



North Country Folk Tunes  
III

The willow tree  
(Rue and Rhyme)

arranged  
W. G. Whittaker

# The Willow tree

arr. W. G. Whittaker

Slowly and Smoothly

*pp* Be - ware, young maids, be - ware, Be - ware and read my *poco*  
*pp* Be - ware, young maids, be - ware, Be - ware and read my *poco*  
*pp* A 1 & 2 Be - ware, young maids, be - ware, Be - ware and  
*pp* T 1 & 2 Be - ware, young maids, be - ware, Be - ware and read my Div.  
*pp* B Be - ware, young maids, be - ware, be - ware and read my  
*pp* B 2 Be - ware, young maids, Be - ware and read my

4  
 S 1 rhyme, And see that you keep your gar - den well, And let  
 S 2 rhyme, keep your gar - den well, And let Div.  
 A 1 read my rhyme, And keep your gar - den well, And let  
 T 1 rhyme, See that you keep your gar - den well, *poco*  
 T 2 See that you keep your gar - den well,  
 B 1 & 2 rhyme, And keep your gar - den well, And let Div.

The Willow tree

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S 1 no one steal your thyme. *dim.* *ppp* *rall.* Div.

S 2 no one steal your thyme. *dim.* *ppp* *rall.* Div.

A 1 no one steal your thyme, Let no one steal your thyme. *ppp* *rall.*

A 2 no one steal your thyme, let no one steal your thyme. *ppp* *rall.*

T 1 Let no one steal your thyme. *ppp* *rall.*

T 2 Let no one steal your thyme. *dim.* *ppp* *rall.*

B no one steal your thyme. *dim.* *ppp* *rall.*

B 2 no one steal your thyme. *dim.* *ppp* *rall.*



S 1 *pp* O when my thyme was

S 2 *pp* O when my thyme was

S 3 *pp* O when my thyme was new,

A 1 *pp* O when my thyme was new, It

A 3 *slightly pronounced* *p* O when my thyme was new, It

## The Willow tree

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S 1 new, It flour - ished both night and

S 2 new, It flour - ished both night and day, it

S 3 It flour - ished both night and

A 1 flour - ished both night and day, Till *poco*

A 2 It flour - ished both night and day,

A 3 flour - ished both night and day, Till



14

S 1 day, Till bye there came a false young man,

S 2 flour - ished both night and day, Till

S 3 day, Till

A 1 bye came a false young man,

A 2 Till bye there came a

A 3 bye there came a false young man, and

The Willow tree

16

S 1 *molto* *mf* > *passionately* *cresc.* *f* > *dim.*  
 And he stole my thyme a way,

S 2 *molto* *mf* > *passionately* *cresc.* *f* > *dim.*  
 bye there came a false young man, And he stole my

S 3 *molto* *mf* > *passionately* *cresc.* *f* > *dim.*  
 bye there came a false young man, And he stole my

A 1 *f* *dim.*  
 He stole my thyme \*

A 2 *f* *dim.*  
 false young man, And he stole my thyme a way, my

A 3 *f* *dim.*  
 stole my thyme a way, my

19

S 1 *p* *dim.* *rall.* *pp* *dim.* *a tempo* Unison Sopr. *ppp*  
 my thyme a way. Fare -

S 2 *p* *dim.* *rall.* *pp* *dim.* *a tempo*  
 thyme a way.

S 3 *p* *dim.* *rall.* *pp* *dim.* *a tempo*  
 thyme a way.

A 1 *p* *dim.* *rall.* *pp* *dim.* *a tempo* A 1 & 2 *ppp*  
 a way. Fare -

A 2 *p* *dim.* *rall.* *pp* *dim.* *a tempo* merge  
 thyme a way.

A 3 *p* *dim.* *rall.* *pp* *dim.* *a tempo* merge  
 thyme a way.

B *ppp* *murmuringly* *a tempo*  
 Fare - well to all fading

\* From here till the word "June," the Altos should divide as in the first verse, after that the three-part division should resume.

## The Willow tree

23

S 1 well to all fad - ing — flowers, Fare - well to young love - ly

A 1 well to all fad - ing flowers, Fare - well to young love - ly

T 1 *pp* a little pronounced Fare - well to all fad - ing — flowers, Fare -

B flowers, Fare - well to young love - - - ly



26

S 1 June, For the grass that — once was —

A 1 June, For the grass that once was trod - den *slightly pronounced*

T 1 well to young love - ly June, *mf*

B June, For the grass trod - den

The Willow tree

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S 1  
trod - den un - der foot, Per - haps it may rise a -

S 2  
trod - den un - der foot, Per - haps it may rise a -

A 1  
un - - - der foot, Per - haps it may rise a -

A 3  
grass that once was trod - den un - der foot may

T 1  
For the grass trod un - der foot, Per - haps it may

B  
un - - - der foot, Per - haps it may



30

S 1  
gain.

S 2  
gain, may rise a - gain.

A 1  
gain.

A 3  
rise a - gain.

T 1  
rise a - gain.

B  
rise a - gain.

*mp*

**William Gillies Whittaker** (1876-1944) was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, England. He studied science at Armstrong College, University of Durham, received training in organ and singing, and became a member of its faculty. He later was Professor of Music at the University of Glasgow and principal of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music. He was a respected choral conductor with positions with Armstrong College, the Newcastle and Gateshead Choral Union and the Newcastle Bach Choir. Whittaker was a scholar of Bach and conductor Bach's works. He was editor of a series of Bach's cantatas and author of one of the definitive commentaries on Bach's cantatas. He also edited instrumental works of the 17th and 18th centuries. He composed a number of larger choral works, piano pieces, songs, and choral arrangements. He is particularly known for his collection of "North Countrie Folk Songs" and choral arrangements of many of the songs.

Beware, young maids, beware,  
Beware and read my rhyme,  
And see that you keep your garden well,  
And let no one steal your thyme.  
O when my thyme was new,  
It flourished both night and day,  
Till bye there came a false young man,  
And he stole my thyme away.  
Fare-well to all fading flowers,  
Fare-well to young lovely June,  
For the grass that once was trodden under foot,  
Perhaps it may rise again.

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