

THE FLOWER OF MAGHERALLY

One pleas - ant sum - mer's morn - ing when —
 all the flowers were spring-ing O! Nat - ure was a -
 dorn - ing and the wee birds sweet - ly sing-ing O!
 I — met my love near Ban - bridge Town, — my
 charm-ing blue-eyed Sall-y O! She's the queen of the
 Coun - ty Down and the Flower of Magh-er - all-y O!

With admiration I did gaze upon this blue-eyed maiden O!
 Adam wasn't half so much plazed when hé met Evé in Eden O!
 Her skin was like the lily white that grows in yonder valley O!
 She's my queen and my heart's delight and the flower of Magherally O!

Her yellow hair in ringlets clung, her shoes were Spanish leather O!
 Her bonnet with blue ribbons strung, her scarlet cap and feather O!
 Like Venus bright she did appear, my charming blue-eyed Sally O!
 She's the girl that I love dear, the flower of Magherally O!

I hope the day will surely come when we'll join hands together O!
 It's then I'll bring my darling home in spite of wind and weather O!
 And let them all say what they will and let them reel and rally O!
 For I shall wed the girl I love, she's the flower of Magherally O!

63 Twenty five Irish Songs

Whoever wrote this song was really in love with a girl from Magherally. Unlike many country poets he had no time for the Classical apparatus of the *Aisling* and the *Reverdie*, nor did he ever deviate from his love-theme into that praise of the local countryside which characterizes so many of our love songs. The tale of his encounter with the lovely Sally is simply told in the first verse and the rest of the song is devoted to her beauty, to his expression of his love for her and his determination to marry her. That he anticipated widespread opposition to the marriage is neatly implied in the last verse.

I learned the words and air given here from my father's singing. Other versions with different tunes are given in the *Sam Henry Collection* (Vol 1, No 220, p.196) and in *Irish Street Ballads* (No 59, p. 118). My father's version with Piano Accompaniment has been published in the *Paterson Irish Song Book*, arranged by Redmond Friel.

This tune is in the Irish eight-note scale.

Cathal McConnell:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iH-zwwGLeBQ>

Rita Gallagher:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02pNAvsWp6E>

Frank Harte:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmENo9mWdLc>

Marianne McAleer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySs6thnwoY4>

Kevin Conneff:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA_K2RWYszk

Brigid O'Neill:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8YB96Q-dyc>

David Ingerson:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsvxbMbC8ko>