

Tune of the Month: Ash Grove

The first known English-language version of "The Ash Grove" was published in 1862, in Volume I of Welsh Melodies, with Welsh and English Poetry, compiled by the harpist John Thomas, with Welsh words by John Jones (Talhaiarn) and English words by Thomas Oliphant. Here are a few lines of Oliphant's words, "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."

Ash Grove

The musical score for "Ash Grove" is presented in a single system with eight staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in treble clef. The score begins with a first measure containing a fermata over a quarter note, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. A 'v' (accendo) marking is placed above the first measure. The melody concludes with a double bar line. The score is enclosed in a vertical line on the left side.