

The Banks of Sweet Primroses

As I walked out one mid-summ-er morn-ing — To view the fields — and to take the air —
Down by the banks of the sweet prim-roses — There I be-held — a most love-ly girl.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

2. 'Twas three long steps I took up to her
Not knowing her as she passed me by,
I stepped up to her, thinking to view her,
She seemed to me like some virtuous bride.
3. He says "Young maid, where are you going?
And what's the cause of all your grief?
I'll make you as happy as any lady
If you will grant me some small relief"
4. "Begone! Begone! You're quite deceitful!
You've been a wicked man, 'tis plain
'Tis you that has caused my poor heart to ponder
To give me comfort is all in vain.
5. "For I'll go down to some lonesome valley
Where no man on earth shall there me find
Where the pretty little small birds shall change their voices
At every moment blow blusterous wind."
6. So it's all young maids that goes a-courting
Pray give attention to what I say,
There's many a dark and a cloudy morning
Turns out to be a bright and sunny day.

Source: Emily Bishop, Bromsberrow Heath, 13th October 1952, collected by Peter Kennedy