

Folk Song: Daisy Bell

"Daisy Bell," also known as "Bicycle Built for Two," is a popular song from the Victorian era, written by Harry Dacre in 1892. The song tells the story of a young man who expresses his love for his sweetheart, Daisy, and his desire to marry her and ride a bicycle built for two, symbolizing their journey together in life.

The chorus, which is the most recognizable part of the song, features the repeated plea from the young man to Daisy to give him her answer regarding his proposal of marriage: "Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do — I'm half crazy all for the love of you."

"Daisy Bell" captures the spirit of romance and whimsy characteristic of the Victorian period, with its emphasis on courtship, love, and the emerging technologies of the time. Bicycles were a relatively new invention in the late 19th century, and the idea of a couple riding together on a tandem bicycle symbolized companionship and shared adventures.

The song became immensely popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, both in England and in the United States. It was often performed in music halls, vaudeville shows, and on gramophone records. Its catchy melody and sentimental lyrics made it a favorite for generations, and it has endured through various adaptations and covers.

One of the most notable renditions of "Daisy Bell" is by IBM's 7094 computer, which famously performed a rendition of the song using speech synthesis in 1961, marking a milestone in early computer-generated music.

This song remains a charming and timeless piece of Victorian music, evoking a sense of nostalgia for a bygone era while still resonating with audiences today.

Daisy Bell

(Bicycle Built for Two)

Harry Dacre

Tempo di Valse

1

7

1. There is a flow - er with - in my heart. Dai -
 2. We will go "tan - dem" as man and wife, Dai -
 3. I will stand by you in "wheel" or woe, Dai -

14

sy, Dai - sy! Plant - ed one day by a glanc - ing dart,
 sy, Dai - sy! "Ped - 'ling" a - way down the road of life,
 sy, Dai - sy! You'll be the bell(e) which I'll ring, you know!

21

Plant - ed by Dai - sy Bell! _____ Whe - ther she loves me or loves me
 I and my Dai - sy Bell! _____ When the road's dark we can both des -
 Sweet lit - tle Dai - sy Bell! _____ You'll take the "lead" in each "trip" we

not, Some-times it's hard to tell; Yet I am long-ing to
pise P'lice - men and "lamps" as well; There are "bright lights" in the
take, Then if I don't do well; I will per - mit you to

35

share the lot Of beau - ti - ful Dai - sy Bell! Dai -
daz - zling eyes Of beau - ti - ful Dai - sy Bell! Dai -
use the brake, My beau - ti - ful Dai - sy Bell!

42

sy, Dai - sy, Give me your an - swer, do!

49

I'm half cra - zy, All for the love of you!

It won't be a styl - ish mar - riage I can't af - ford a

car- riage, But you'll look sweet on the seat of a bi - cy - cle

built for two! two! *Temp I*