

Ten Green Bottles: Prelude and Variations

Peter Owens (b.1960)

Allegro

S1 One, nine, ten. One, nine and ten.

S2 Two, — nine, ten. Two, — nine, ten.

Ms1 Three, — nine and ten. Three, — nine and ten.

Ms2 Four, — nine and ten. Four, — nine, ten.

A1 Five, nine and ten. Five, nine and ten. A choir of ten,

A2 Six, — nine and ten. Six, — nine and ten. Choir of ten,

T1 Sev'n nine and ten. Sev'n, nine, ten. What shall we

T2 Eight, nine and ten. Eight, nine, ten. Shall we

B1 Nine and ten. Nine and ten. A choir of ten, choir of ten,

B2 And ten. A Choir of ten, What

Quasi cadenza

accel.

rit.

trill

S1
Ah

S2
What shall we sing?

Ms1
What shall we sing?

Ms2
Shall we sing?

A1
We'll sing:

A2
We'll sing:

T1
sing? We'll sing:

T2
sing? We'll sing:

B1
We'll sing:

B2
shall we sing?

Steady

S Ten green bot-tles hang - ing on a wall, Ten green bot-tles hang - ing on a wall, Nnn

Ms Ten green bot - tles on a wall, Ten green bot - tles on a wall, Nnn

A Ten green bot - tles on a wall, Ten green bot - tles on a wall, Nnn

T Ten green bot - tles on a wall, Ten green bot - tles on a wall, Nnn

B Ten green bot - tles on a wall, Ten green bot - tles on a wall, Nnn

And if one green bot-tle should

S ac - cident' - ly fall, *a 2* (nnn) There'd be nine green bot-tles hang - ing on the wall. Green!

Ms (nnn) There'd be nine green bot - tles on the wall. The bot - tles on the wall are green. Oh,

A (nnn) There'd be nine green bot - tles on the wall. The bot - tles on the wall are green. Oh,

T (nnn) There'd be nine green bot - tles on the wall. The bot - tles on the wall are green.

B (nnn) There'd be nine green bot - tles on the wall. The bot - tles on the wall are green.

Moderato *S1*

Flowing

S1 They hang - ing on a wall, And if just one should
 S2 Ms Nine green bot - tles hang - ing on a wall, on a
 A Nine green bot - tles on a wall, Nnn And if
 T Nine green bot - tles on a wall, Nnn And if
 B Nine green bot - tles on a wall, Nnn And if

S1 fall, Eight bot - tles would re - main.
 S2 Ms one green bot - tle should ac - ci - dent' - ly fall, There'd be eight green bot - tles hang - ing on the wall. The
 A one green bot - tle should hap - pen to fall, There'd be eight green bot - tles on the wall.
 T one green bot - tle should hap - pen to fall, There'd be eight green bot - tles on the wall.
 B one green bot - tle should hap - pen to fall, There'd be eight green bot - tles on the wall.

Allegro

S1
Eight green bot - - - - - tles,

Ms
The wall. Eight green bot - tles, Eight green

A
The wall. Eight green bot - tles, Eight green

T
The wall. Eight green bot - tles,

B
Eight green bot - tles hang - ing on a wall, Eight green

S2
wall. Eight green bot - - - - - tles,

Detailed description: This is a musical score for six voices, labeled S1, Ms, A, T, B, and S2. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "The wall. Eight green bottles hanging on a wall, Eight green bottles hanging on a wall, Eight green bottles hanging on a wall." The lyrics are distributed across the staves: S1 has "Eight green bottles,"; Ms, A, and T have "The wall. Eight green bottles,"; B has "Eight green bottles hanging on a wall, Eight green"; and S2 has "wall. Eight green bottles,". The music includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

