

# The gowans are gay

Scottish anon.

Scottish anon.  
arr. Katy Lavinia Cooper

Soprano (S) vocal line:

*The gow-ans are gay my jo, the gow-ans are*

Alto (A) vocal line:

*The gow-ans are gay my jo, the gow-ans are*

Tenor (T) vocal line:

*The gow-ans are gay my jo, the gow-ans are*

Bass (B) vocal line:

*dm, dm, dm, dm, etc.*

Soprano (S): gay. They make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn-ing of May. The

Alto (A): gay. They make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn-ing of May. The

Tenor (T): gay. They make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn-ing of May. The

Bass (B):

*the gowans are gay* 2

13

solo (tenor) 1. A - bout the fields as I did pass,  
bu - sy was that bon-ny maid,  
la - dy fair, what do you here? I  
(soprano) and Gath-

S May. the gow - ans are gay.

A May. the gow - ans are gay.

T 8 May. the gow - ans are gay.

B dm, dm, dm, dm, etc.

18 solo chanced to meet a prop - er lass.  
I there-aft - er to her said:  
'ring the dew. What needs you speir?' 2. Right  
3. O

S the first morn-ing of May. The

A the first morn-ing of May. The

T 8 the first morn-ing of May. The

B The



23

S

A

T

T2

B

27

solo

(tenor) 4. The

S

A

T

T2

B

31

solo

dew quoth I, what can that mean?  
ask - ed far - ther at her fyne,  
said: My er - rand is not there,

(soprano) She to my

S

A

T

B

*mp*

the gow - ans are gay.

*mp*

the gow - ans are gay.

*mp*

the gow - ans are gay.

*mp*

dm,

dm,

dm,

dm,

etc.

35

solo

said, "To wash my la - dy clean."  
my will if she would in - cline.  
maid - en - head on you to ware!

(tenor) 5. I  
(soprano) 6. She

S

A

T

B

1, 2

3

the first morn-ing of May.

1, 2

3

*mf*

the first morn-ing of May.

May. The

*mf*

the first morn-ing of May.

May. The

*mf*

the first morn-ing of May.

May. The

*mf*

The

40 (repeat *piu f*)

S gow - ans are gay my jo, the gow - ans are gay. They  
 (repeat *piu f*)

A gow - ans are gay my jo, the gow - ans are gay. They

T (repeat *piu f*)  
 8 gow - ans are gay my jo, the gow - ans are gay. They

T2 (repeat *piu f*)  
 gow - ans are gay my jo, the gow - ans are gay. They

B (repeat *piu f*)  
 gow - ans gay, jo, gow - ans are gay, they

44 solo

make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn - ing of May. The May.  
 (tenor) 7. Thus

S make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn - ing of May. The May.

A make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn - ing of The May.

T (8) make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn - ing of The May.

T2 make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn - ing of The May.

B make wake I sleep first morn - ing of The May.

*the gowans are gay* 6

49

solo

I her left, and passed my way,  
there were birds sing - ing full sweet,  
there - a - bout I passed my time,

S

*mp optional: whistle in v. 8*

A

*mp optional: whistle in v. 8*

T

*mp optional: whistle in v. 8*

B

*mp*

dm, dm, dm, dm, etc

*the gow - ans are gay.*

*the gow - ans are gay.*

*the gow - ans are gay.*

53

solo

to a gar - den me to play,  
to my com - fort was full meet.  
that it was the hour of prime.

S

1, 2

8. Where  
9. And

A

the first morn - ing of May.

T

the first morn - ing of May.

B

the first morn - ing of May.

57 *f(repeat p)*

S May. The gow - ans are gay my jo, the gow - ans are gay. They

A May. The gow - ans are gay my jo, the gow - ans are gay. They

T May. The gow - ans are gay my jo, the gow - ans are gay. They

B *f(repeat p)*

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S make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn-ing of May. The May.

A make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn-ing of May. The May.

T make me wake when I should sleep, the first morn-ing of May. The May.

B