

# The willow song

Robert Johnson

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The poor soul sat sigh- ing  
 sighed in his sing- ing,  
 fresh streams ran by him,  
 all you for- sa- ken  
 Love no more boast her  
 fair and more false, -  
 no- bo- dy chide her,  
 this for my fare- well

10

by a sy- ca- more tree, Sing wil- low, wil- low, wil- low  
 and - made a great moan,  
 and - mur- mur'd his moans,  
 and - mourn you with me;  
 in - pa- lace nor bow'r,  
 I - died with thy wound,  
 her - frowns I ap- prove,  
 and - la- test a- dieu,

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With his hand in his - bo- som and his head up- on his knee. O  
 I am dead to all - plea- sure; my - true love she is gone.  
 His - salt tears fell - from him, and - soft- - 'ned the stones.  
 Who - speaks of a - false love, mine's - fals- - er than she.  
 It - buds but it - blast- eth, ere - - it be a flower.  
 Thou hast lost the tru- est lo- ver that - goes up- on the ground.  
 She was born to be - false - and - I to die for love.  
 Write - this on my - tomb, that in love I - was true.

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wil- low, wil- low, wil- low, wil- low, O wil- low, wil- low, wil- low, wil- low shall

The first system features a vocal line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Below the vocal line is a multi-staff accompaniment with five staves. The notes are represented by letters: 'a', 'b', 'e', and 'r'. Some letters are placed on specific lines or spaces of the staves, while others are placed below the staves. Vertical bar lines align with the vocal line.

25

be my gar- land. Sing all a green wil- low, wil- low, wil- low wil- low, Ay

The second system continues the vocal line from the first system. The lyrics are "be my gar- land. Sing all a green wil- low, wil- low, wil- low wil- low, Ay". The accompaniment continues with letter-based notes on five staves, maintaining the same notation style as the first system.

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me! the green - wil- low must be my gar- land. He land.  
 The  
 Come  
 Let  
 Thou  
 Let  
 Take

The third system concludes the piece. The lyrics are "me! the green - wil- low must be my gar- land. He land." followed by a list of words: "The", "Come", "Let", "Thou", "Let", "Take". The musical notation includes first and second endings for the final phrase. The accompaniment uses letter-based notes on five staves, with first and second endings clearly marked.