DAISY BELL

(A BICYCLE BUILT FOR TWO) 1892

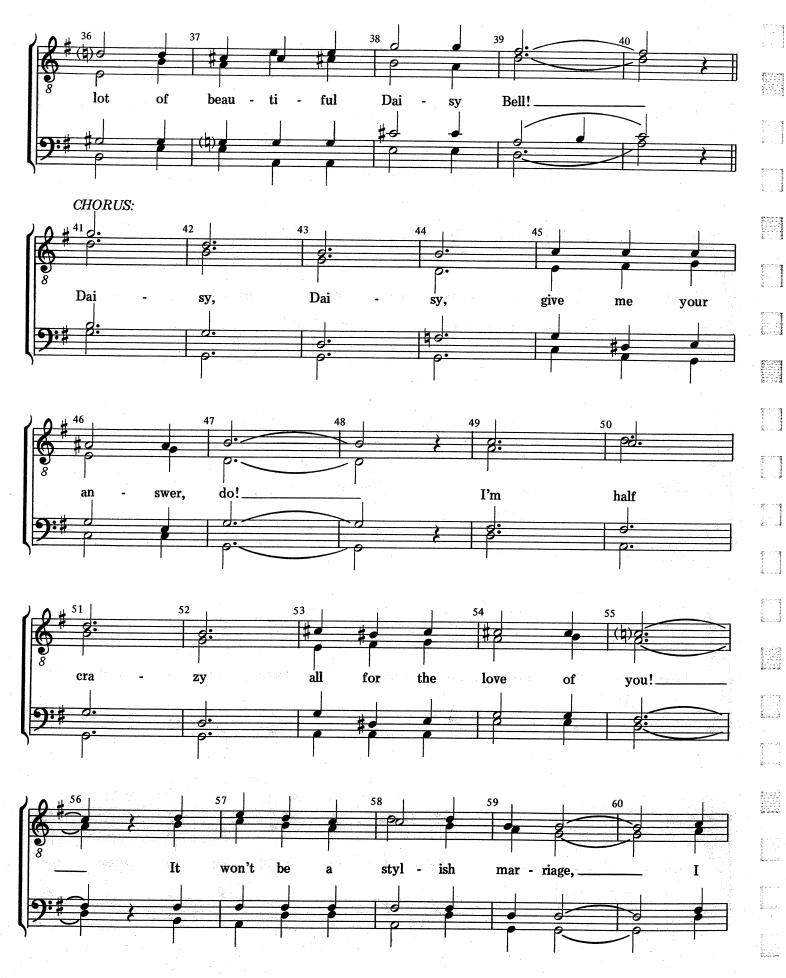
Henry Dacre's real name was Henry Decker. He was born in Lancashire, England, and died in London. When he came to New York in 1891 to seek his fortune as a songwriter, bicycling was already a popular fad. Tandems were popular, too, and it was only natural that some songwriter would hit upon the idea of writing a song about the bicycle for two. No American publishers were interested, however, but Dacre presented it to an American singer who was leaving for a tour of English theatres, and she sang it all over England where it became a tremendous hit. It wasn't long before the song came back across the Atlantic to become a hit in the U.S. as well.

After all, any song about love, transportation, and named for a girl just had to be a success. Although many other bicycle songs were written during the 1890s, none possessed the appeal of "Daisy Bell." Few song lyrics surpassed the playful poetry of the second and third verses.



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Additional verse:

We will go "tandem" as man and wife, Daisy, Daisy!
Ped'ling away down the road of life, I and my Daisy Bell!
When the road's dark we can both despise p'liceman and "lamps" as well;
There are "bright lights" in the dazzling eyes of beautiful Daisy Bell!

I will stand by you in "wheel" or "woe," Daisy, Daisy!
You'll be the bell which I'll ring, you know! Sweet little Daisy Bell!
You'll take the "lead" in each trip we take, then if I don't do well;
I will permit you to use the brake, my beautiful Daisy Bell!