

The Irish Collection



song air

Down by the Salley Gardens (traditional)

DE F# EDE F#A B A D A B AF# E D D

A D C#A B D C# A F#A B AF# AB D E D

DE F# EDE F#A B A D A B AF# E D D

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.

Down By the Salley Gardens - harmony

D D# G D F# F# G D E F# F#

D F# A A# G B A E A E D D D G A

F# D D# G D F# F# G D E D D



Down by the Salley Gardens

Down By the Salley Gardens - variation

fine

D C

Written by the Irish poet W B Yeats in the 1880s, this famous poem was based upon an old song which he had heard sung, but could barely remember. "Salley" or "sally" is a form of "sallow," which is the willow tree. The tune is called The Moorlough Shore, and was paired with Yeats's poem by Herbert Hughes in 1909.