# **SUITE V**

## From 'Old Welsh Children's Songs'



For Guitar

### Suite V

1) Pedoli (A major)
2) Marwnad yr Ehedydd (D minor)
3) Torth o Fara (A major)

Songs 2 and 3 are taken from Sixteen Fantasy Arrangements of Old Welsh Children's Songs (2015).

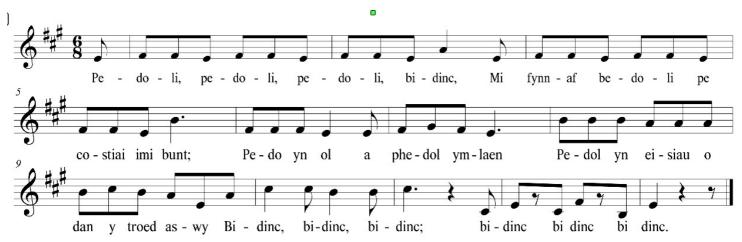
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### (17) Pedoli



Pe-do-li, pe-do-li, bi-dinc, Mi fynnaf bedoli pe costai imi bunt; Pedol yn ol a phedol ymlaen, Pedol yn eisiau o dan y troed aswy, Bi-dinc, bi-dinc, bi-dinc, bi-dinc, bi-dinc.

A very popular Welsh children's song – the great inconvenience and irregularity of riding a horse when one of the shoes is lost.





2 Pedoli



Pedoli 3



## (12) Marwnad yr Ehedydd



I've heard the lark is dead on the mountain; If I knew the words to be true, we'd gather men and tools, To bring the lark's body home.

A strange and tragic song – the singer doesn't ever recount the death of the Lark – on the contrary there is only a suggestion it's happened somewhere else.

Throughout there is a background feeling 'If only I had known...' that there is a tragedy that should have been avoided.

One of the most demanding pieces in this collection, it requires careful attention to dynamics – and also to tempo, which can vary quite considerably in the cadenza sections.

#### Particular points to note are:

- The opening should be very legato
- The melody in bar nine should enter clearly over the repetitive accompanying figure.
- Bar 42 our 'Lark Ascending' figure should accelerate throughout, despite the technical difficulties
- Bar 69-72 (also bars 84-90) the crescendo should build up gradually so that the sudden change into completely different orchestration in bar 76 (bar 92) is come as a complete surprise.
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    The cadenza should have a feeling of improvisation getting slowly in bar 94 (99) and accelerating to bar 106
- Even after the previous changes of dynamic the change at 128 to 129 should feel like a complete change of orchestration and take your listener by surprise.

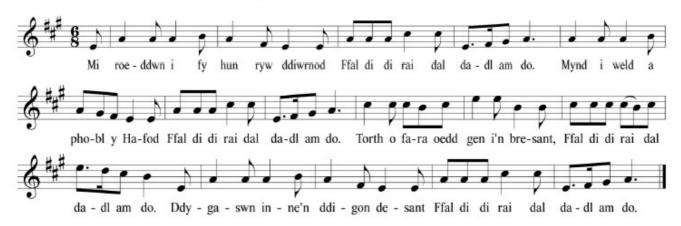








### (3) Torth o Fara



I ventured one day to see
The folks on the hill farm
A loaf of bread with me as a present
That should have been sufficient

The contrast with the previous song could hardly be more complete. Our musical journey has transported us to the public bar of a local tavern where one of the characters (a poacher if ever there was one, but remember "I didn't never tell ye"...) is narrating his latest perambulation: a trip up the valley to see the folks in the summer shepherd's bothy, high on the hills. He's got a round loaf with him as a present – but "unfortunately" he stumbles and the loaf rolls off down into the valley where it just happens one of the house maids is doing her washing in the river. What occurs next we don't really discover but it looks like an unlikely yarn to me!

He's sung this tale before – so when the music gets going our old poacher singing away on our fourth string doesn't continue to sing solo throughout but the other local yokels are well primed and ready to break into the chorus (bar 27) - and at the end the ladies and family of the establishment get a turn (bar 62).

Keep the solo parts relatively quiet – the thicker scored sections usually forte. Ensure that the gaps between the phrases are well articulated – note that the fingerings usually damp the lower strings when going from the louder chorus sections into the quieter solo sections – but not always – in some cases you must use the right hand thumb to damp the lower strings. Don't be shy playing Bars 45 - 59 with some gusto – this is the kind of tavern where sheepdogs sit by the fire and eat anything that falls on the floor.



#### Torth o Fara