S1
Eight green bot - - - - - tles,

Ms
bot - tles, And if one green bot - tle should

A
bot - tles, Eight green bot - tles,

T
Eight green bot - tles hang - ing on a wall, If one

B
bot - tles, If one green bot - tle

S2
Eight green bot - - - - - tles,

Detailed description: This is a musical score for six voices: Soprano 1 (S1), Mezzo-soprano (Ms), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Soprano 2 (S2). The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are a variation of the 'Green Bottles' song. S1 and S2 have identical parts. Ms and A have similar parts. T and B have parts that differ slightly in the second line. The score consists of six staves, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The lyrics are: S1: 'Eight green bottles,'; Ms: 'bot - tles, And if one green bot - tle should'; A: 'bot - tles, Eight green bottles,'; T: 'Eight green bottles hang - ing on a wall, If one'; B: 'bot - tles, If one green bot - tle'; S2: 'Eight green bottles,'.

With swing

S1 If one fell, Sev - en bot - - - - - tles.

Ms ac - ci - dent' - ly fall,

A There'd be sev'n green bot - tles hang - ing on the wall. Oh,

T fell, There'd be sev - en, on the wall. Oh, —

B fell, There'd be sev - en, on the wall. Oh,

S2 If one fell, Sev - en bot - - - - - tles.

S1 A wall,

Ms1 On a wall,

Ms2 A Sev'n green bot - - - tles hang - - - ing on a wall, Oh, Sev'n green bot - - - tles hang -

T Sev - en bot - tles hang - ing on a wall, Oh, Sev - en bot - tles

B Sev - en bot - tles hang - ing on a wall, Oh, Sev - en bot - tles

S2 Hang - ing on a wall,

S1 A wall, _____ Should fall,
 Ms1 On a wall, Should fall,
 Ms2 A ing on a wall, And if one green bot - tle should ac - cident' - ly fall, There'd be *Ms2 tacet*
 T hang - ing on a wall, And if one green bot - tle should fall, should fall, There'd be
 B hang ³ ing on a wall, And if one green bot - tle should fall, _____ There'd be
 S2 Hang - ing on a wall, Should fall,

Snappy

The wall. Do-be-do-be-do -

Six bot - tles on the wall. Do-be - do -

six green bot - tles hang - - - ing on the wall. Yeah, Six green bot-tles hang - ing on a wall,

six green bot-tles hang - ing on the wall. Yeah, Six green bot-tles on a wall,

six green bot - tles hang ³ ing on the wall. Yeah, Six green bot-tles on a wall,

On the wall. Do-be-do-be-do -

Do-be - do -

S1
ah, Do-be do-be-do - ah, Do-be-do-be-do - ah, Do-be-do-be-do -

Ms1
ah, Do-be-do-be-do - ah, Do-be-do-be-do - ah, Do-be-do-be-do -

A
Six green bot-tles hang - ing on a wall, And if one green bot - tle should fall, should fall, There'd be ac - ci - dent' - ly fall, *a 2*

T
Six green bot-tles on a wall, If one green bot - tle should fall, There'd be just

B
Six green bot-tles on a wall, if one green bot - tle should fall, There'd be just

S2
ah, Do-be-do-be-do - ah, Do-be-do-be-do - ah, Do-be-do-be-do -

Ms2
ah, Do-be-do-be-do - ah, Do-be-do-be-do - ah, Do-be-do-be-do -

Maestoso

S1
ah, Do - be - do - be - do - ah. Just five bot - tles left on that wall.

Ms1
ah, Do - be - do - be - do - ah. Just five bot - tles are left — on that wall.

A1
Just five bot - tles on that wall.

A
(a 2)
five green bot - tles hang - ing on the wall. Mmm, —

T
five green bot - tles on the wall. Mmm, —

B
five green bot - tles on the — wall. Mmm, —

S2
ah, Do - be - do - be - do - ah. Just five bot - tles are left — on that wall.

Ms2
ah, Do - be - do - be - do - ah. Just five bot - tles on that wall.

