



# O Waly Waly up the Bank

A Lowland Lament

Scottish Folk Song

Nugh S. Roberton (1874-1952) **Sir Hugh Stevenson Roberton** (1874–1952) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, son of a Funeral Undertaker and Carriage Hirer, and served as an assistant in the family enterprise, eventually becoming manager. He first established his musical career as conductor of the Toynbee House Choir in Glasgow. He took leadership of the Toynbee Musical Association and transformed it, founding the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. He was director of the Orpheus choir for almost fifty years, leading it to national and international recognition. The Orpheus Choir had no equal in Britain and toured widely. He is recognized as one of the most significant British coral directors in history. He was also active as teacher, composer, adjudicator, critic, poet, playwright, essayist, and lecturer. He died at his home in Cathcart, Glasgow. His son was the Australian politician and diplomat Hugh Roberton. His compositions include a significant number of part-songs, especially settings of Scottish folk songs.

O waly, waly, up the bank, And waly, waly, doun the brae, And waly, waly, yon burn-side, Where I and my Love wont to gae! I leant my back unto an aik, I thocht it was a trustie tree; But first it bow'd and syne it brak— Sae my true love did lichtlie me.

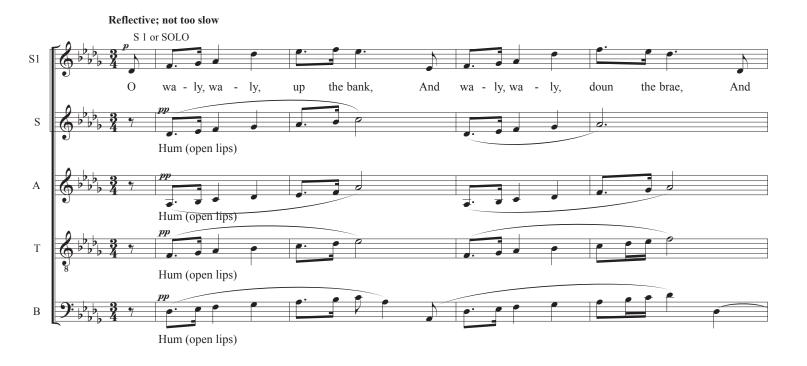
O waly, waly, gin love be bonnie
A little time while it is new!
But when 'tis auld it waxeth cauld,
And fades awa' like morning dew.
O wherefore should I busk my heid,
Or wherefore should I kame my hair?
For my true Love has me forsook,
And says he'll never lo'e me mair.

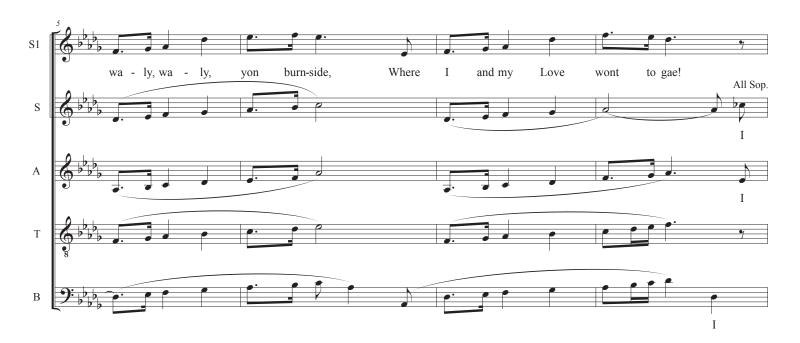
Anonymous. 17th Cent. Familiar as "The Water is Wide"

waly = exclamation of sorrow: alas!, woe is me! brae = hillside burn = stream gae = go aik = oak syne = soon lichtlie = slight, or forsake gin = but busk = adorn, prepare heid = head mair = more

