

The Burns Collection



Afton Water (traditional/Robert Burns)

song air

Musical notation for Afton Water in 3/4 time, key of D major. The notes are as follows:

Line 1: D G B A G A B C B A G B A G G F#

Line 2: D G B A G A B Ḋ Ġ Ė Ḋ C B A B G

Line 3: Ḋ Ė F#̇ Ġ F#̇ Ė Ḋ Ḋ Ė Ġ Ġ B A G G F#

Line 4: D G B A G A B Ḋ Ġ Ė Ḋ C B A B G

Flow Gently Sweet Afton

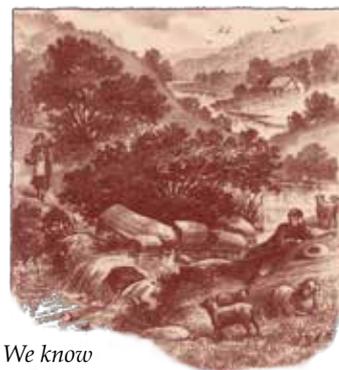
Flow gently, sweet Afton! among thy green braes,
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise;
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

Thou stockdove whose echo resounds thro' the glen,
Ye wild whistling blackbirds in yon thorny den,
Thou green-crested lapwing thy screaming forbear,
I charge you, disturb not my slumbering Fair.

How lofty, sweet Afton, thy neighbouring hills,
Far mark'd with the courses of clear, winding rills;
There daily I wander as noon rises high,
My flocks and my Mary's sweet cot in my eye.

How pleasant thy banks and green valleys below,
Where, wild in the woodlands, the primroses blow;
There oft, as mild Ev'ning weeps over the lea,
The sweet-scented birk shades my Mary and me.

Thy crystal stream, Afton, how lovely it glides,
And winds by the cot where my Mary resides;
How wanton thy waters her snowy feet lave,
As, gathering sweet flowerets, she stems thy clear wave.



We know this melody because Burns wrote a song to it, presented to Mrs Stewart of Afton Lodge, Ayrshire. Unfortunately, we do not know where Burns obtained the tune. The River Afton is a tributary stream of the Nith.

Afton Water