S1
 Five green bot - tles hang-ing on a wall,

Ms1
 Five green bot - tles hang-ing on a wall,

A1
 Five green bot - tles hang-ing on a wall,

A 2
 (mmm) Mmm, And if (=) one green bot-tle should

T
 (mmm) Mmm, Mmm, (=)

B
 (mmm) Mmm, Mmm,

S2
 Five green bot - tles hang-ing on a wall,

Ms2
 Five green bot - tles hang-ing on a wall,

Laid Back

S1
Hang-ing on the wall.

Ms1
Hang-ing on the wall.

A1
Hang-ing on the wall.

A2
ac - - - ci - dent' - - ly fz!

T
___(mmm) Mmm, Four

B
___(mmm) Mmm, Four

S2
There'd be four green bot-tles...

Ms2
There'd be four green bot-tles...

[A2]
There'd be just

S1
 Ms1
 A1
 T1
 T2
 B
 S2
 Ms2
 A2

ah - - ooo, ah - ooo,
 Four greenbot - tles hanging on a wall, Fougreen bot - tles,
 bot - tles' there'dbe just fougreenbot-tles on the wall. ooo, ah - ooo,
 bot - - - tles hang - ing, ah - - ooo, ooo, ah - ooo,
 four green bot - tles hang - ing on that wall. ah - ooo, ah -

accel.

S1
a-hang - ing on the wall, there on that

Ms1
a-hang - ing on the wall, there on that

A1
ah - ooo, ah - ooo.

T1
if one should fall, There'd be three bot - tles a-hang - ing on the wall, on the wall, on that

T2
ooo, ah - ooo, ooo, ah - ooo.

B
ooo, ah - ooo, ooo, ah - ooo, ah - ooo, three bot - tles,

S2
a-hang - ing on the wall, there on that

Ms2
a-hang - ing on the wall, there on that

A2
ooo, ah - ooo, ah - ooo.

Tempo di Tango

S1
wall.

Ms1
wall.

A1
a wall,

T1
wall. a wall,

T2
Three green bottles hanging on a wall, Three green bottles
Threebo - tles, threbot - tles, a - hang - ing on a wall, Three bot - tles, threbot - tles,
B
Three green bot - - - tles on a wall, There's three green bot - - - tles

S2
wall. a wall,

Ms2
wall. a wall,

A2
a wall,

S1
And if one green bot - tle should ac - ci - dent' - ly

Ms1
And if one green bot - tle should fall, should

A1
And if one green bot - tle should fall, should

T1
And if one green bot - tle should ac - ci - dent' - ly

T2
hang - ing on a wall, There'd be

B
a - hang - ing on a wall, And if one, one bot - tle should fall,
on a wall, If one of them should fall, There'd be

S2
a wall, should ac - ci - dent' - ly

Ms2
a wall, a wall, should fall, should

A2
a wall, a wall, should fall, should

Fuori tempo *accel.*

|:Two green bottles
hanging on a wall:|

fall, The wall. |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

fall, The wall. |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

fall, The wall. |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

fall, The wall. |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

two green bot-tles on the wall. There'd be two, two bot - tles on the wall. |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

two green bot - - - tles on the wall. |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

fall, The wall. |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

fall, The wall. |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

fall, The wall. |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

[T2 |:Two green bottles hanging on a wall:|

Nervous

S1 a wall,

Ms1 a wall,

A1 a wall,

T1 a wall,

B green hang - ing wall, a wall,
Two bottles on a

S2 a wall,

Ms2 a wall,

A2 a wall,

T2 a wall,

rit.

Two bot-tles on a And— if one bot - tle
 green hang - ing wall, green should

|: If one green bottle should accident'ly fall
 |: If one green bottle should accident'ly fall
 |: If one green bottle should accident'ly fall
 |: If one green bottle should accident'ly fall :|

Steady

S1
l: If one green bottle
should accident'ly fall
On the wall, there's one bot - tle on the wall,

Ms1
l: If one green bottle
should accident'ly fall
On the wall, just one left on the

A1
On the wall, on the wall,

T1
On the wall, one left on the

[B1]
On the wall, on the

B
ac - ci - dent' - ly
fall, There'd be one bot - tle hang - ing on the wall.
green

S2
l: If one green bottle
should accident'ly fall
On the wall, just one bot - tle left on the

Ms2
l: If one green bottle
should accident'ly fall
On the wall, on the wall,

A2
On the wall, on the wall,

T2
On the wall, just one left on the

rit.

