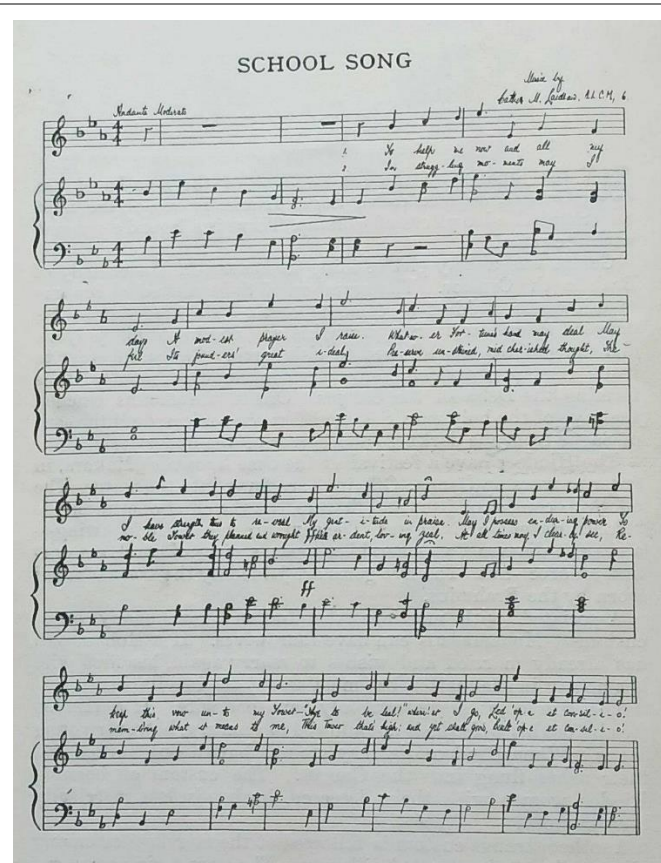


THE SCHOOL SONG

Two versions from the 1930s

1931



To help me now and all my days
A modest prayer I raise:
Whatever fortune's hand may deal
May I have strength thus to reveal
My gratitude in praise.
May I possess enduring power
To keep this vow unto my Tower –
"Aye to be leal!" where'er I go,
Led 'Ope et Consilio.'

In struggling moments may I feel
Its founders' great ideal,
Preserve unstained, 'mid cherished thought,
The noble Tower they planned and wrought
With ardent, loving zeal.
At all times may I clearly see,
Rememb'ring what it means to me,
This Tower that's high, and yet shall grow,
Built 'Ope et Consilio.'

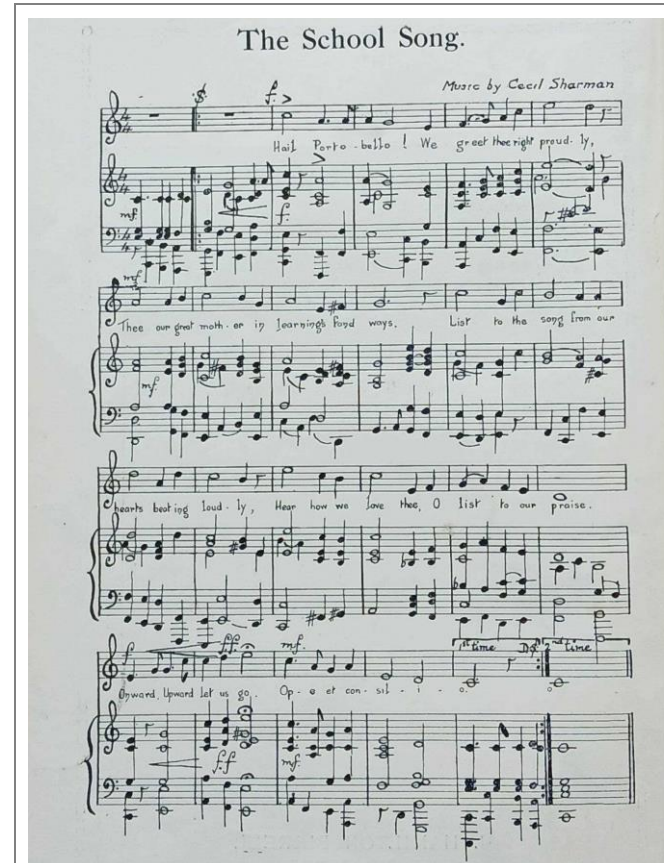
The 1931 issue of *The Tower* contains sheet music by Catherine M Laidlaw (a 5th Year pupil in 1930) of the school song. It's not noted if she wrote the accompanying lyrics.

It was around this time that the school got a new badge and perhaps the creation of a song was not unconnected – showing 'allegiance' to the school.

We hope that Catherine got to hear her composition at the school closing concert in the Town Hall on 3rd July 1930, for it was not in use for long.

The Tower issue for 1933 (none was published in 1932) contains an altogether different composition by Cecil Sharman (1894 – 1973) a British composer known for his vocal music and choral works of which this is certainly an example.

1933



Hail Portobello! We greet thee right proudly,
Thee our great mother in learning's fond ways.
List to the song from our hearts beating loudly,
Hear how we love thee, O list to our praise.
Onward, upward let us go
Ope et Consilio.

Hail, Portobello! We'll never forget thee,
Nurse of our fancy and guide of our youth.
List to our praise, let us higher still set thee,
Guardian of beauty, of love and of truth.
Onward, upward let us go
Ope et Consilio.

The words are by Dr John Hamilton Birrell who took up post as head teacher in 1932.

For how long this version was in use after the 1930s is not known. It is not recorded in the 'Administrative Arrangements' for the opening of the Duddingston Road school in 1964.

Both songs feature the Latin motto of the burgh of Portobello: *Ope et Consilio*, which translates as "with help and counsel" or "by work and advice".

Primary pupils going up to the 'big school' from the late 60s onwards would be familiar with the phrase from the somewhat catchier "*Ope et Consilio, sing it everywhere you go, Ope et Consilio, means by work and advice.*" written by Mrs Dale the peripatetic music teacher for the local primary schools.

