

**Welsh Folksongs (2008)** for two guitars (or flute or violin or voice and guitar)

*Dafydd y Garreg Wen*  
*Wrth fynd hefo Deio i Dywyn*  
*Suo-gân*  
*Lliw Gwyn Rhosyn yr Haf*  
*Lisa Lân*  
*Hela'r 'Sgyfarnog*

This set of *Welsh Folksongs* was assembled for the Welsh-Argentine Guitar Duo in 2008. The duo had been performing three settings that I originally made for voice and guitar in 1991, and they asked me to set some more for their 2008 tour of South America.

I tried to keep my settings uncluttered, so that the simple beauty and individual character of each folk song melody would not be lost.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Century harpist and composer David Owen was know locally as *Dafydd y Garreg Wen* (*David of the White Rock*) after the farm near Morfa Bychan that was his home. According to folklore, Owen called for his harp as he lay on his death bed and composed this haunting melody. The words were added a century later by John Ceiriog Hughes.

*Lisa Lân* (*Fair Lisa*) is a lover's lament for the Lisa. The heartsick lover asks Lisa to guide him to where she is, so that they may be reunited in death. In contrast *Lliw Gwyn Rhosyn yr Haf* is a joyous love song dedicated to the white rose of summer. *Suo Gân* simply means lullaby, although this seemingly comforting melody is tinged with melancholy. *Hela'r 'Sgyfarnog* (*Hunting the Hare*) is a lively hunting song and *Wrth fynd hefo Deio i Dywyn* is all about a shopping trip to Tywyn (with Deio).

The first performance of *Six Welsh Folk Songs* was given by the Welsh-Argentine Guitar Duo at The Minster, Axminster, Devon, on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

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