



The Ballad of Yarrow

Traditional Air

Hugh S. Robertson
(1874–1952)

Sir Hugh Stevenson Robertson (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 Robertson. His compositions include a significant number of part-songs, especially settings of Scottish folk songs.

Willy's rare, and Willy's fair,
And Willy's wond'rous bonny,
And Willy hecht to marry me,
Gin e'er he marry'd ony.

O came you by yon Water-side,
Pu'd you the Rose or Lily;
Or came you by yon Meadow green,
Or saw you my sweet Willy?

She sought him East, she sought him West,
She sought him braid and narrow;
Syne in the clifing o' a Craig,
She found him drown'd in Yarrow.

attr. William Thompson (1695–1753)

hecht = promised
gin = before (hard g)
pu'd = pulled
braid and narrow = far and near
syne = eventually
clifing = cleft or fissure

The Ballad of Yarrow

Hugh S. Robertson

A lingering rhythm ♩ = 56

S
Wil - ly's rare, and Wil - ly's fair, And

A
Wil - ly's rare, and Wil - ly's fair, And

T
O Wil - ly's fair,

B
O Wil - ly's fair,

S
Wil - ly's won - d'rous bon - ny, And Wil - ly hecht to

A
Wil - ly's won - d'rous bon - ny, And Wil - ly hecht to

T
Wil - ly's bon - ny, And he hecht to

B
Wil - ly's bon - ny, Wil - ly hecht to

The Ballad of Yarrow

7

S mar - ry me, *rit.* Gin e'er he mar - ry'd o - ny, gin

A mar - ry me, *rit.* Gin e'er he mar - ry'd o - ny, gin

T mar - ry me, *rit.* Gin

B mar - ry me, *rit.*

10

S e'er he mar - ry'd o - ny.

A e'er he mar - ry'd o - ny.

T e'er he mar - ry'd o - ny.

B mar - ry'd o - ny.

12

S *mf* O came you by yon Wa - ter - side, Pu'd

A *mf* O came you by yon Wa - ter - side, Pu'd

T By Wa - ter - side,

B *p* O Wa - ter - side,

The Ballad of Yarrow

15

S you the Rose or Lil - y; Or came you by yon

A you the Rose or Lil - y; Or came you by yon

T Pu'd you the Lil - y; Or by yon

B Pu'd you the Lil - y; Came you by yon



18

S Mead - ow green, Or saw you my sweet Wil - ly? Or

A Mead - ow green, Or saw you my sweet Wil - ly? Or

T Mead - ow green? Or

B Mead - ow green?

rit.



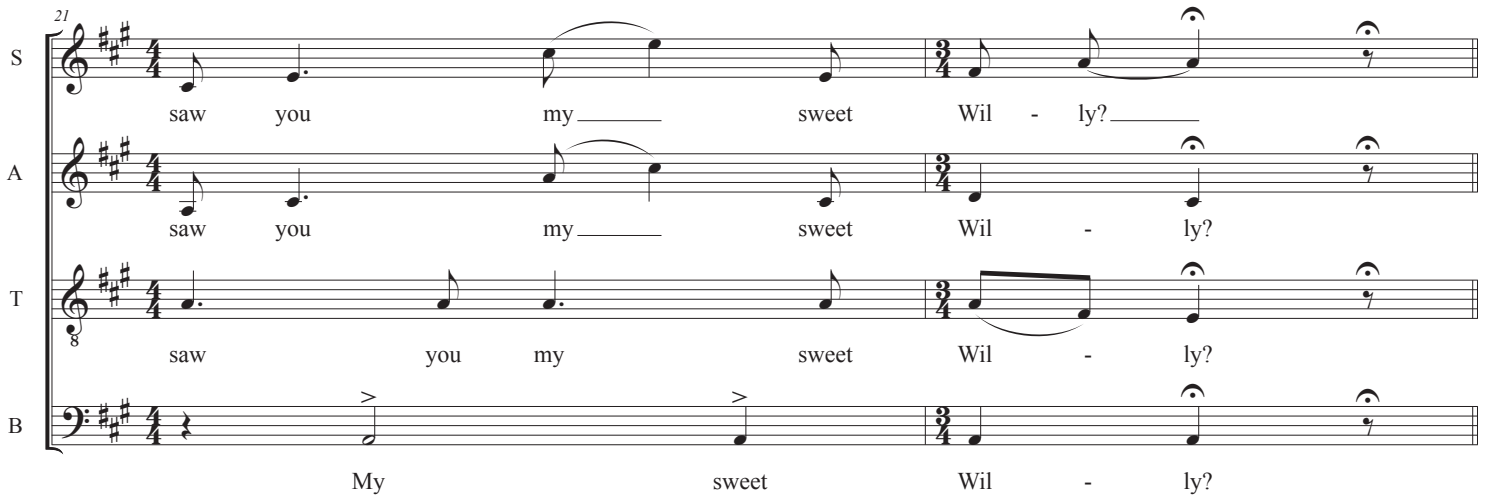
21

S saw you my sweet Wil - ly?

A saw you my sweet Wil - ly?

T saw you my sweet Wil - ly?

B My sweet Wil - ly?



The Ballad of Yarrow

(only a few high voices) *pp* *dim.*

S She sought him West, _____

A *mf* *espress. e agitato* She sought him East, she sought him West, She

T *f* *espress. e agitato* She sought him East, she sought him West, She

B *f* *espress. e agitato* She sought him East, she sought him West,

²⁵ (only a few high voices) *pp*

S _____ Syne in the clift - ing

A sought him braid and nar - row; Syne in the clift - ing

T sought him braid and nar - row; Syne in the clift - ing

B *p* She sought him nar - row; the clift - ing

²⁸ *dim.* *rit.* TUTTI *pp*

S o' a Craig, _____ She

A *rit.* o' a Craig, She found him drown'd in Yar - row, she

T *rit.* o' a Craig, She found him drown'd in Yar - row, she

B *rit.* o' a Craig, She found him drown'd in Yar - row, she

The Ballad of Yarrow

31 *molto rall.*

S found him drown'd in Yar - row, in Yar - row.

A *molto rall.*
found him drown'd in Yar - row, in Yar - row.

T *molto rall.*
found him drown'd in Yar - row, in Yar - row.

B *molto rall.*
found him drown'd in Yar - row.

(1916)

TERMS OF USE

These editions are available as a service to the choral community, offering inexpensive access to public domain literature. Choir resources can purchase other literature still under copyright, especially to support those creating and publishing new compositions and arrangements. These editions have been created using public domain sources under U. S. copyright law. Out of respect to the research, time and effort invested:

please print and issue an edition in its entirety, retaining notices, attributions, and logos.
please do not consider this edition a source for creating another edition.

If recorded, notification and attribution would be appropriate professional courtesies.

For a full description of these requests and more scores, visit:
www.shorchor.net