## O Waly, Waly up the Bank

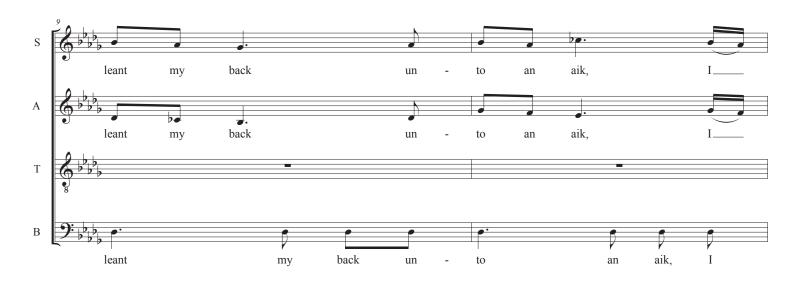
Hugh S. Roberton

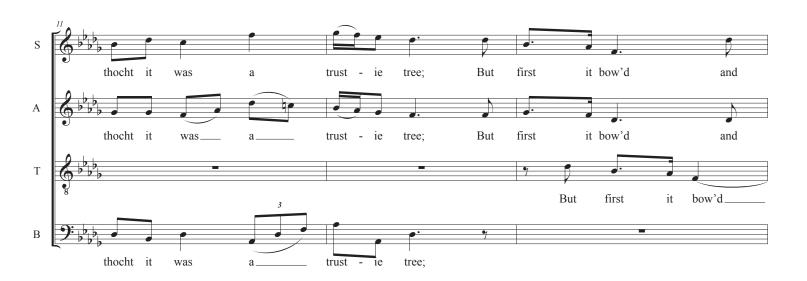


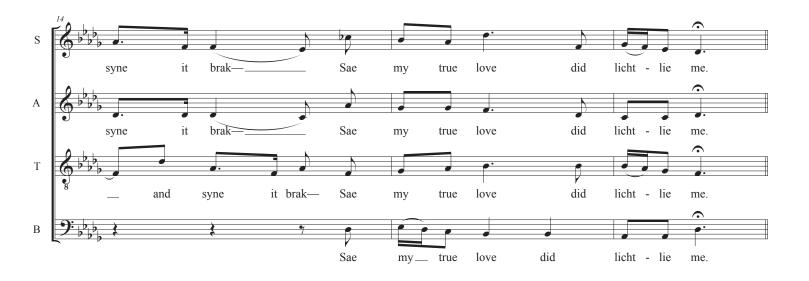


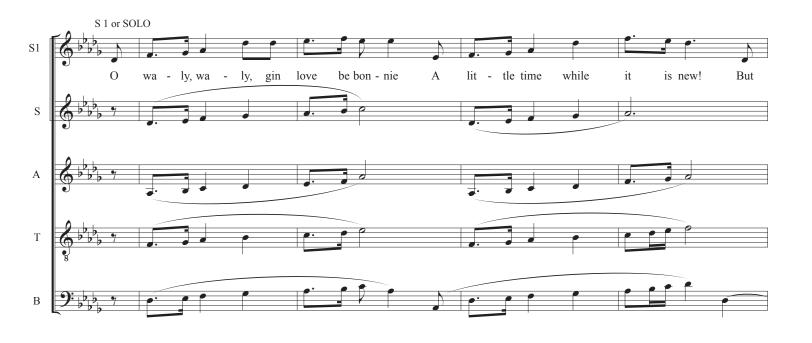


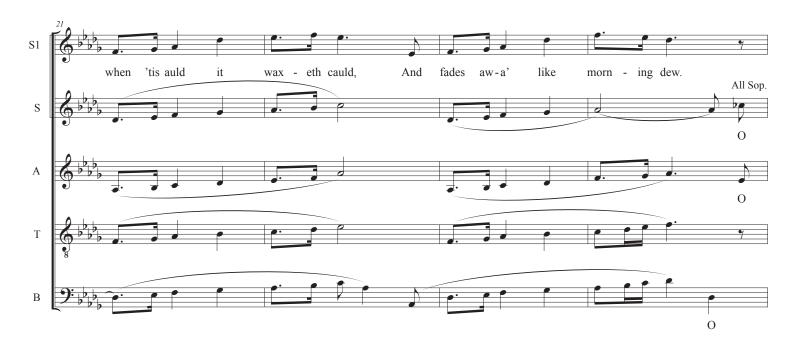
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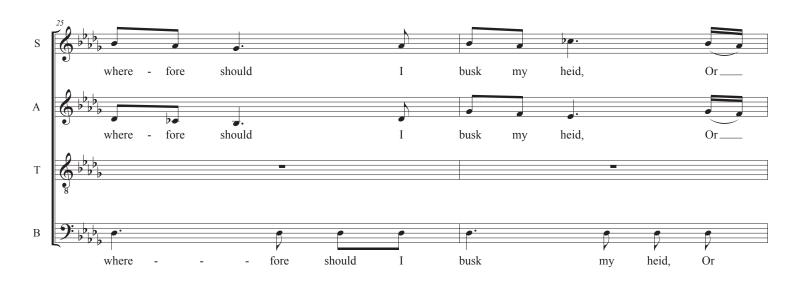


