



Sample E





Sample E

Background Information

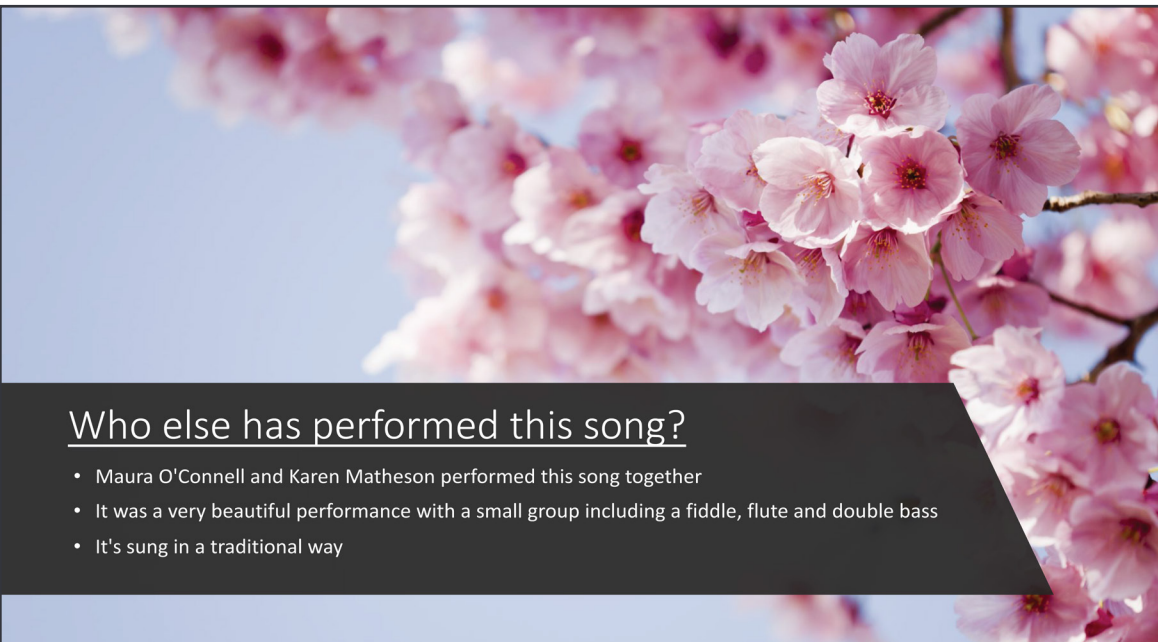
- In 1899 W. B. Yeats wrote a poem based on a fragment of an old song he had heard years before, probably the Irish ballad "The Rambling Boys of Pleasure". Yeats' poem, "Down By the Sally (or Salley) Gardens", is a rather tender reminiscence of youthful love. It was put to music in about 1909 by Herbert Hughes using an adaptation of the melody of an older Irish folk tune, "The Moorlough Shore". This same tune has been used in more than its fair share of folk music. Its origin is unknown — it first appeared in print only a few years before Yeats published this poem.
- Down by the Salley Gardens tells the story of a young man who falls in love with a girl but loses her because he tries to push the relationship on too quick. The lyrics were originally written by W. B. Yeats as a poem. The music was then added to it later by Herbert Hughes
- Salley means Willow so the Salley gardens is an area where Willows were grown which were used for making thatched roofs

My Favourite Part

- "She bid me take life easy, as the grass grows on the weirs But I was young and foolish, and now am full of tears"
- I like this part of the song because it shows the heartbreak of the man in the story and captures the theme of the poem well
- I like performing the B phrase because the rhythm and melody is different to the rest of the song



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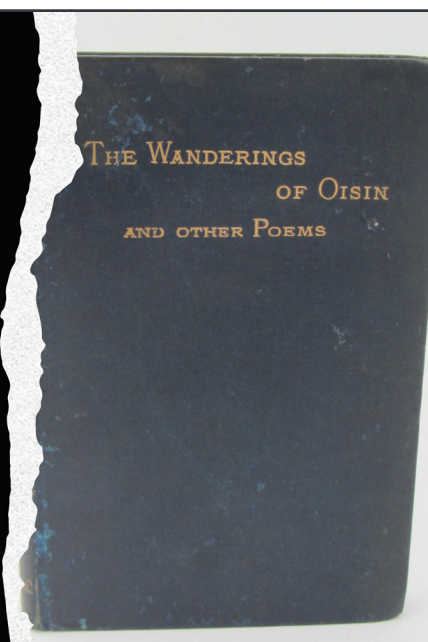


Who else has performed this song?

- Maura O'Connell and Karen Matheson performed this song together
- It was a very beautiful performance with a small group including a fiddle, flute and double bass
- It's sung in a traditional way

Interesting Facts

- I learned that Down by the Sally Gardens was published by W. B. Yeats in The Wanderings of Oisín and Other Poems in 1889



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- On the 20th of December 2020 Ed Sheeran returned to social media after having taken an extended break from public life to announce his new single. "Hey guys. Afterglow is a song I wrote last year that I wanted to release for you". He explained that the song is "not the first single from the next album" but just a song he loves. The song is thought to be about his trip to Antarctica with his wife Cherry Seaborn
- It was released on 21 December 2020 as a Christmas gift to his fans. Afterglow was the first song released by Ed Sheeran in 18 months



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Who else has performed this song?

- Ellie Rose has covered Afterglow and she is one of my favourites because I think her voice is very soft and rich
- Another reason why I love her cover so much is because she made it her own and didn't sing it exactly like Ed Sheeran
 - It is performed with a piano as the backing instead of a guitar
- Although the two versions were different the tempo stayed the same (Andante)

My Favourite Part

- I like performing the part in the second verse where Ed Sheeran sings "The weather outside's changing
The leaves are buried under six inches
of white"
- I like this part because the guitar in the background is being strummed more adding to the intensity.





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Interesting Facts

- Ed Sheeran co-wrote Afterglow with former Evanescence member David Hodges who contributed to the writing of three tracks on California including this song
- An afterglow can refer to the glow frequently seen in the sky after the sun has set

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TEACHER ANNOTATIONS USING THE FEATURES OF QUALITY

The annotations capture observations by the teacher, using the features of quality, with a view to establishing the level of achievement this work reflects. The annotations and judgments were confirmed by a Quality Assurance group, consisting of practising teachers and representatives of the NCCA, the Inspectorate, the State Exams Commission and the Junior Cycle for Teachers support service.

TEACHER ANNOTATIONS

This programme note provides adequate detail relating to the purpose of the compositions and the context in which both pieces were written. We are offered detailed information on the historical background of 'Down by the Salley Garden', including the origins of the text and the melody. In 'Afterglow' we are given details on the reason for the writing of the song and the meaning of the title.

While the student offers some biographical details of the songwriters, further detail would be helpful and would help to improve the note.

Some adequate aural signposts provide an insight and some support to the audience. However, the note would have benefitted by some further details on, for example, how the B phrase in the Salley Gardens is different to the other phrases, and in Afterglow, more detail could be offered on features unique to a contemporary pop style. These elaborations would offer a more meaningful interpretation of what the student is saying.

OVERALL JUDGEMENT:



In line with expectations