

## 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 did 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

Unten an den Weiden garten  
sind uns meine Liebste ich begegnet,  
an den Weiden garten ging sie  
auf schneeweißen Füßen vorüber.  
Sie bat mich die Liebe leicht zu nehmen,  
so wie die Blätter, die am Baum wachsen.  
Ich aber, jung und töricht,  
konnte ihr nicht zustimmen.

Auf dem Feld am dem Fluss  
stand meine Liebste und ich,  
und auf meiner schiefen Schulter  
legte sie ihre schneeweiße Hand.  
Sie bat mich, das Leben leicht zu nehmen,  
wie das Gras, das am Wehr wächst.  
Ich aber, jung und töricht,  
bin nun voll von Tränen erfüllt.

Dt. Textübertragung: Christopher Inman

## Preface

William Butler Yeats published his poem *Down by the Salley Gardens* in 1889 in the collection *The Wanderings of Oisín and Other Poems*. Salley is the English form of the Irish word *saileach*, which means "willow tree" (*salix*). Herbert Hughes, the Irish composer and researcher in folk music, took up the poem in 1909 and created the well-known melody.

In the present arrangement, Herbert Hughes' melody has been transformed into a sensitive a cappella setting for choir. Markus Detterbeck has skilfully combined the melodic devices such as the sounds of the bagpipe drone with motifs material taken from the original melody. This gives rise to rhythmic-melodic patterns which lend to the song a kind of floating effect. Counterparts provide an atmospheric fullness, though without forcing themselves too noticeably into the foreground. The piece should be sung with the greatest possible simplicity. The principal voice can certainly be performed with slight embellishments (as suggested in the notation) typical of Irish music.

## Wort

Das Gedicht *Down by the Salley Gardens* veröffentlichte William Butler Yeats im Jahr 1889 in seiner Gedichtsammlung *The Wanderings of Oisín and Other Poems*. Salley ist das englische Wort für das irische *saileach* und bedeutet „Weidenbaum“ (*Salix*). Der irische Komponist und Volksliedforscher Herbert Hughes griff das Gedicht 1909 auf und schuf die heute bekannte Melodie.

Das vorliegende Arrangement verarbeitet die Melodie von Herbert Hughes zu einem feinsinnigen Arrangement für Chor a cappella. Markus Detterbeck verknüpft dazu geschickt irische Stilmittel wie Bordunklänge mit motivischem Material, das aus der Liedmelodie gewonnen ist. So entstehen rhythmisch-melodische Patterns, die dem Song eine schwebende Wirkung verleihen. Gegenstimmen sorgen, ohne sich zu sehr in den Vordergrund zu drängen, für eine atmosphärische Dichte. Der Satz sollte mit größtmöglicher Schlichtheit gesungen werden, wobei die Hauptstimme durchaus mit für irische Musik typischen kleinen Verzierungen (wie im Notentext vorgeschlagen) gestaltet werden kann.

# Down by the Salley Gardens

SATB a cappella

Lyrics: William Butler Yeats (1865–1939)

Music: Robert Hughes (1882–1937)  
Arrangement: Markus Detterbeck

Expressive ♩ = ca. 92

☐ Solo or small group ad lib

S

A

T

B

*pp*

Dung gung gung,\*) dung gung gung,\*) doo doo doo doo doo

Piano/Klavier  
(for rehearsal)

7

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

☐ Solo or small group ad lib

*pp*

Doo\*\*) doo doo doo doo

gung gung dung gung gung,

\*) dung / gung pronounced "d" as in "good" or "look"  
\*\*) alternatively "dee" or "an" (imitating a violin (until bar 12))  
\*\*\*) ornamentation very light, pointing towards the main note



11

*p*

doo doo doo doo doo. 1. Down by the sal - ley gar - dens my

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. 1. Doo doo doo doo doo doo

dung gung gung. 1. Doo gung gung,

15

love and did She passed the sal - ley gar - dens with

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

1. Doo-in dung gung gung doo - ah dung gung gung

dung gung gung, dung gung gung doo



19 Tutti

lit - tle\_ snow - white feet. She bid me: "Take love - ly, as the

doo doo doo\_ doo. She\_ bid me: ke love - sy as the

gung, dung gung gung gung dung gung gung

dung gung gung gung, dung gung gung doo

23

leaves grow\_ the\_ But I was\_ young and\_ fool - ish, with\_

leaves grow\_ the\_ tree." I young\_ and fool - ish, with

dung gung. I was young, fool - ish with

dung gung gung gung, dung gung gung doo



27

*p*

her did not a - gree. 2. Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

*p*

her did not a - gree. 2. Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

her did not a - gree. field by the

*mf*

dung gung gung gung dung. 2. the

31

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

my love and I did stand. And on my lean - ing

riv - my love and I did stand. And on my

35

*mf* doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. bid "Take love

*mf* doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. Sh bid me:

*p* shoul - der she laid my snow - hand. me: "Take love

*p* shoul - der she laid my white hand.

39

*f* ea - sy, the grass grows on the weirs." But I be - ing young and

*f* "Take love the grass grows on the weirs." But I be - ing young and

*f* the grass grows on the weirs." But I be - ing

*f divisi* "The grass grows on the weirs." Dung gung gung gung,



43 *divisi* *mf*

fool - ish, with now am full of tears. Doo doo doo doo

fool - ish, with now am full of tears. doo doo doo

fool - ish, and now am full of tears. Doo

dung gung gung gung dung gung gung gung

47 *mp*

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. 3. Down by the sal - ley

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. 3. Down by sal - ley

doo doo doo doo. 3. Down sal - ley

dung gung gung gung gung gung. 3. Down sal - ley

51

gar - dens my love and I did meet. She passed the sal - ley

gar - dens my love and I did, did the passed sal ley

gar - dens my love and I did meet She passed sal - ley

gar - dens my love and I meet the passed - ley

55

gar - dens with lit - tle snow - white feet. She bid me: "Take love

gar - dens with lit - tle snow - white feet. She bid me: "Take love

gar - dens with lit - tle snow - white feet. She bid me: "Take love

gar - dens with lit - tle snow - white feet. She bid me: "Take love





59

ea - sy, as the leaves grow on the tree." But be - ing young and  
 ea - sy, as the leaves grow on the " But young and  
 ea - sy, leaves grow the I young and  
 ea - sy, leaves grow on tree be - ing young gung

63

fool - ish, with did not a - gree. Doo doo doo  
 fool with her did not a - gree. Doo doo  
 ish with her did not a - gree. Doo  
 gung, gung gung, dung gung