S1
There's on - ly one, One

Ms1
wall, On - ly one bot - tle left, There's on - ly one

A1
On - ly one bot - tle left, There's just one

T1
wall, Just one, On - ly one.

B1
wall, One bot - tle left, There's on - ly

S2
wall, There's on - ly one left, One left,

Ms2
There's just one left, There's on - ly one left,

A2
just one left, There's just one left,

T2
wall, One bot - tle left, On - ly one,

Firmly

S1
left. There's one green bot - - - tle left on the wall, Just

Ms1
left. There's one green bot - tle, There's on - ly

A1
left. One bot - - - tle left,

T1
One bot - - - tle left,

B1
one left. Just one — green — bot - - - - tle, One bot - tle

B2
One green bot - - - - tle hang - ing on a

S2
One left. There's just one bot - tle left on the

Ms2
One left. One bot - tle left on the

A2
One left. On - ly one bot - tle

T2
One left. There's just one bot - - - tle left on the

S1
one left on the wall, There's on - ly one bot - tle left on the wall,

Ms1
one left on the wall, On - ly one bot - tle

A1
There's just one bot - tle on the wall, One bot - tle left,

T1
There's just one bot - tle on the wall, There's on - ly one green bot - tle on the

B1
left, there — on the — wall, There's on - ly one bot - tle left on the

B2
wall, One green bot - tle hang - ing on a wall, And if

S2
wall, There's on - ly one left on — the wall,

Ms2
wall, There's just one — bot - tle left on the wall,

A2
left, There's on - ly one left on the wall,

T2
wall, There's on - ly one bot - tle left, If

S1
If that green bot - tle should fall, No more

Ms1
left, And if that one green bot - - - tle, No more

A1
And if that green bot - tle should fall, should fall, No more

T1
wall, If that bot - - tle should fall, if it should fall, There'd be no more

B1
wall, If that bot - - - tle should fall, There'd be

B2
that green bot - - - tle should ac - - - ci - dent' - ly fall, There'd be no green

S2
If that green bot - tle, No

Ms2
If that green bot - - - tle, No

A2
If that one green bot - - - tle, There's

T2
that green bot - tle should fall, There'd be no bot - tles

rit.

S1
bot - tles, Now there are no more.

Ms1
left, There are no more.

A1
left, None left on the wall, Now — there are no more.

T1
left, None left on the wall, No more.

B1
no more, None, No more.

B2
bot - - - tles hang - ing on the wall. No more.

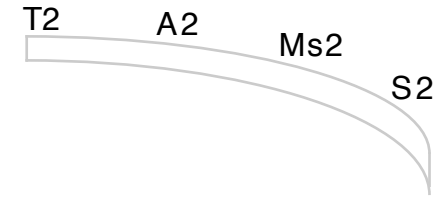
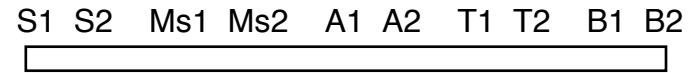
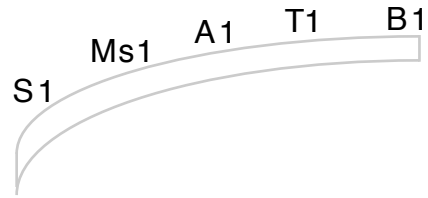
S2
bot - - - tles, no bot - tles on the wall, There are no more.

Ms2
more, None left on the wall, Now no more.

A2
no more bot - tles left, there's none left on the wall, Now — there are no more.

T2
hang - ing on the wall, on the wall, No more.

Staging



From the central *tutti* position at the start of the piece, singers move to form the two *chori spezzati*, one at a time in the order indicated (by arrows) at the end of each verse.