Time May Steal the Roses

By Kathryn Davidson

Time may steal the roses, darling,
From thy cheeks so fair and bright,
And the roses, like thy golden locks,
Lose the radiance of their light.

Beauty cannot last for ever,
Haste to taste the little hour,
When we must part, then they will be,
More than all the world to me.

Time may steal away the roses,
From us darling, one by one,
But the flower of love shall cheer us,
Till our journey here is done.

Time may steal the roses, darling,
From the garden of the heart,
And the beauty of their presence
Ever more from us depart.

Shadows dark may fall around us,
Till life’s sad scene,
Still whatever may betide us,
Fond and constant I will be.

Time may steal the roses, darling,
From our pathway where we slope,
Leaving naught to bloomy dower us,
But the little flower of hope.

Yet, my love, in joy or sorrow,
If you’ll always treat me so,
You shall know no sad to-morrow,
Happy we will see each other.

[Chorus]

Time may steal the roses, darling,
From the garden of the heart,
And the beauty of their presence
Ever more from us depart.

Shadows dark may fall around us,
Till life’s sad scene,
Still whatever may betide us,
Fond and constant I will be.

[Chorus]
The Full English

The Full English was a unique nationwide project unlocking hidden treasures of England’s cultural heritage by making over 58,000 original source documents from 12 major folk collectors available to the world via a ground-breaking nationwide digital archive and learning project. The project was led by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and in partnership with other cultural partners across England.

The Full English digital archive (www.vwml.org) continues to provide access to thousands of records detailing traditional folk songs, music, dances, customs and traditions that were collected from across the country. Some of these are known widely, others have lain dormant in notebooks and files within archives for decades.

The Full English learning programme worked across the country in 19 different schools including primary, secondary and special educational needs settings. It also worked with a range of cultural partners across England, organising community, family and adult learning events. Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, the National Folk Music Fund and The Folklore Society.

Explore The Full English digital archive

www.vwml.org

Discover more learning resources

wwwefdss.org/resourcebank

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The National Lottery
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Written by: Kathryn Davidson

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Arranger's notes

I found this song on The Full English digital archive (www.vwml.org) and it existed as a broadsheet, a lyric page, collected by Frank Kidson.

I wrote the melody and arranged the piece as part of The Full English Community Choir day held at Sage Gateshead in 2014. I've left dynamics up to each choir leader as you'll give it your own stamp and flare.

The structure is:

- Chorus
- Chorus
- Verse 1
- Chorus
- Verse 2
- Chorus
- Verse 3
- Chorus
- Chorus

Tenors should sing the third line for the chorus and whilst it's written down the octave please feel free to sing it up the octave or split octave depending on what you like. I hope you enjoy it.

Kathryn Davidson

Kathryn is Folk Strand Leader for Sage Gateshead’s Learning and Participation department and holds a degree in Folk and Traditional Music from Newcastle University. Nationally sought-after as a choir leader and vocal tutor, her approach is flexible and tailored to her pupils. As a choir leader she creates bespoke arrangements of folk songs, often from her native Northumberland. Her debut solo album The Lass will Not Learn was released in 2012 and she codirects the Folkworks Adult Summer Schools. Kathryn worked on two schools projects for The Full English, and also ran a community choir event at Sage Gateshead drawing on material from The Full English digital archive.
Time May Steal The Roses

Collected by Frank Kidson, on broadside (lyric sheet)
www.vwml.org/record/FK/9/58/2
Roud number: V15610 Words trad.- Music by Kathryn Davidson

Chorus - sing twice to begin
Time may steal away the roses
From us darling, one by one
But the flower of love shall cheer us,
Till our journey here is done

Time may steal the roses, darling,
From thy cheeks so fair and bright
And they eyes, 'neath golden lashes,
Lose the raidience of their light.
Beauty cannot last for ever,
Brightest hours from us must flee,
Still you will be ever darling
More than all the world to me

Chorus

Time may steal the roses, darling
From the pathway down life's slope,
Leaving naught to bless and cheer us,
But the little flower of hope;
Yet my love, in joy or sorrow,
If you'll always trust in me
You shall know no sad tomorrow,
Happy we will ever be.

Double Chorus to end

Chorus

Time may steal the roses, darling
From the garden of the heart
And the beauty of their presence
Ever more from us depart;
Shadows dark may fall around us,
Drifting over life's sad sea,
Still whatever may betide us,
Fond and constant I will be.

Chorus
Time May Steal The Roses

Collected by Frank Kidson, on broadside (lyric sheet)

www.vwml.org/record/FK/9/58/2

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Music by Kathryn Davidson

1.

Swung

Time may steal away the roses, from us darling, one by one. But the

2.

Time may steal away the roses, from us darling, one by one. But the

3.

Steal away the roses, from us darling, one by one. But the

4.

flower of love shall cheer us, 'til our journey here is done. Time may done

5.

flower of love shall cheer us, 'til our journey here is done. Time may done.

6.

flower of love shall cheer us, 'til our journey here is done. Time may done.

7.

1. Time may steal the roses, darling, from thy cheeks so fair and bright, and thy

8.

Ooo...

9.

Ooo...
eyes, 'neath golden lashes, loose the radiance of their light. Beauty

can not last for ever, brightest hours from us must flee, still you

will be ever, darling, more than all the world to me Time may

Chorus
steal away the roses, from us darling, one by one. But the

steal away the roses, from us darling, one by one. But the

Steal away the roses, from us darling, one by one. But the

flower of love shall cheer us, 'til our journey here is done.

flower of love shall cheer us, 'til our journey here is done.

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