

The Withered Leaf

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"The Withered Leaf", known in Welsh as "*Y Stwffwl*" ("The Doorknocker") is a Welsh air in 3/4 time and G Major. The tune is the air to several well-known Welsh songs. John Parry, writing in the **Cambro-Briton**, vol. 1 (1819, pp. 174-175) remarks:

I am sorry, that such a sweet air, as this is, should have such an unmusical name [as "The Door Clapper"]. It is called in many parts of Wales "The Withered Leaf". The words in this selection commence thus:

Sure form of frail beauty that bloom'd for a while,
And bade for a season the green forest smile:
Ah! well may'st thou shrink from the pitiless blast,
And pine for the days that forever are past.

A setting for the song was composed by Franz Joseph Haydn.

It was printed in Kidson & Shaw's **Songs of Britain: A Collection of One Hundred English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish National Airs** (1913) (appears as "The Withered Leaf") and Williamson's **English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish Fiddle Tunes** (1976).

It was recorded by Peter Janson on **A Long Road: Tunes from Celtic Lands** (2013) and Idlewild on **Hindeg** (2003).

The version given here combines elements of both printed sources and the recording on the **Hindeg** CD.