

Folk Song: Lavender's Blue

"Lavender's Blue" is a timeless folk song that has been sung by generations of people across the world. Its origins are somewhat mysterious, as it has been passed down through oral tradition, meaning it was largely sung and shared by word of mouth rather than being written down.

The song's earliest known published version dates back to the late 17th century in England, though it is likely to have existed before then in oral tradition. Back then, it was known as "Diddle, Diddle, or the Kind Country Lovers." The lyrics were a bit different from what we know today, but it took root and began to spread. The next mention of it came in 1805 when it was published in a collection of nursery rhymes under the name "Lavender's Blue" with altered lyrics.

Over time, the song evolved as it was sung by different people in different places. Each singer added their own touch to it, changing some words or melodies to suit their tastes or the occasion. This is how folk songs often develop, growing and changing with each telling.

The present-day lyrics of "Lavender's Blue" tell a simple yet charming story of love and courtship. The protagonist, often portrayed as a young maid or shepherdess, is wooed by her suitor with promises of a life filled with happiness and joy. The repeated refrain, "Lavender's blue, dilly dilly, lavender's green," adds a whimsical touch to the song, evoking images of fragrant gardens and colorful blooms. The simple beauty of the tune and its accompanying words have led it to be a beloved classic.

One of the most famous renditions of "Lavender's Blue" can be found in the 1948 Walt Disney film *So Dear to My Heart*. In the movie, the song is performed by Burl Ives, whose soulful rendition captivated audiences and helped to popularize the song even further. Since then, "Lavender's Blue" has been covered by countless artists across various genres, ensuring its continued relevance in the modern world. It even made an appearance in the 2015 *Cinderella* film, helping carry the song to today's audience.

The sweet, heartfelt tune has been sung for centuries, passed on from generation to generation. It is a piece of history that lives on as a nostalgic, cherished melody to this day and will likely continue to be passed on for many years to come.

Lavender's Blue

Traditional
Arr. Julie A. Lind

Moderately

1

mf Lav - en - der's blue, dil - ly, dil - ly, Lav - en - der's green,

4

Detailed description: This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The music is in 3/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, and B4. The left hand (bass clef) has a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G3, A3, and B3. The lyrics are: 'Lav - en - der's blue, dil - ly, dil - ly, Lav - en - der's green,'. A first ending bracket is placed above the first measure.

5

When I am King, dil - ly, dil - ly You shall be Queen.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 8. The right hand continues with quarter notes C5, D5, and E5. The left hand continues with quarter notes C4, D4, and E4. The lyrics are: 'When I am King, dil - ly, dil - ly You shall be Queen.'.

9

Who told you so, dil - ly, dil - ly, Who told you so?

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. The right hand continues with quarter notes F5, G5, and A5. The left hand continues with quarter notes F4, G4, and A4. The lyrics are: 'Who told you so, dil - ly, dil - ly, Who told you so?'.

13

'Twas my own heart, dil - ly, dil - ly, that told me so!

Detailed description: This system contains the final four measures (13-16) of the piece. The right hand continues with quarter notes B5, C6, and D6. The left hand continues with quarter notes B4, C5, and D5. The lyrics are: ''Twas my own heart, dil - ly, dil - ly, that told me so!'.