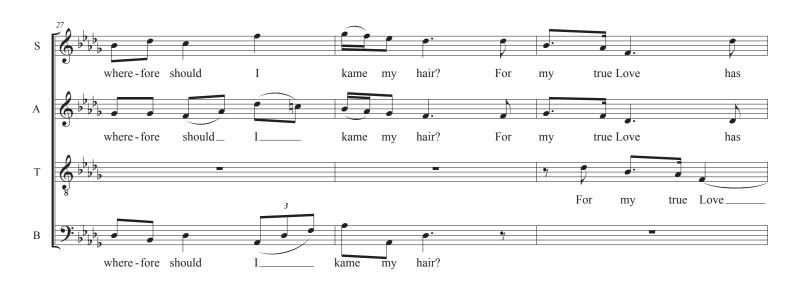


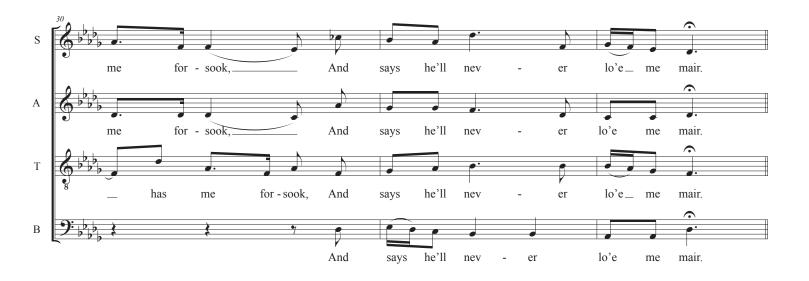


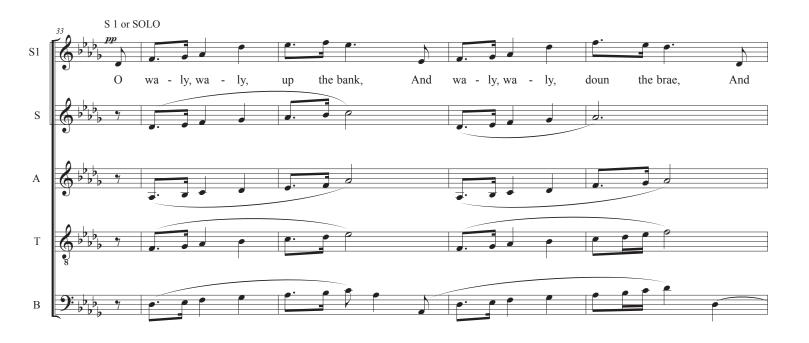


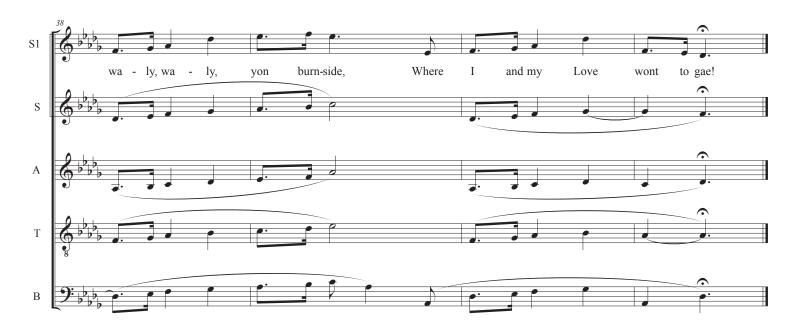
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J. Curwen & Sons (1923)

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