

DOWN BY THE SALLEY GARDENS

arr. Seán Doherty

2023

T(div.)TBB a cappella

TEXT

Down by the Salley Gardens

Down by the salley gardens my love and I did meet;
She passed the salley gardens with little snow-white feet.
She bid me take love easy, as the leaves grow on the tree;
But I, being young and foolish, with her would not agree.

In a field by the river my love and I did stand,
And on my leaning shoulder she laid her snow-white hand.
She bid me take life easy, as the grass grows on the weirs;
But I was young and foolish, and now am full of tears.

William Butler Yeats (1865–1939)

PROGRAMME NOTE

The salley gardens are thought to be on the banks of the river at Ballysadare, near Sligo. 'Salley' are young willow branches, grown as material to thatch roofs. This poem of young and lost love is a direct imitation of a traditional Irish song. Yeats noted that the poem was 'an attempt to reconstruct an old song from three lines imperfectly remembered by an old peasant woman (...) who often sings them to herself'. In this arrangement, we hear the direct speech of the lover in the background vocals, and their commands to 'take love easy' and 'take life easy'.

Performance Time: *c.* 3 mins

for Dublin Gay Men's Chorus
Down by the Salley Gardens

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939)

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Adagio ♩ = 60
mp *espress.*

Tenor I
Down by the sal - ley gar - dens my love and I did meet; She

Tenor II
p
Down by the gar - dens my love I did meet; She

Bass I
p
Down by the gar - dens my love I did meet; She

Bass II
p
Down by the gar - dens my love I did meet; She

5

f
passed the sal - ley gar - dens with lit - tle snow - white feet. She

mf
passed the gar - dens with lit - tle feet, She

mf
passed the gar - dens with lit - tle feet. She

mf
passed the gar - dens with lit - tle feet, She

9

rit. *A tempo*
mp
bid me take love ea - sy, as the leaves grow on the tree; But

f
bid, 'Take love eas - sy, as leaves grow on the tree, the tree';

f
bid, 'Take love ea - sy, as leaves grow on the tree, the tree';

f
bid, 'Take love ea - sy, as leaves grow on the tree, the tree';

13

I, be - ing young and fool - ish, with her would not a - gree. In a

p I, be - ing fool - ish, with her would not a - gree. In a

p I, be - ing fool - ish, with her would not a - gree. In a

p I, be - ing fool - ish, with her would not a - gree. In a

17

field by the ri - ver my love and I did stand, And

field by the ri - ver, my love did stand, And

field by the ri - ver, my love did stand, And

field by the ri - ver, my love did stand, And

21

on my lean - ing shoul - der she laid her snow - white hand. She *f*

on my shoul - der, she laid her hand. She *mf*

on my shoul - der, she laid her hand. She *mf*

on my shoul - der, she laid her hand. She *mf*

rit.

25

bid me take life ea - sy, as the grass grows on the

bid, "Take life ea - sy, as grass grows on the

bid, "Take life ea - sy, as grass grows on the

bid, "Take life ea - sy, as grass grows on the

A tempo

molto rit.

28

weirs; But I was young and fool - ish, and now am full

weirs, the weirs'; I was fool - ish, and now am full

weirs, the weirs'; I was fool - ish, and now am full

weirs, the weirs'; I was fool - ish, and now am full

Largo ♩ = 40

rit.

32

ah of tears.

ah of tears.

ah of tears.

ah of tears.