

## The Bitter Withy (as collected)

Collected by Cecil Sharp 9-Apr-1909

Sung by Mr John Hands (65) of Snowhill, Glos  
Also variants by Mr Hands Junior and Mrs Timms

1. As it fell out on a bright ho - li - day Small hail from the sky did fall. our—

6  
Sav - iour asked His mo - ther dear If he may go and play at— ball.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the song, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "1. As it fell out on a bright ho - li - day Small hail from the sky did fall. our—". The second staff starts with a measure rest of 6 measures, then continues with the lyrics: "Sav - iour asked His mo - ther dear If he may go and play at— ball." The notation includes various note values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and a double bar line at the end of each line.

O the withy, the bitter withy, that causes me to smart  
The withy at the very first tree shall perish at the heart!

Sharp also notes on same page 'Mr Hands Junior sang first phrase thus'

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The melody consists of a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Sharp further notes on same page 'Mrs Timms at Buckland can only remember first phrase which went thus'

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The melody consists of a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The staff ends with a double bar line.

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Source: Sharp manuscript ref FT2153

Notes: 1. Singer age was noted by Sharp

2. The manuscript includes two variants of the first bars noted by Sharp which are also shown above.

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