

# The Ash Grove

arranged by  
**John Riggio**

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P. O. Box 26627  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

# The Ash Grove

Traditional Welsh  
arr. John Riggio

MEDIEVAL CELTIC DANCE (♩=128)

SOLO, OPT. *mf*

5

Down yon - der green—  
at the bright—

*mf*

+PENNY WHISTLE *F*

+GUITAR 2ND TIME,  
FIDDLE WITH MELODY

val - ley where stream - lets me - an - der. When  
noon - tide in sol - i - tude wan - der, A -

*B<sup>b</sup>/F* *C/F*

twi - light is fad - ing, I pen - sive - ly rove. Or  
mid the dark shades of the lone - ly ash

*F* *B<sup>b</sup>/F* *C/F* *F*

10

1.

# The Ash Grove

2.

(17) +PIANO OSTINATO

ALL

grove. \_\_\_\_\_ Down

*F* *F (ADD 9)*

+DRUMS

Detailed description: This system contains the first 17 measures of the piece. It features a vocal line with a long note on 'grove.' followed by a rest and then 'Down'. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note ostinato in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand. Chords *F* and *F (ADD 9)* are indicated above the piano part. A drum entry is marked '+DRUMS' at measure 17.

I  
yon - der green - val - ley where stream - lets me - an - der. When  
ash grove, how - grace - ful, how plain - ly 'tis speak - ing. The

II (OPT.)  
SING 2ND TIME ONLY *mf*  
How - grace - ful, how plain - ly 'tis speak - ing.

+STRING PAD *F* *Bb/F* *C/F*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 18-21. It features two vocal parts, I and II (optional). Part I has the lyrics 'yon - der green - val - ley where stream - lets me - an - der. When ash grove, how - grace - ful, how plain - ly 'tis speak - ing. The'. Part II has the lyrics 'How - grace - ful, how plain - ly 'tis speak - ing.'. The piano accompaniment continues with the ostinato. Chords *F*, *Bb/F*, and *C/F* are indicated. A '+STRING PAD' instruction is present above the piano part.

I  
twi - light is - fad - ing, I pen - sive - ly rove. Or  
wind through it play - ing has lan - guage for me. When

II  
The - wind - through it has lan - guage for me.

*F* *Bb/F* *C/F* *F*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 22-25. It features two vocal parts, I and II. Part I has the lyrics 'twi - light is - fad - ing, I pen - sive - ly rove. Or wind through it play - ing has lan - guage for me. When'. Part II has the lyrics 'The - wind - through it has lan - guage for me.'. The piano accompaniment continues with the ostinato. Chords *F*, *Bb/F*, *C/F*, and *F* are indicated.

29

# The Ash Grove

I  
 at the bright noon - tide in sol - i - tude wan - der, A -  
 o - ver its bran - ches the sun - light is break - ing, A

II  
 When o - ver bran - ches the sun - light breaks.

*B<sup>b</sup>/F* *C/F*

I  
 mid the dark shades of the lone ly ash grove. 'Tis  
 host of kind fa - ces is gaz - ing at me. The

II  
 A host of fa - ces is gaz - ing at me. The

*F* *B<sup>b</sup>/F* *C/F* *F*

37

I  
 there where the black - bird is cheer - ful - ly sing - ing. Each  
 friends of my child - hood a - gain are be - fore me. Each

II  
 friends of my child - hood a - gain are be - fore me. Each

*F* *G<sup>m</sup>1* *A<sup>7</sup>/C<sup>#</sup>*

# The Ash Grove

I  
 war - bler — en - chants with his notes from a tree. O  
 step wakes — a — mem - 'ry as free - ly I roam. With

II  
 step wakes — a — mem - 'ry as free - ly I roam.

*Dmi F C/E Dmi C G C*

45

I  
 then lit - tle — think I of sor - row — or — sad - ness. The  
 soft whis - pers — lad - en, its leaves rus - tle — o'er me. The

II  
 Lad - en — leaves rus - tle o - ver me.

*F Bb/F C/F*

I  
 ash grove — en - chant - ing spells beau - ty for  
 ash grove, — the — ash grove that shel - tered my

II  
 Ver - y well the ash grove that shel - tered my

*F Bb/F C/F*

TO CODA

# The Ash Grove

52

me. The

*F* *F (ADD 9)*

First system: Vocal staves I and II with lyrics "me. The". Piano accompaniment with chords *F* and *F (ADD 9)*.

~~♩~~ CODA

home. The  
home.

*F*

Second system: Vocal staves I and II with lyrics "home. The" and "home.". Piano accompaniment with chord *F*.

56

ash grove,— the— ash grove that shel - tered my home. The  
Ver - y well the ash grove that shel - tered my home.

*F* *B<sup>b</sup>/F* *C/F* *F*

Third system: Vocal staves I and II with lyrics "ash grove,— the— ash grove that shel - tered my home. The" and "Ver - y well the ash grove that shel - tered my home.". Piano accompaniment with chords *F*, *B<sup>b</sup>/F*, *C/F*, and *F*.

60

ash grove,— the— ash grove that shel - tered my home.  
Ver - y well the ash grove that shel - tered my home.

*RIT.* *RIT.* *RIT.* *F*

*B<sup>b</sup>/F* *C/F*

Fourth system: Vocal staves I and II with lyrics "ash grove,— the— ash grove that shel - tered my home." and "Ver - y well the ash grove that shel - tered my home.". Piano accompaniment with *RIT.* markings and chords *B<sup>b</sup>/F*, *C/F*, and *F*.

