

How should I your True Love Know?

This is Ophelia's mad song in *Hamlet* (Act IV, Scene 5). The song was adapted by Shakespeare from an old ballad, a version of which appears in Percy's *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* (1765). The tune was already old in Shakespeare's days.

How should I your true love know
From another one?
By his cockle hat and staff
And his sandal shoon.

He is dead and gone, lady,
He is dead and gone;
At his head a grass-green turf
At his heels a stone.

White his shroud as the mountain snow,
Larded with sweet flowers.
Which bewept to the grave did not go
With true-love showers.