

The Seeds of Love

for Soprano and Piano

Arranged June 2020, AGL
Version C

The Lyrics

I sowed the seeds of love
I sowed them in the spring,
And I gathered them up in the morning so
soon,
While the small birds sweetly sing.

My garden was planted well
With flowers everywhere,
But I had no ability to choose for myself
Of the flowers I loved so dear.

Well, the gardener was standing by
And I asked him to choose for me,
He chose me the violet, the lily and the pink
But those I refused all three.

The violet I did not like,
Because it bloomed too soon,
The lily and the pink I did wilted think,
So I vowed I would wait till June.

For in June there's the red, red rose,
And that's the flower for me,
I oftentimes have plucked at the red rosebud
That grew round the willow tree.

The willow tree will twist
The willow tree will twine,
And I wish I was lying in that young man's arms
That once held this heart of mine.

The gardener as he stood by
He told me I must take good care,
For in the middle of the red rosebud
There's a very sharp thorn hidden there.

I said I'd take no care
Until I felt the smart,
So I pulled and I plucked at the red rosebud
Till it pierced me to the heart.

Come, all you false young men,
Who have left me to complain,
The grass that has oftentimes been trampled
underfoot,
Given time will rise again.

My garden is all run wild
And I must plant anew,
For the beds that once were full of thyme
Are now overrun with rue.

Sources

There are 365 versions of this folk song in the Vaughan Williams Library at Cecil Sharp House in London. In this arrangement I have used seven of the tunes which were noted down by Sharp himself, and I have listed below the singers, places and dates they were collected:-

- Verse 1: Ernest King, in East Harptree, Somerset, 1907
- Verse 2: Mrs Temlett, in Bagborough, Somerset, 1908
- Verse 3: George Wyatt, in West Harptree, Somerset, 1905
- Verse 4: John England, in Hambridge, Somerset, 1903
- Verse 5: *Same tune as Verse 4*
- Verse 6: Eliza Ware, in Over Stowey, Somerset, 1907
- Verse 7: Rev. T Heelis, in Kendal, Westmorland, 1906
- Verse 8: *Same tune as verse 6*
- Verse 9: Jim Squires, in Holford, Somerset, 1904
- Verse 10: *Same tune as verse 1.*

The Seeds of Love

Trad., arranged AGL June 2020

♩ = 120

A

I sow'd_ the seeds of_

mf

ppp

Ped. _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^

6 love I sow'd them in the_ spring, and I ga - ther'd them up_ in the

_____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^

10 mor_ ning so soon while the small birds_ swee_ tly sing_ while_ the small birds_ swee_ tly_

f

_____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^

4 14 sing. My **B**gar den was plan ted well with flow ers ev 'ry where but

Musical score for measures 14-18. The vocal line begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "My **B**gar den was plan ted well with flow ers ev 'ry where but". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The dynamic marking *mf* is present. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and chords in the treble.

19 I had no a bi li ty to choose for my self of the flow ers I loved so dear of the

Musical score for measures 19-22. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "I had no a bi li ty to choose for my self of the flow ers I loved so dear of the". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note accompaniment. The dynamic marking *f* appears at the end of measure 22, followed by *ppp* at the very end of the system.

C

23 flow ers I loved so dear. Well, the gard 'ner was stan ding by so I asked him to choose for

Musical score for measures 23-27. The vocal line begins with the lyrics: "flow ers I loved so dear. Well, the gard 'ner was stan ding by so I asked him to choose for". The piano accompaniment continues. The dynamic marking *f* is present. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass and chords in the treble.

28 me He chose me the Vio let the Li ly and the Pink but those I re fused all three but

Musical score for measures 28-32. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "me He chose me the Vio let the Li ly and the Pink but those I re fused all three but". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note accompaniment. The dynamic marking *f* is present.

D

33 those I re fused all three. The Vio let I did not like be__

mf

_____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^

37 cause it bloom'd too__ soon_____ the Li ly and the Pi nk I did wil__ ted__think so I

_____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^

41 vow'd I would wait 'til June I Vow'd I would wait 'til June. For in

f

_____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^

E

45 June there's the red red rose and__ that's the flow'r for__ me_____ I

8va

_____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^ _____ ^

49 oft en times have pluck'd at that red_ rose_ bud that grew round the wil low tree

8va

F

53 grew round the wil low tree. The wil low tree will twist, the wil low tree will_

mp

58 twine, and I wish I was ly ing in that young man's_ arms that once held this heart of

G

62 mine_ that once held this heart of mine The Gar den er as_ he_ stood by he

f

67 told me I must take good care, for in the middle of the red rose bud there's a very very very sharp

H

72 thorn hidden there there's a very sharp thorn hidden there. I said I'd take no

76 care Until I felt the smart so I pulled and I plucked at the red rose bud till it

81 perced me to the heart it pierced me to the heart. Come **I** all you false young

86 men who have left me to complain the grass that has often been

90 trampled under foot, given time will rise again given time will rise again.

95 My garden is all run wild and I must plant a new one for the

100 beds that once were full of thyme are now over run with rue are now over run, are

molto rall.

105 now o ver run, are__ now o ver run__ with__ rue_____

f *ff*