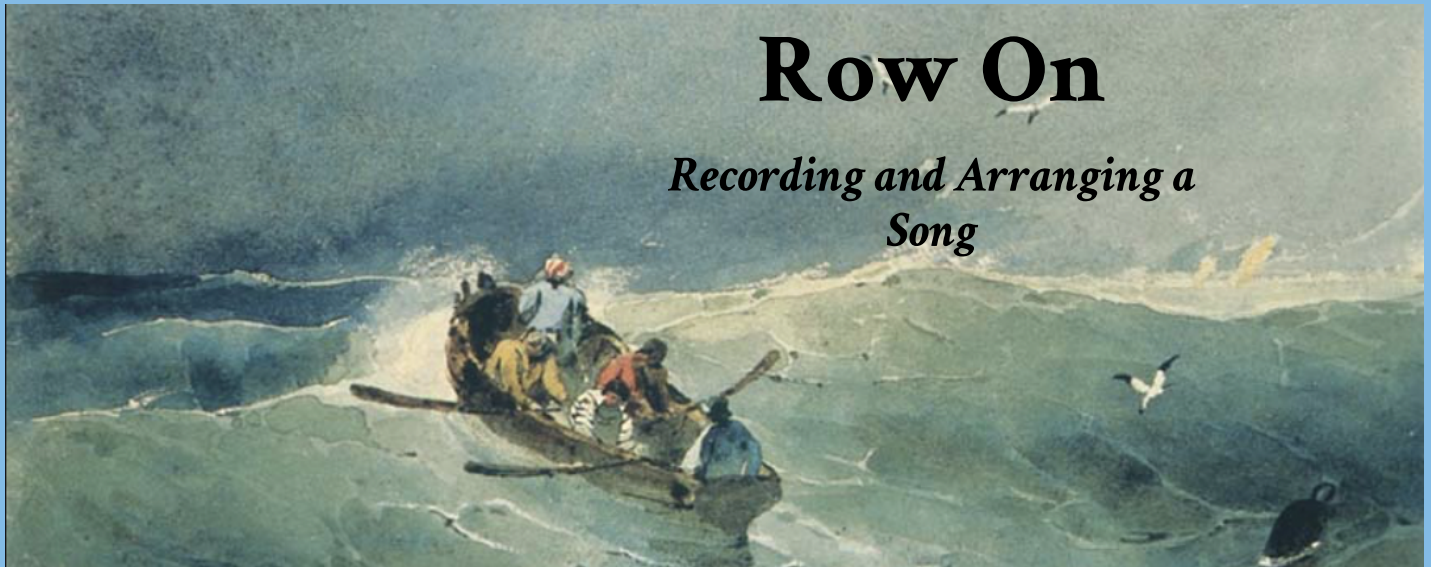


Row On

Recording and Arranging a Song



For my project, I hoped to learn a basic level of recording in the Logic software through recording a song. I chose this song, Row On, because it is something I've sung with my musical community many times and I hoped to have a simple arrangement I could make for people to follow when we can all sing together again.



There was no tune written along with the words, so Tim Laylock wrote the melody I've used here. He first recorded the song in 1980 and noted: "(the) text comes from Songs the Whalemén Sang by Gale Huntington, and was written in the logbook of *The Three Brothers*, a whaling ship from Nantucket working in the North Atlantic in 1846. Whaling was a high-risk occupation in the days of sail and hand-held harpoons, and songs such as this must have provided a welcome release from the bloody work of whale catching."

The backstory of this song is very interesting to me, since I've come across a few different descriptions of the meaning behind the words. The most intriguing version to me claimed that the ship, *The Three Brothers*, actually crashed in a storm and left the crew to row to shore. Out of 40 men in the crew, only 8 survived, and this text was written in the logbook which was somehow salvaged. The song's message can be heard from a universal perspective as well as a literal interpretation.

I encountered many challenges that I didn't expect, especially given how extensive my first arrangement was. I had originally planned to have a finished product of the full song recorded and arranged, which I worked towards. But after reaching a few challenges, I realized that having a high quality polished recording as a finished product was less important than having something that would represent my learning process. Although I don't have a complete project to share, I feel that my project represents a finished representation of my learning process/experience. So here I'm sharing a clip from the beginning of my recording along with a lead sheet I made.

