

An Rosen Wynn / The White Rose

From the singing of John Bolitho 20/09/1991, original Cornish translation: Julyan Holmes 1983

My a gar an ros - enn wynn Mar
I love the white rose in it's splen - dour. I
I

hweg mar deg dell dyv hi , An
love the white rose in its bloom,

ros - enn wynn mar splann mar vryn - tin, a
love the white rose, so fair as she grows, It's the

dhre dha gov om - ma dhe - vy! Kyn -
rose that re - minds me of you! The

sa pan whel - is ow hweg oll Yth
first time I met you my darl - ing, Your

est face - ta mar whek av - el ros, Mes
face was as red as the rose, And

lemmyn mar dhis - liw dha ve - jeth, Mar
now your face has grown pal - er, As

wynn av - el ros - enn mayth os.
pale as the lil - y white rose.

Notes

The White Rose enjoys considerable popularity in Cornwall, possibly because of the way it lends itself to informal, improvised harmony. It was not noted by any of the early folk song collectors in Cornwall but was certainly well known by the late 1960s when the author first heard it sung at Rowing Club singing sessions at the Sailors Arms in Newquay. At the time of writing it has not been possible to identify an origin but it is likely to have been absorbed into Cornish folk tradition from a music hall song or improvised around a piece of romantic poetry at some stage. A number of variations on the words exist and a Cornish translation was published in Hengan in 1983.

The version given here is from the singing of John Bolitho (1930-2005) recorded in Bude 20/09/1991.

Merv Davey Nov 2016

See

Merv Davey, Hengan, Dyllansow Truran, Redruth, 1983,

Bolitho Archive, Truro, Royal Institution of Cornwall Library, Federation of Old Cornwall Society Folk Song Recorders Archive

Hilary Coleman & Sally Burley, Shout Kernow: Celebrating Cornwall's Pub Songs, (London, Francis Boutle, 2015).