

An Rosen Wyn / The White Rose

My a gar love an ros - en wyn - Mar
I love the white rose in it's splen - dour. I

Variant words:
5 whek del dyf - hy An
love the white rose rose in its bloom, I
love the white rose in the fall,

9 ros - en wyn mar splan mar vryn - tyn a
love the white rose, so fair as she grows, It's the

13 dha gof om - ma dhe - vy! Ken -
rose that re - minds me of you! The

17 sa pan whel - ys ow whek oll Yth
first time I met you my darl - ing, Your
Your

21 est - ta mar dek av - el ros, Mes
face was as red as the rose, And
face was as pale as the rose,

25 lemmyn mar dhys lyw dha ve - jeth, Mar
now your face has grown pal - er, As

29 wyn av - el ros - en mayth os,
pale as the lil - y white rose.

Trelyes gans Julyan Holmes 1980

The White Rose enjoys considerable popularity in Cornwall, possibly because of the way it lends itself to informal, improvised harmony. It was not noted by any of the early folk song collectors in Cornwall. It seems to have been first committed to record by Peter Kennedy at a recording session in the Napoleon Inn at Boscastle in 1975 from the singing of Charlie Jose (*Peter Kennedy, "Boscastle Bow-Wow; A pub session at the 'Nap'" Foltrax: FTX-096*), but the author was familiar with this song from rowing club singing sessions at the Sailors Arms in Newquay at least five or six years prior to this. Instinctively one feels that it belongs with songs like Little Lize and Maggie May which started life as popular music on the other side of the Atlantic which became adopted, adapted and naturalised into a distinctively Cornish repertoire. There are certainly songs of this name to be found folk collections in America but so far none have materialised with a melody or lyrics anything like the Cornish "White Rose". The "Folk Process" is a powerful one and the "White Rose" could have evolved from a source almost anywhere, either within or beyond Cornwall. The words provided here were given to me by Neil Plummer of St Stythyans in 1980.