



Five English Folk Songs

No. 3

Just as the Tide
Was Flowing

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Note in original publication:

NOTE– The words in this ballad have been slightly revised.

One morning in the month of May,
Down by some rolling river,
A jolly sailor, I did stray,
When I beheld my lover.
She carelessly along did stray,
A-picking of the daisies gay;
And sweetly sang her roundelay,
Just as the tide was flowing.

O! her dress, it was so white as milk,
And jewels did adorn her;
Her shoes were made of the crimson silk,
Just like some lady of honour.
Her cheeks were red, her eyes were brown,
Her hair in ringlets hanging down;
She'd a lovely brow without a frown,
Just as the tide was flowing.

I made a bow and said, "Fair Maid,
How came you here so early;
My heart by you, it is betrayed,
For I do love you dearly.
I am a sailor come by sea,
If you will accept of my company
To walk and view the fishes play,"
Just as the tide was flowing.

No more was said, but on our way
We ganged along together;
The small birds sang, and the lambs did play,
And pleasant was the weather.
When we were weary, we did sit down
Beneath a tree with branches round;
For my true love at last I'd found,
Just as the tide was flowing.

Traditional

Just as the Tide Was Flowing

RVW

Allegro vivace ♩ = 160

S
A
T
B

Down by some roll - ing
Down by some roll - ing
One morn - ing in the month of May, Down by some roll - ing
One morn - ing in the month of May, Down by some roll - ing

mf *risoluto*

mf *risoluto*

mf *risoluto*

mf *risoluto*

S
A
T
B

riv - er, _____ When I be - held my
riv - er, _____ When I be - held my
riv - er, _____ A jol - ly sail - or, I did stray, When I be - held my
riv - er, _____ A jol - ly sail - or, I did stray, When I be - held my

Just as the Tide Was Flowing

8

S lov - er. _____

A lov - er. _____ Ah, _____

T lov - er. _____ She care - less - ly a - long did stray, A -

B lov - er. _____ She care - less - ly a - long did stray, A -

11

S _____ *mf* And _____ sweet - ly sang her

A Ah, _____ *mf* And sweet - ly sang her

T pick - ing _____ of the dais - ies _____ gay; And sweet - ly sang _____ her

B pick - ing of the dais - ies _____ gay; And sweet - ly sang her

14

S roun - de - lay, Just _____ as the tide _____ was flow - ing.

A roun - de - lay, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

T roun - de - lay, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

B roun - de - lay, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

Just as the Tide Was Flowing

S *mf* *leggiero*
O! her dress, it was so white as milk, Ah,

A *mf* *leggiero*
O! her dress, it was so white as milk, Ah,

T *mf* *leggiero*
And jew - els did a -

B *mf* *leggiero*
And jew - els did a -

20
S Her shoes were made of the crim - son silk, Ah,

A Her shoes were made of the crim - son silk, Ah,

T 8
dorn her; Just

B dorn her; Just

23
S *p* *leggiero*
Her cheeks were red, her

A *p* *leggiero*
Her cheeks were red, her

T 8
like some la - dy of hon - - - - our.

B
like some la - dy of hon - our.

Just as the Tide Was Flowing

26

S eyes were brown, Her hair in ring - lets hang - ing down; She'd a *poco f*

A eyes were brown, Her hair in ring - lets hang - ing down; She'd a *poco f*

T She'd a love - ly

B She'd a love - ly

29

S love - ly brow with - out a frown, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

A love - ly brow with - out a frown, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

T *poco f* brow with - out a frown, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

B *poco f* brow with - out a frown, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

S *mf* I made a bow and said, "Fair Maid, How came you here so

A *mf* I made a bow and said, "How came you here so

T *mf* I made a bow and said, "How came you here so

B *mf* I made a bow and said, "How came you here so

Just as the Tide Was Flowing

36

S ear - ly; My heart by you, it is be - tray'd, For

A ear - ly; My heart, it is be - tray'd, For

T ear - ly; My heart, it is be - tray'd, For

B ear - ly; My heart, it is be - tray'd, For

39

S I do love you dear - ly. I am a sail - or come from sea, If

A I do love you dear - ly. I am a sail - or come by sea, If

T I do love you dear - ly. I am a sail - or come from sea, If

B I do love you dear - ly. I am a sail - or come from sea, If

43

S you will ac-cept of my com - pa - ny To walk and

A you will ac-cept of my com - pa - ny To walk and

T you will ac-cept of my com - pa - ny To walk and

B you will ac-cept of my com - pa - ny To walk and view the

Just as the Tide Was Flowing

46

S view the fish - es play, I *sempre f*

A view the fish - es play, I *sempre f*

T view the fish - es play, I *sempre f*

B fish - es play," Just as the tide was flow - - -

49

S am a sail - or come from sea, If you will ac - cept my

A am a sail - or come from sea," Just as the

T am a sail - or come from sea," Just as the

B

52

S com - pa - ny," Just as the tide was flow - - -

A tide was flow - ing, was flow - ing, was *sempre f*

T tide was flow - - -

B ing, was flow - ing, was flow - ing, was

Just as the Tide Was Flowing

55 *sempre f*

S ing, was flow ing, was flow ing, was

A flow ing, was flow ing

T *sempre f*
ing, was flow ing, was flow ing, was

B flow ing, was flow ing, was flow ing

58 *rit.* *a tempo* *ff*

S flow ing. No

A ing. No

T flow ing. No

B ing, was flow ing. No

62

S more was said, but on our way We gang'd a long to

A more was said, but on our way We gang'd a long to

T more was said, but on our way We gang'd a long to

B more was said, but on our way We gang'd a long to

Just as the Tide Was Flowing

65

S
geth - er; The small birds sang, and the lambs did play, And

A
geth - er; The small birds sang, and the lambs did play, And

T
geth - er; The small birds sang, and the lambs did play, And

B
geth - er; The small birds sang, and the lambs did play, And

68

S
pleas - ant was the weath - er. When we were wear - y, we

A
pleas - ant was the weath - er. Ah, Ah,

T
pleas - ant was the weath - er. Ah, Ah,

B
pleas - ant was the weath - er. When we were wear - y, we

71

S
did sit down Be - neath a tree with branch - es round; For

A
Ah, For

T
Ah, For

B
did sit down Be - neath a tree with branch - es round; For

Just as the Tide Was Flowing

74

S
my true love at last I'd found, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

A
my true love at last I'd found, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

T
my true love at last I'd found, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

B
my true love at last I'd found, Just as the tide was flow - ing.

molto rall.

Stainer & Bell
(1913)

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