The Maiden's Lament

Freely, with breadth \( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{e}} = \text{c. 68} \)

As sung by Sara Cleveland

1. Come all you maids, wher'-e'er you be, Who flour-ish in your prime, Be_wise, be-ware; keep your gar-den clear; Let no man steal your thyme;_here,___ Let no man steal your thyme.

2. For when your thyme is pulled and gone, They care no more for you; There is not a place your thyme goes waste, But it spreads all o'er with thyme;_here,___ It spreads all o'er with rue.

3. When I was a maid both fair and coy, I flourished in my prime, 'Til a pro-p-er, tall young man came and He stole this heart of mine._here,___ He stole this heart of mine.

4. My par-ents, they were an-gry At my be-ing led a-stray, But there's bit-ter rue, the vi-o-let blue, And the red rose, it was day._here,___ Brings forth a pleas-ant day.

5. The gar-dner's son being stand-ing by, Three gifts he gave to me. The_ three,_ And the red rose, it was three.

6. Now, I'll cut off the red rose top, And I'll plant on the willow tree, That this whole world will plainly see How my love slighted me, How my love slighted me.

7. The begotten virgins they must live, Although they live in pain, And the grass that is mown on yonder hill Through time it will bloom again, Through time it will bloom again.

8. There are fine boats sailing here, my dear, And more on the river thine; But for me to be held in the arms of my love, And for him to be held in mine, And for him to be held in mine.

*In the first verse, Cleveland sings this rhythm as eighth/dotted quarter; the other verses are sung as written, except vs. 4 (two quarters), and vss. 6 & 8 (quarter/two eighths).

**Vs. 4: eighth/quarter/eighth; vs. 5: eighth/dotted quarter; vs. 6: quarter quarter; vss. 7 & 8: quarter/eighth/eighth.