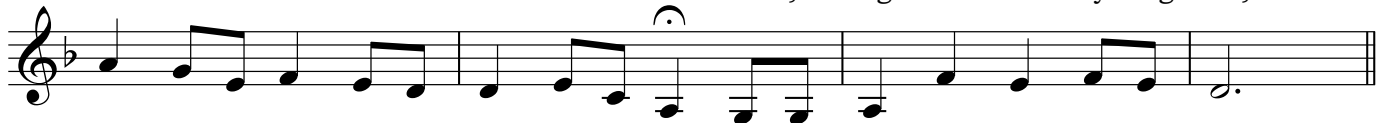


Bushes and Briars

andante - freely *Women's voices*



Through bush-es and through bri - ars I late - ly took my_ way All_
 I o - ver-heard my own true love, Her voice it rang so_ clear, Long
 Some-times I am un - eas - y, And troub-led in my_ mind. Some
 And if I should go to my love, My love he will say_ nay. If I
 I can-not think the reas - on, Young wo - men love young men, For_



for to_ hear the_ small birds sing and the lambs to_ skip and_ play.
 time have_ I been_ wait - ing_ for_ The com - ing of my_ dear.
 times I_ think I'll go to my_ love, And tell to him my_ mind.
 show to_ him my_ bold - en - ness, He'll ne'er love me a - gain.
 they are_ so false - hear - ted, Young wo - men to be - guile.

Refrain

S/A



All_ for to_ hear the_ small birds sing and the lambs to_ skip and_ play.
 Long time have I been wait ing_ for_ The com - ing of my_ dear.
 Some times I_ think I'll go to my_ love, And tell to him my_ mind.
 If I show to_ him my_ bold en - ness, He'll ne'er love me a - gain.
 For_ they are_ so false - hear - ted, Young wo - men to be - guile.

T

B



Sung by Charles Potiphar, Ingrave Essex, 4 December, 1903;
 text completed from broadside version by W S Fortey, of Seven Dials.

RVW noted the tune in 3/4 with pause marks over some of the notes, indicating that it was probably sung in an irregular rhythm. We have rationalised this into 4/4 time, which is how the song is sung by many singers nowadays. RVW said at the time: 'It is impossible to reproduce the free rhythm and subtle portamento effects of this beautiful tune in ordinary notation'.

This was the first song that RVW heard on his first ever trip to collect folk songs. He had been invited to Ingrave Rectory by the Misses Georgiana and Florence Heatley, daughters of the rector. They had heard him lecture on folksong in Brentwood earlier in the year and wanted to show him that the folk singing tradition was alive and well in their parish. At the rectory he was introduced to Charles Potiphar who agreed to sing for him at his home the next morning. RVW duly visited and was able to note down the tunes and some of the words of 7 songs that Charles Potiphar sang for him. The first of these was Bushes and Briars. RVW later wrote: 'An old man began to sing a song which puts all my thoughts about folksong at rest.' According to Ursula VW, when he heard it he 'felt it was something he had known all his life'.