



ROYAL
COLLEGE
OF MUSIC
London

When Haydn Came to London



Royal College of Music Museum
Museum Poem

Composer Joseph Haydn had never seen the sea
His best friend, Johann Salomon, thought "Goodness
gracious me!"

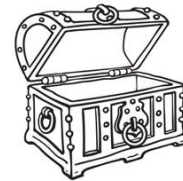
Never seen the sea at the age of fifty-eight?
I'd better book a ferry trip before it is too late!



They started off from Austria and soon reached Calais, France
"Get on this boat with me" he said, "let's give England a chance"

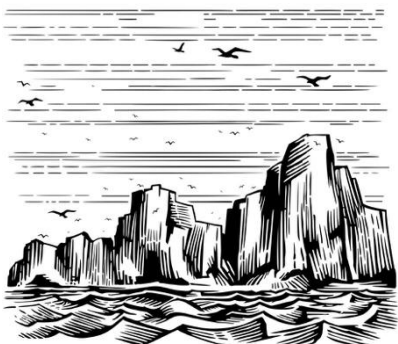
So Haydn crossed the Channel blue in 1791
And set foot on the English shore before the day was done

(The reason for their visit will soon become quite clear
Haydn hadn't really had a good start to the year
His brand new boss, Prince Anton, was paying him less money
"Well", Haydn fumed, "that's just not fair"! He didn't find it
funny.)



So back to Haydn in a carriage, riding past Bow Bells
It seemed a very noisy place with lots of funny smells
Within two weeks, his music had become a great success!
His name and all his concerts kept appearing in the press.

"They love me here, these English folks", did puffed-up Haydn boast
"I'm invited out for dinner every night for pie or roast."
"That's wonderful!" said Johann, "Let's raise a glass! Cheers!
Perhaps I can persuade you to come back in a few years?"



"You can indeed", said Haydn, "I have so enjoyed my trip".
And thus a few years later Haydn boarded a big ship
Back he sailed to London town upon the cold sea breeze
And this time round he even wrote some London symphonies.