

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING

1912

Which is the best known Irish song? Is it "My Wild Irish Rose" or "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling"? Take your pick. Each one is well known to almost everyone and is perfect for spontaneous harmonizing, especially around March 17.

George Graff, a New Yorker, wrote lyrics for many songwriters of the time, but, interestingly, he made his living in a business unrelated to music. It is said that the idea for this song was suggested by Chauncey Olcott, one of the greatest interpreters of Irish songs. Ernest Ball contributed music for many great songs, including "Will You Love Me In December As You Do In May?" "Love Me And The World Is Mine," "Mother Machree," "Dear Little Boy Of Mine" and "Let The Rest Of The World Go By."

As long as there is a March 17, we will be hearing this fine Irish song.

Words by **GEORGE GRAFF, Jr. and CHAUNCEY OLCOTT**
(1886-) (1858-1932)

Music by **ERNEST R. BALL**
(1878-1927)

VERSE:

There's a tear in your eye, and I'm wonder-ing why, for it

nev - er should be there at all. at all. With such

9 10 11 12

pow'r in your smile, sure a stone you'd be - guile, so there's

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. The vocal line features a melody with lyrics: 'pow'r in your smile, sure a stone you'd be - guile, so there's'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the bass line.

13 14 15 16

nev - er a tear - drop should fall. should fall. When your

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 through 16. The music continues in G major and 8/8 time. The vocal line lyrics are: 'nev - er a tear - drop should fall. should fall. When your'. There is a fermata over measure 15. The piano accompaniment includes a bass line with a fermata in measure 15.

17 18 19 20

sweet lilt - ing laugh - ter's like some fair - y song and your

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17 through 20. The music continues in G major and 8/8 time. The vocal line lyrics are: 'sweet lilt - ing laugh - ter's like some fair - y song and your'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes.

21 22 23 24

eyes twin - kle bright as can be; can be; You should

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 21 through 24. The music continues in G major and 8/8 time. The vocal line lyrics are: 'eyes twin - kle bright as can be; can be; You should'. There is a fermata over measure 23. The piano accompaniment includes a bass line with a fermata in measure 23.

25 26 27 28

laugh all the while and all oth - er times smile, and now

8

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25 through 28. The music continues in G major and 8/8 time. The vocal line lyrics are: 'laugh all the while and all oth - er times smile, and now'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes.

for me. CHORUS:

29 30 31 32

8 smile a smile for me. for me. When

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29 through 32. The music is in a key with two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The vocal line starts with a half note G4 in measure 29, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5 in measures 30, 31, and 32 respectively. The piano accompaniment consists of chords: G2-B2-D3 in measure 29, and G2-B2-D3, G2-B2-D3, and G2-B2-D3 in measures 30, 31, and 32. The lyrics are "smile a smile for me. for me. When".

33 34 35 36

8 I - rish eyes are smil - ing Sure it's

Detailed description: This system contains measures 33 through 36. The vocal line has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in measures 33, 34, 35, and 36. The piano accompaniment has chords: G2-B2-D3, G2-B2-D3, G2-B2-D3, and G2-B2-D3 in measures 33, 34, 35, and 36. The lyrics are "I - rish eyes are smil - ing Sure it's".

37 38 39 40

8 like a morn in spring. in spring. In the

Detailed description: This system contains measures 37 through 40. The vocal line has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in measures 37, 38, 39, and 40. The piano accompaniment has chords: G2-B2-D3, G2-B2-D3, G2-B2-D3, and G2-B2-D3 in measures 37, 38, 39, and 40. The lyrics are "like a morn in spring. in spring. In the".

41 42 43 44

8 lilt of I - rish laugh - ter you can

Detailed description: This system contains measures 41 through 44. The vocal line has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in measures 41, 42, 43, and 44. The piano accompaniment has chords: G2-B2-D3, G2-B2-D3, G2-B2-D3, and G2-B2-D3 in measures 41, 42, 43, and 44. The lyrics are "lilt of I - rish laugh - ter you can".

45 46 47 48

8 hear the an - gels sing. When

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45 through 48. The vocal line has quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5 in measures 45, 46, 47, and 48. The piano accompaniment has chords: G2-B2-D3, G2-B2-D3, G2-B2-D3, and G2-B2-D3 in measures 45, 46, 47, and 48. The lyrics are "hear the an - gels sing. When".

49 50 51 52 53

I - rish hearts are hap - py, All the world seems

54 55 56 57 58

bright and gay; so gay; And when I - rish eyes are

59 60 61 62 63

smil - ing, Sure they steal your heart a - way.

64 65 66 67 68

TAG: Sure they steal your heart a - way. a - way.

Additional verse:

For your smile is a part of the love in your heart,
 And it makes even sunshine more bright.
 Like the linnet's sweet song, crooning all the day long,
 Comes your laughter so tender and light.
 For the springtime of life is the sweetest of all;
 There is ne'er a real care or regret;
 And while springtime is ours throughout all of youth's hours,
 Let us smile each chance we get.