Down by the Salley Gardens

C   C          G7       F   C            F          G7       C
It was down by the Salley gar-dens, my love and I did meet.

C   G7       F   C            F          G7       C
She crossed the Salley gar-dens, with little snow-white feet.

Am       F            Em   C            F          G7       C
She bid me take love eas-y, as the leaves grow on the tree,

C   G7       F   C            F          G7       C
But I was young and fool-ish, and with her did not agree.

C   G7       F   C            F          G7       C
In a field down by the river, my love and I did stand.

C   G7       F   C            F          G7       C
And on my leaning shoulder, she laid her snow-white hand.

Am       F            Em   C            F          G7       C
She bid me take life eas-y, as the grass grows on the weirs

C   G7       F   C            F          G7       C
But I was young and fool-ish, and now am full of tears.

The lyrics to the Salley Gardens are among the simplest you will find in Irish music. They tell 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 quickly. The lyrics were originally written by W B Yeats as a poem. The music was added later. Salley means willow so the salley gardens are simply an area where willows were grown for use in making thatched roofs.