

TRADITIONAL IRISH BALLADS

Arranged for Guitar and Voice by Simon James

Contents

Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms	page 1
The Last Rose Of Summer	page 5
Oh Banquet Not	page 8
Love Is Pleasing	page 12
The Spinning Wheel	page 16
The Lyrics	page 22

I started these arrangements because of Sir John Mortimer (1923-2009) with whom I used sometimes to work in a theatrical recital called Mortimer's Miscellany. It consisted of poetry and prose that he liked interspersed with his memories of life as a barrister and later QC. He enjoyed brief musical interludes between readings and when the theatre or hall couldn't organise a piano he used to take me to play guitar instead. When we were choosing the music I played him some of Mauro Giuliani's (1781-1829) settings of Irish tunes for guitar, as I played My Lodging Is On The Cold Ground he cried out 'Ah! Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms my favourite tune.' It became part of the show and on further investigation I discovered the poet and lyricist Thomas Moore, another favourite of Sir John's, and with him the many lyrics he wrote for traditional Irish tunes. These are the ones I most like, three of which have lyrics by Thomas Moore. The other two are traditional in both lyric and melody the Spinning Wheel being the first tune I ever learnt to play on the guitar. There are versions of the songs for either high voice or low.