

## Sally Gardens

The musical score for "Sally Gardens" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first three staves each contain two measures of music, and the fourth staff contains one measure. The chords are indicated above the notes: D, A7, G D, G, A7, D; D, A7, G D, G, A7, D, G; A7, D, G, A7, D, D, A7, G D; G, A7, D.

1. Down by the salley gardens my love and I did meet;  
She passed the salley gardens with little snow-white feet.  
She bid me take love easy, as the leaves grow on the tree;  
But I, being young and foolish, with her would not agree.
2. Down by the flowing river my love and I did stand,  
And on my leaning shoulder she laid her snow-white hand.  
She bid me take life easy, as the grass grows on the weirs;  
But I was young and foolish, and now I'm full of tears.

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"The Sally Gardens (air)", in Gaelic "*Na Garranta Saili*" is an "old" song, well known in South Leinster, which was set to the tune. William Butler Yeats rewrote the lyrics and published them in 1889. Regarding the poem by Yeats called "An Old Song re-Sung" and later called "Down by the Salley Gardens". It was subsequently set to music by Herbert Hughes to the traditional air "The Moorlough Shore" (also known as "The Maid on the Mourne Shore") in 1909. This is not related to the well-known reel also known as "The Sally Gardens".

Salley or sally comes from the Latin name '*salix*' or '*salyx*', meaning willow ('aspirin', or acetylsalicylic acid, was developed from an investigation of the folk remedy of chewing willow shoots to relieve pain), or from the Gaelic word for the plant, "*sailleach*" (which itself may have been derived from the Latin). The Salley Gardens therefore simply means willow gardens which were kept for medicinal purposes near villages and towns. It has been recorded by Peter Pears, John McCormack, Alfred Deller, Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy, James Galway and many others.

I don't remember from whom I learned it.