# The Ash Grove

MEDIEVAL CELTIC DANCE (♩=128)

Traditional Welsh  
arr. John Riggio

3 *SOLO mf* (5)

Down yon - der green - val - ley where  
at the bright - noon - tide in

stream - lets - me - an - der. When twi - light - is  
sol - i - tude - wan - der, A - mid the dark -

(1.)

fad - ing, I pen - sive - ly rove. Or  
shades of the lone - ly ash

(2.) (17) 3 ALL

grove. Down

(21)

yon - der green - val - ley where stream - lets - me - an - der. When  
ash grove, how - grace - ful, how plain - ly - 'tis - speak - ing. The

SING 2ND TIME ONLY *mf*

How - grace - ful, how plain - ly 'tis speak - ing.

# The Ash Grove

29

twi - light is fad - ing, I pen - sive - ly rove. Or at the bright -  
wind through - it play - ing has lan - guage for me. When o - ver its -

The wind through it has lan - guage for me.

noon - tide in sol - i - tude wan - der, A - mid the dark shades of the  
bran - ches the sun - light is break - ing, A host of kind - fa - ces is

When o - ver bran - ches the sun - light breaks. A host of fa - ces is

37

lone - ly ash grove. 'Tis there where the black - bird is cheer - ful - ly  
gaz - ing at me. The friends of my child - hood a - gain are be -

gaz - ing at me. The friends of my child - hood a - gain are be -

sing - ing. Each war - bler en - chants with his notes from a tree. O  
fore me. Each step wakes a mem - 'ry as free - ly I roam. With

fore me. Each step wakes a mem - 'ry as free - ly I roam.



# The Ash Grove

45

I  
then lit - tle— think I of sor - row— or— sad - ness. The ash grove— en -  
soft whis - pers— lad - en, its leaves rus - tle— o'er me. The ash grove,— the—  
II  
Lad - en— leaves rus - tle o - ver me. Ver - y well the

TO CODA ~~♩~~ 52

I  
chant - ing spells beau - ty for me. The  
ash grove that shel - tered my  
II  
ash grove that shel - tered my

~~♩~~ CODA 56

I  
home. The ash grove,— the— ash grove that shel - tered my home. The  
II  
home. Ver - y well the ash grove that shel - tered my home.

60

I  
ash grove,— the— ash grove that shel - tered my home.  
II  
Ver - y well the ash grove that shel - tered my home.

# The Ash Grove

*solo (opt.):*

Down yonder green valley where streamlets meander.  
When twilight is fading, I pensively rove.  
Or at the bright noontide in solitude wander,  
Amid the dark shades of the lonely ash grove.

*all:*

Down yonder green valley where streamlets meander.  
When twilight is fading, I pensively rove.  
Or at the bright noontide in solitude wander,  
Amid the dark shades of the lonely ash grove.

'Tis there where the blackbird is cheerfully singing.  
Each warbler enchants with his notes from a tree.  
O then little think I of sorrow or sadness.  
The ash grove enchanting spells beauty for me.

*part 1:*

The ash grove, how graceful, how plainly 'tis speaking.  
The wind through it playing has language for me.  
When over its branches the sunlight is breaking,  
A host of kind faces is gazing at me.

The friends of my childhood again are before me.  
Each step wakes a mem'ry as freely I roam.  
With soft whispers laden, its leaves rustle o'er me.  
The ash grove, the ash grove that sheltered my home.

The ash grove, the ash grove that sheltered my home.  
The ash grove, the ash grove that sheltered my home.



*part 2 (opt.):*

How graceful, how plainly 'tis speaking.  
The wind through it has language for me.  
When over branches the sunlight breaks.  
A host of faces is gazing at me.

The friends of my childhood again are before me.  
Each step wakes a mem'ry as freely I roam.  
Laden leaves rustle over me.  
Very well the ash grove that sheltered my home.

Very well the ash grove that sheltered my home.  
Very well the ash grove that sheltered my home.

# Notes for The Ash Grove

“The Ash Grove” is a traditional Welsh song that has been used in a number of different settings with different lyrics. Though there are other versions that deal with more sorrowful topics, John’s arrangement is light and happy. If you have a favorite version of the lyrics, feel free to use them in lieu of the ones published here.

This arrangement was written with older singers in mind. The melody is familiar enough for most students, except the youngest. The optional part 2, however, was written to not only sound beautiful, but also to provide an additional challenge for your more advanced students. We think they will enjoy rising to that challenge. The solo which begins at the pick-up to measure 5 is also optional. It could be sung by all, a few, or even two. The penny whistle is also playing the melody at this point. (Our soloist was Holly McDaniel, an older girl. However, we also had one of our boys – Kevin Colvin – sing it for us. He, too, was wonderful! We were torn which version to use and just about had to flip a coin when the moment came to decide. Be warned – you may have similar difficulties when you audition singers for the solo.)

The arrangement of this piece is so thick that we couldn’t fit everything onto the piano/vocal score, even as cues! We highly recommend using the recording, as the arrangement/orchestration is the real joy of the piece. We feel our musicians did a fine job conveying the “Medieval Celtic Dance” style. We hope your students have a chance to listen to the instrumental version alone. We think they will enjoy it.