

# Black is the Colour of My True Love's Hair

Appalachian/Scottish traditional

arr. Tom Anderson / Random Notes  
for Peter Hollens

♩=64

black \_\_\_\_ is the col-or \_\_\_\_

All parts: never above mezzoforte

oo \_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_

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2

8

of my true love's hair her face so soft and won-drous fair the pu - rest eyes and the gent-lest

Detailed description: This system shows the beginning of the piece. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by an eighth note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. A triplet of eighth notes (C5, D5, E5) follows. The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef and consists of whole notes: G2, C3, F#3, and C4.

her eyes

oo

her eyes oo

oh oo

her eyes oo

oh oo

oh oo

oo

oh oo

Detailed description: This system continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line has a long note for 'her eyes' followed by a comma and a long note for 'oo'. The piano accompaniment features long, sweeping lines in both hands, often with slurs and ties, creating a lush, sustained texture. The lyrics 'her eyes' and 'oo' are repeated across several staves, indicating a multi-measure rest or a long note.

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15

hands I love the ground where - on she stands I love the ground where - on she stands black is the

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a time signature of 3/8. It begins with a whole note, followed by a 3/8 measure, then a 4/4 measure, and continues with a melodic line featuring two triplet eighth notes. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, mostly consisting of rests. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff.

Detailed description: This system contains the remaining staves of music. It includes a vocal line and several piano accompaniment staves. The vocal line continues with a whole note and a 3/8 measure, followed by a 4/4 measure. The piano accompaniment consists of several staves, some with rests and others with melodic lines, including a triplet eighth note pattern in the bottom-most staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff.





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6

35

will come when she and I \_\_\_\_\_ will be as one when she and I will be as one black is the col-or \_\_\_\_\_

ah \_\_\_\_\_ oo \_\_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ oo \_\_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ oo \_\_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_ oo \_\_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_\_ ah \_\_\_\_\_

oo \_\_\_\_\_



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8

48

black is the  
black is the  
oh  
oh  
oh  
oh  
oh  
oh  
oh

mm  
mm  
mm  
mm  
mm  
mm  
mm  
mm  
mm

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 8, contains measures 48 through 54. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/8. At measure 48, the vocal line begins with the lyrics 'black is the'. The piano accompaniment consists of several staves. The first staff has a melodic line with slurs and dynamics markings 'mm'. The second staff has a bass line with slurs and dynamics markings 'mm'. The third staff has a bass line with slurs and dynamics markings 'mm'. The fourth staff has a bass line with slurs and dynamics markings 'mm'. The fifth staff has a bass line with slurs and dynamics markings 'mm'. The sixth staff has a bass line with slurs and dynamics markings 'mm'. The seventh staff has a bass line with slurs and dynamics markings 'mm'. The eighth staff has a bass line with slurs and dynamics markings 'mm'. The vocal line continues with 'black is the' at measure 50 and 'oh' at measure 51. The piano accompaniment continues with various melodic and harmonic patterns, including slurs and dynamics markings 'mm'. The score concludes at measure 54 with the vocal line on 'oh' and the piano accompaniment on 'oh'.



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10

60

the pu - rest eyes and the gent - lest hands I love the ground where-on she stands I

rest \_ eyes

rest \_ eyes I love ah oo

rest \_ eyes ah oo

rest \_ eyes I love

the pu - rest \_ eyes I love ah oo

the pu - rest \_ eyes I love

the pu - rest \_ eyes I love ah oo

the pu - rest \_ eyes

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66

love the ground whereon she stands  
black is the col-or of my true love's hair

oh oo ah  
oh oo ah  
oh oo ah  
oh oo ah  
oh oo ah  
oh oo ah  
oh oo ah

The score consists of two systems of music. The first system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has lyrics: "love the ground whereon she stands black is the col-or of my true love's hair". The piano accompaniment features triplets and various rhythmic patterns. The second system contains six vocal staves and one piano accompaniment staff. The vocal staves have lyrics: "oh oo ah", "oh oo ah", "oh oo ah", "oh oo ah", "oh oo ah", and "oh oo ah". The piano accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns.