



## Will ye go, lassie, go?

traditional Scottish melody

suitable for: KS2 / KS3 / Choirs

*Included in honour of Burns Night (25<sup>th</sup> January), this is a well-known Scottish folk melody that is lovely to sing and gives a way in to drones and simple harmonies.*

1. Oh the sum-mer time is co-ming\_\_\_ And the trees are sweet - ly bloo-ming\_\_\_ And the  
wild moun-tain thyme\_\_\_ grows a-round the pur-ple hea-ther **Will ye**  
go, las-sie, go? And we'll all go to-ge-ther\_\_\_ To pluck wild moun-tain  
thyme\_\_\_ all a-round the bloo-ming hea-ther\_\_\_ Will ye go, las-sie, go?

2. I will build my love a bower  
By yon clear crystal fountain  
And on it I will plant  
All the flowers of the mountain
3. I will build my love a shelter  
On yon high mountain green  
And my love shall be the fairest  
That the summer sun has seen

This mostly pentatonic melody is a quick and satisfying learn. It should be sung with a sustained line, bringing out the characteristic **Scottish Snaps**, which are the rhythms where a short note is followed by a longer note – “summer”, “coming”, “blooming” etc. and especially “lassie”.

There are lots of ways to perform and arrange the song – a cappella or accompanied, using soloists, or simple harmony and drone effects. The recording combines some of the following elements to give an idea of what is possible.

## Add a drone

A drone part stays on one note. It sounds easy, but it can be tricky to maintain a single note in tune when combined with a melody especially if, as in this case, the melody moves around the drone.

**Drones**

Oh the sum-mer time is co-ming and the etc.

ah

The first one here, where the part has the same lyrics and rhythm as the melody but stays on D, works well with a group divided in half. It's harder than you think... The "ah" is a nice way to accompany a soloist.

## Add harmonies

These chorus harmonies are effective without being too difficult to learn. Each part begins and ends the chorus singing the tune, so it's a good way into harmonies for a group that is not that experienced.

### Chorus harmonies

**Thirds**

And we'll all go to-ge-ther To pluck wild moun-tain thyme *continue with melody*

**Drone**

And we'll all go to-ge-ther To pluck wild moun-tain thyme

## Accompany with instruments

Here are chords for piano/guitar, or to use as a basis for tuned percussion parts.

1. Oh the sum-mer time is co-ming And the trees are sweet - ly bloo-ming And the  
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go, las-sie, go? And we'll all go to-ge-ther To pluck wild moun-tain  
thyme all a-round the bloo-ming hea-ther Will ye go, las-sie, go?