



**Eight New Nursery Rhymes Op. 23  
No. 8**



**O my little sixpence**

**H. Walford Davies  
(1869-1941)**

**Sir Henry Walford Davies** (1869-1941) was born in Oswestry on the England-Wales border. As a child, he learned to play many instruments in an informal band with his brothers, cousins and friends. He became a chorister at St. George's Chapel, Windsor; then entered the Royal College of Music, studying under Parry and Stanford. He taught at the Royal College of Music, Aberystwyth University, and Gresham College, with Leopold Stokowski among his notable students. He served as organist at numerous churches including St Anne's Church, Soho; Christ Church, Hampstead; and Temple Church. He became the first director of music to the Royal Air Force and organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. He was a well-known and popular radio personality through his broadcasts on classical music and held the title Master of the King's Musick from 1934 until his death.

O my little sixpence, my pretty little sixpence,  
I love sixpence better than my life!  
I spent a penny of it,  
I lent a penny of it,  
And I took fourpence home to my wife.

O my little fourpence, my pretty little fourpence,  
I love fourpence better than my life!  
I spent a penny of it,  
I lent a penny of it.  
And I took twopence home to my wife.

O my little twopence, my pretty little twopence,  
I love twopence better than my life!  
I spent a penny of it,  
I lent a penny of it,  
And I took nothing home to my wife.

O my little nothing, my pretty little nothing,  
I love nothing—  
I love nothing better than my wife!

# O my little sixpence

H. Walford Davies

Allegro semplice ♩ = 92

S  
O, O my lit - tle

A  
O,

T  
O my lit - tle

B  
O,

Piano

Allegro semplice ♩ = 92

## O my little sixpence

S  
six - pence, my pret - ty lit - tle six - pence, I love six - pence bet - ter than my

A  
— my six - pence, I love six - pence bet - ter than my

T  
six - pence, my pret - ty lit - tle six - pence, I love six - pence bet - ter than my

B  
— my six - pence, I love six - pence bet - ter than my

Pno.

7 *ten.*  
S  
life! I spent a pen - ny of it, I lent a pen - ny of it,

A  
*ten.*  
life!  
*rit.* *a tempo*

T  
*ten.*  
life!  
*rit.* *a tempo*

B  
*ten.*  
life!  
*rit.* *a tempo*

Pno.

# O my little sixpence

10

S *pp* And, and I took four - pence

A *pp* > spent a pen-ny of it, lent a pen-ny of it, I took four - pence

T *pp* > spent a pen-ny of it, lent a pen-ny of it, I took four - pence

B *pp* > spent a pen-ny of it, lent a pen-ny of it, I took four - pence

Pno. *mf*

This system of the musical score covers measures 10 to 12. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'And, and I took four - pence' for Soprano; 'spent a pen-ny of it, lent a pen-ny of it, I took four - pence' for Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The piano accompaniment includes a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) and *f* (forte). A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal lines.

13

S home, home to my wife. O

A home, home to my wife. O,

T home, home, home to my wife. O

B home, home, home to my wife. O,

Pno.

This system of the musical score covers measures 13 to 16. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'home, home to my wife. O' for Soprano; 'home, home to my wife. O,' for Alto; 'home, home, home to my wife. O' for Tenor; and 'home, home, home to my wife. O,' for Bass. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p* (piano). A fermata is placed over the final note of the vocal lines.

## O my little sixpence

*A little slower and softer*

17

S my lit - tle four - pence, my pret - ty lit - tle four - pence, I love

A O my four - pence, I love

T my lit - tle four - pence, my pret - ty lit - tle four - pence, I love

B O my four - pence, I love

Pno.

20

S four - pence bet - ter than my life! I spent a pen - ny of it, I

A four - pence bet - ter than my life!

T four - pence bet - ter than my life!

B four - pence bet - ter than my life!

Pno.

*ten.*

*rit. e piacere*

*ten.*

*rit.*

*ten.*

*rit.*

*ten.*

*rit.*

# O my little sixpence

23 *a tempo*

S lent a penny of it, And, and

A *a tempo*  
spent a pen-ny of it, lent a penny of it,

T *a tempo*  
spent a pen-ny of it, lent a penny of it,

B *a tempo*  
spent a pen-ny of it, lent a penny of it,

Pno. *a tempo*

26

S I took two - pence home, home to my wife.

A I took two - pence home, home to my wife.

T I took two - pence home, home, home to my

B I took two - pence home, home, home to my

Pno.

## O my little sixpence

29 *p* *A little slower and softer*

S  
O my lit - tle

A  
*p* O, O

T  
wife. O my lit - tle

B  
wife. O, O

Pno.

32

S  
two - pence, my pret - ty lit - tle two - pence, I love two - pence bet - ter than my

A  
— my two - pence, I love two - pence bet - ter than my

T  
two - pence, my pret - ty lit - tle two - pence, I love two - pence bet - ter than my

B  
— my two - pence, I love two - pence bet - ter than my

Pno.



# O my little sixpence

35 *ten.* *rit. e piacere* *a tempo*

S life! I spent a pen-ny of it, I lent a pen-ny of it,

A *ten.* *rit.* *a tempo*

A life!

T *ten.* *rit.* *a tempo*

T life!

B *ten.* *rit.* *a tempo*

B life!

Pno. *rit.* *a tempo*

38

S And, and I took noth - ing

A spent a pen-ny of it, lent a pen-ny of it, I took noth - ing

T spent a pen-ny of it, lent a pen-ny of it, I took noth - ing

B spent a pen-ny of it, lent a pen-ny of it, I took noth - ing

Pno.

## O my little sixpence

41

S home, home to my wife. O

A home, home to my wife. O,

T home, home, home to my wife. O

B home, home, home to my wife. O,

Pno.

45

*Very slowly*

S my lit - tle noth - ing, my pret - ty lit - tle noth - ing,

A O my noth - ing,

T my lit - tle noth - ing, my pret - ty lit - tle noth - ing,

B O my noth - ing,

*Very slowly*

Pno.

# O my little sixpence

48

S  
noth - ing, I love noth - ing—

A  
noth - ing,

T  
noth - ing, noth - ing, I love noth - ing—

B  
noth - ing, noth - ing,

Pno.

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 48 to 51. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics 'noth - ing, I love noth - ing—'. The piano part is mostly silent, with some faint notes visible in the bass clef. Dynamics include *pp* and *pppp*. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 4/4.

52 *Allegro*

S  
I love noth - ing bet - ter than my wife!

A  
I love noth - ing bet - ter than my wife!

T  
I love noth - ing bet - ter than my wife!

B  
I love noth - ing bet - ter than my wife! bet - ter than my wife!

Pno. *ff* *colle voci ff*

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 52 to 55. The tempo is marked *Allegro*. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics 'I love noth - ing bet - ter than my wife!'. The piano accompaniment is more active, with a strong *ff* dynamic. The bass line features a melodic line that continues into the next system. Dynamics include *ff* and *ad lib.*. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 4/4.

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