

Six Welsh Folk Songs (2008) for two guitars

Dafydd y Garreg Wen
Wrth fynd hefo Deio i Dywyn
Suo-gân
Lliw Gwyn Rhosyn yr Haf
Lisa Lân
Hela'r 'Sgyfarnog

This set of *Six Welsh Folk Songs* for two guitars was assembled for the Welsh-Argentine Guitar Duo in 2008. The duo had been performing three settings that I originally made for voice and guitar in 1991, and they asked me to set some more for their recent tour of South America.

I tried to keep my settings uncluttered, so that the simple beauty and individual character of each folk song melody would not be lost.

The 18th Century harpist and composer David Owen was known locally as *Dafydd y Garreg Wen* (*David of the White Rock*) after the farm near Morfa Bychan that was his home. According to folklore, Owen called for his harp as he lay on his death bed and composed this haunting melody. The words were added a century later by John Ceiriog Hughes.

Lisa Lân (*Fair Lisa*) is a lover's lament for the Lisa. The heartsick lover asks Lisa to guide him to where she is, so that they may be reunited in death. In contrast *Lliw Gwyn Rhosyn yr Haf* is a joyous love song dedicated to the white rose of summer. *Suo Gân* simply means lullaby, although this seemingly comforting melody is tinged with melancholy. *Hela'r 'Sgyfarnog* (*Hunting the Hare*) is a lively hunting song and *Wrth fynd hefo Deio i Dywyn* is all about a shopping trip to Tywyn (with Deio).

The first performance of *Six Welsh Folk Songs* was given by the Welsh-Argentine Guitar Duo at The Minster, Axminster, Devon, on the 12th July 2008. The score is published by Cadenza Music www.cadenza-music.com

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