

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING

1912

Which is the best known Irish song? Is it "My Wild Irish Rose" or "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling"? Take your pick. Each one is well known to almost everyone and is perfect for spontaneous harmonizing, especially around March 17.

George Graff, a New Yorker, wrote lyrics for many songwriters of the time, but, interestingly, he made his living in a business unrelated to music. It is said that the idea for this song was suggested by Chauncey Olcott, one of the greatest interpreters of Irish songs. Ernest Ball contributed music for many great songs, including "Will You Love Me In December As You Do In May?" "Love Me And The World Is Mine," "Mother Machree," "Dear Little Boy Of Mine" and "Let The Rest Of The World Go By."

As long as there is a March 17, we will be hearing this fine Irish song.

Words by **GEORGE GRAFF, Jr. and CHAUNCEY OLCOTT**
(1886-) (1858-1932)

Music by **ERNEST R. BALL**
(1878-1927)

VERSE:

8
There's a tear in your eye, and I'm wonder-ing why, for it

8
nev - er should be there at all. at all. With such

9 10 11 12

pow'r in your smile, sure a stone you'd be - guile, so there's

13 14 15 16

nev - er a tear - drop should fall. should fall. When your

17 18 19 20

sweet lilt - ing laugh - ter's like some fair - y song and your

21 22 23 24

eyes twin - kle bright as can be; can be; You should

25 26 27 28

laugh all the while and all oth - er times smile, and now

for me.

CHORUS:

29 30 31 32

8 smile a smile for me. for me. When

33 34 35 36

8 I - rish eyes are smil - ing Sure it's

37 38 39 40

8 like a morn in spring. in spring. In the

41 42 43 44

8 lilt of I - rish laugh - ter you can

45 46 47 48

8 hear the an - gels sing. When

49 50 51 52 53

I - rish hearts are hap - py, All the world seems

54 55 56 57 58

bright and gay; so gay; And when I - rish eyes are

59 60 61 62 63

smil - ing, Sure they steal your heart a - way.

64 65 66 67 68

TAG: Sure they steal your heart a - way. a - way.

Additional verse:

For your smile is a part of the love in your heart,
 And it makes even sunshine more bright.
 Like the linnet's sweet song, crooning all the day long,
 Comes your laughter so tender and light.
 For the springtime of life is the sweetest of all;
 There is ne'er a real care or regret;
 And while springtime is ours throughout all of youth's hours,
 Let us smile each chance we get.