The Tenderfoot

As sung by Eddie Ashlaw

Very freely*

1. One Spring I thought I'd have some fun, I'd learn how punching cows were done, And when the round-up had begun, I'd
tack - le the cat - tle king; Said he, "My fore - man,
he's in town, he's in the sa - loon and his name is Brown; I think that we can take him down." Says I, "That's just the thing."

2. Next day we started for the ranch, Brown talked to me most:
could all the way, For he says punching cows was nothing but play, I'd
wasn't no work at all. "For all you have to
do is ride, It's just like drift - ing o'er the tides." And

***The three words in this measure should be sung as even eighth notes.
****'Jiminy' should be sung as triplets following the melodic pattern.
*****On the first and last verses, this note is sung as a G.

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There are other variations on this last phrase, depending on the text.

*The fermati are used to indicate where it makes sense to pause very slightly at the ends of phrases or half-phrases. They are not an exact indication of where Ashlaw pauses in singing the song.

**Sometimes this is sung as written, sometimes as the A below.

The three words in this measure should be sung as even eighth notes.

Jiminy' should be sung as triplets following the melodic pattern.

On the first and last verses, this note is sung as a G.
3. For he put me in charge of the cavity, Said, "Now, my boy, don't work too hard. For all that you have to do is guard Those horses from getting away." He had two hundred and sixty head, and oftentimes wished that I was dead when one of those horses would get away, Brown's face, it would turn red, And this is the truth, I say.

4. When one of those horses would get away It was just like running for a stake, For sometimes you could not head them at all, And other times my horse would fall, And I'd shoot on like a cannonball Til the earth came in my way.

5. For next they saddled me up an old gray hack With a great big setfast on his back And they padded him up with gunny sacks; They used my bedding and all. When I got on he quit the ground, He went in the air and he turned around. When I came down I busted the ground - That was a scandalous fall.

6. For they picked me up and brought me in, They rolled me down with a rolling pin. "For that is the way we all begin; You're doing well," said Brown. "And in the morning if you don't die, Another horse I'll let you try." "Oh, won't you let me walk?" said I, "Or I'll go back to town."

7. Oh, I've traveled up and I've wandered down, I've traveled this wide world round and round, I've lived in cities and lived in town, But I have this much to say: Before you go west, go kiss your wife, Get a heavy insurance upon your life, And gut yourself with a butcher knife; You'll find it the easiest way!

The third and fourth verses have nine and six phrases respectively, and some major melodic variations. The last three verses follow the same melodic patterns as the first two, though with rhythmic and melodic flexibility.