



KelticDead Music

Stories, Tunes and Songs in the Traditions of our Celtic Dead

To the Four Ayrts to Guide Us, and
For the Four Winds to Get Us There!

The mission of the **KelticDead Music** initiative is to find tunes and songs from around the world that have Celtic, Folk, World, Americana, and Seafaring origins, and arrange them into simple sheet music formats for folk musicians to use and share. In addition, the KDM initiative provides the in-depth stories with possible lyrics for a more complete music-education experience.

*All the selections and sheet music content provided in the **KelticDead Music** initiative are from traditional, made-public, made-public with credits, or cited credits where applicable. This material content is from various internet sources and the personal interpretations of the subject is provided by **Patrick O-Shaun Young, KelticDead Music**. All graphics are either public domain or cited where applicable. Validation and verification are left up to the reader.*

Wild Mountain Thyme

The song is a short one, but it has a lot of expression. Sometimes the song is known as “The Purple Heather,” or “Will You Go, Lassie Go?” While it is often thought to be Scots (mostly because of the lyrics), it was actually written by William McPeake of the famous McPeake family from Belfast. It was first recorded in 1957 and featured in the BBC series, “As I Roved Out.”

The song was based upon a Scots ballad called the “Braes of Balquhiddier” written by Robert Tannahill in the late 18th or early 19th Century. Tannehill started his poem with

“Let us go lassie; go tae the braes o’Balquhiddier, where the blueberries grow among the bloomin’ heather.”

The older, Tannahill ballad related his version of the poem to Lord Rob Roy MacGregor of Balquhiddier. The poem was about Roy needing a queen, so he enticed young maidens in his kingdom to go with him to pick flowers among the braes. He was somewhat unsure if any of the maidens would take him up on his offer, so William’s original wording in the lines ...

“Oh, if my true love’s gone, I’ll surely find **another**...” seemed a bit insensitive, but Lord Rob Roy was needing a queen.



A picture of the McPeake family group from their 1963 Album cover, “The McPeake Family.”

Later musicians changed the expression to ...

Oh, if my true love’s gone, I’ll surely find **no other** ...” gave the song a bit more sincere expression without changing the beat.

Wild Mountain Thyme

Oh, the summer time is comin'
The trees are sweetly bloomin'
The wild mountain thyme
All 'round the bloomin' heather.
Will ye go lassie go ...
Will ye go lassie go.

And, we'll all go together
To pull mountain thyme
All "round the bloomin' heather.
Will ye go lassie go ...
Will ye go lassie go.
Will ye go lassie go.

I will build my love a bower,
Near yon crystal fountain
And on it .. I will pile
The flowers of the mountain
Will ye go lassie go ...
Will ye go lassie go.

And, we'll all go together
To pull mountain thyme
All "round the bloomin' heather.
Will ye go lassie go ...
Will ye go lassie go.
Will ye go lassie go.

Oh, if my true love*s gone
I'll surely find no other
To pull mountain thyme
All 'round the bloomin' heather.
Will ye go lassie go ...
Will ye go lassie go.

And, we'll all go together
To pull mountain thyme
All "round the bloomin' heather.
Will ye go lassie go ...
Will ye go lassie go.
Will ye go lassie go.



Balquhider is a small village in Perthshire in Scotland located 10 miles (16 km) north-west of Callander. The village of Balquhider is located at the foot of Loch Voil. The famous Rob Roy MacGregor is buried there in a local churchyard.



Made public engraving of Robert Tannahill, author of the "Braes o' Balquhider."

Wild Mountain Thyme

Arrangement by KelticDead Music

An Irish version of a folk song developed in 1957
based upon the poem by Robert Tannahill, the "Braes o'Balquhidder"



Musical score for "Wild Mountain Thyme" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music, numbered 1 through 23. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, folk style. The score includes a repeat sign at the beginning and a double bar line at the end. The music is arranged in a single system with five staves.

<https://www.reverbNation.com/kelticdead2/song/35429069-wild-mountain-thyme--kdm>

KelticDead Music Group:

Shaun Young arranged the sheet music, and adjusted the lyrics of the song to play with it. He uses an Irish-Tuned, Low Octave Bouzouki to set the rhythm and beat, an MK1 Low Octave D Whistle, a Kerry Mezzo D whistle, and voices.



Shaun Young

Earnie Taft filled in the melody with his fiddle, and

Alan Beck provided a guitar to ensure rhythm and fidelity throughout this traditional, made public, "Scots" Irish folk song from the McPeake Family.



Earnie Taft

For this and other "KDM Story Broadsides" visit

<https://kelticdeadmusic.org/story-broadsides/>



Alan Beck

KelticDead Music Initiative

is a private, on-line music-education initiative. All the music projects are recorded with live, acoustic instruments and performed in accordance with simplified sheet music arranged in eight bar formats (whenever possible) in accordance with the guidelines that are within the Celtic music traditions. For more music videos and stories visit ...

<https://KelticDeadMusic.org>