

# Folk Song: English Country Garden

The origins of the folk song "English Country Garden" can be traced back to the 18th century. The song is believed to have originated in Devon or Cornwall and is thought to have been written for "Morris Dancing," a choreographed English folk dance based on rhythmic stepping and the use of sticks, handkerchiefs, or swords. The lyrics were written by an unknown author, but the melody was derived from an older tune known as "The Dumble Derry."

In the 19th century, the song gained wider recognition when it was published in 1810 by Thomas Hardy. The collection was titled *Popular Music of the Olden Time* and included several versions of "English Country Garden." From there, it became a popular folk song and was spread across the British Isles.

The first recorded version of "English Country Garden" was released in 1918 by Percy Grainger. It quickly gained popularity, especially among the upper classes, as it was chosen to be performed at concerts and events. By the 20th century, it had become an iconic folk song, and it is still widely known today.

The lyrics of "English Country Garden" evoke a sense of nostalgia for the beauty of nature and the peacefulness of rural life. The song is also symbolic of England's pastoral heritage, with references to daffodils, hearts-ease, and other phlox. It serves as a reminder of the beauty that can be found in small moments; even if we can't escape our daily lives and take a trip to the countryside, we can still appreciate the stunning scenery of the English Country Garden.

# English Country Garden

England  
Arr: Gilbert DeBenedetti

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system covers measures 1-4, the second covers measures 5-8, the third covers measures 9-12, and the fourth covers measures 13-16. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

How ma - ny kinds of sweet flo - wers grow In an Eng - lish coun - try gar - den?  
We'll tell you now of some that we know Those we miss you'll sure - ly par - don.

Daf - fo - dils, hearts - ease and phlox, Mea - dow - sweet and la - dy smocks,

Gen - tian, lu - pin, tall hol - ly - hocks, Ro - ses, fox - gloves, — snow - drops,

for - get - me - nots, In an Eng - lish coun - try gar - den.

## [Verse 2]

How many insects come here and go  
In an English country garden?  
We'll tell you now of some that we know  
Those we miss you'll surely pardon  
Fireflies, moths, gnats and bees  
Spiders climbing in the trees  
Butterflies drift in the gentle breeze  
There are snakes, ants that sting  
And other creeping things  
In an English country garden

## [Verse 3]

How many songbirds fly to and fro  
In an English country garden?  
We'll tell you now of some that we know  
Those we miss you'll surely pardon  
Bobolink, cuckoo and quail  
Tanager and cardinal  
Bluebird, lark, thrush and nightingale  
There is joy in the spring  
When the birds begin to sing  
In an English country garden