



Will ye go, lassie, go?

traditional Scottish melody

suitable for: KS2 / KS3 / Choirs

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

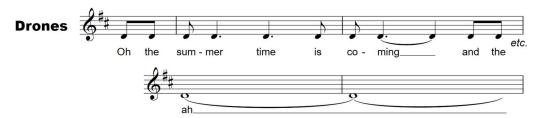


This mostly pentatonic melody is a quick and satisfying learn. It should be sung with a sustained line, bringing out the characteristic **Scottish Snaps**, which are the rhythms where a short note is followed by a longer note – "summer", "coming", "blooming" etc. and especially "lassie".

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

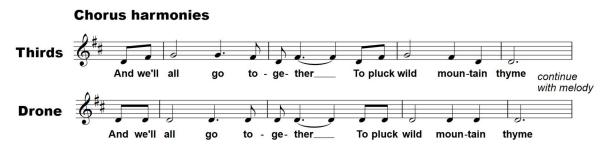
A drone part stays on one note. It sounds easy, but it can be tricky to maintain a single note in tune when combined with a melody especially if, as in this case, the melody moves around the drone.



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.



Accompany with instruments

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

