

# GREENSLEEVES

from the Opera

'SIR JOHN IN LOVE'

Words Traditional

Folk-tune arranged by  
R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

Andante moderato (2 slow beats)

'A - las, my love,— you do me wrong to

Andante moderato (2 slow beats)

*p* *pp*

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in G minor, 6/8 time, with a tempo marking of 'Andante moderato (2 slow beats)'. It begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics 'A - las, my love,— you do me wrong to'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment, also in G minor and 6/8 time, with a tempo marking of 'Andante moderato (2 slow beats)'. It features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand, with dynamic markings of *p* and *pp*.

cast me off— dis - cour-teous-ly, And I have lov - é d you so long,— de -

Detailed description: This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff continues the vocal line with the lyrics 'cast me off— dis - cour-teous-ly, And I have lov - é d you so long,— de -'. The bottom staff continues the piano accompaniment, maintaining the same tempo and key signature.

light - ing in— your com-pan-y Green - sleeves was all my joy,—

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of music. The top staff concludes the vocal line with the lyrics 'light - ing in— your com-pan-y Green - sleeves was all my joy,—'. The bottom staff concludes the piano accompaniment.

\* Folk-tune 'Greensleeves'

Greensleeves was my de-light, Greensleeves was my heart of gold, and whobut my la - dy

Green - sleeves. —

2 I have been ready at your hand,  
to grant what ever you would crave;  
I have both waged life and land,  
your love and good will for to have.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

3 I bought thee kerchers to thy head,  
that were wrought fine and gallantly;  
I kept thee both at board and bed,  
which cost my purse well favouredly.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

4 I bought thee petticoats of the best,  
the cloth so fine as fine might be;  
I gave thee jewels for thy chest;  
and all this cost I spent on thee.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

5 Thy girdle of gold so red,  
with pearls bedecked sumptuously;  
The like no other lasses had,  
and yet thou wouldest not love me.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

6 Thy crimson stockings, all of silk,  
with gold all wrought above the knee;  
Thy pumps, as white as was the milk;  
and yet thou wouldst not love me.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

7 Thy gown was of the grassy green,  
thy sleeves of satin hanging by,  
Which made thee be our harvest queen;  
and yet thou wouldst not love me.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

8 Thy garters fringed with the gold,  
and silver aglets hanging by,  
Which made thee blithe for to behold;  
and yet thou wouldst not love me.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

9 Thou couldst desire no earthly thing,  
but still thou hadst it readily:  
Thy music still to play and sing;  
and yet thou wouldst not love me.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

10 And who did pay for all this gear,  
that thou didst spend when pleased thee?  
Even I that am rejected here;  
and thou disdainest to love me.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

11 Well, I will pray to God on high,  
that thou my constancy may'st see;  
For I am still thy lover true;  
come once again, and love me.  
Greensleeves was all my joy, etc.

Version from Clement Robinson's *A Handfull of Pleasant Delites*. 1584. (The spelling modernized.)