

# The Scores of Sullivan: "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please" Sheet Music for Voice

Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan, one of the most celebrated composers of the Victorian era, is known for his enduring operettas co-written with W.S. Gilbert. His musical genius extended beyond these popular works to encompass a wide range of compositions, including sacred music, orchestral suites, and songs for solo voice. Among his many vocal works, "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please" stands out as a captivating and expressive ballad, captivating audiences with its soaring melody and poignant lyrics.

## The History of "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please"

The origins of "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please" can be traced back to Sullivan's early career. In 1866, he composed the song for the operetta *Cox and Box*, a one-act comic work with a libretto by F.C. Burnand. The song's initial performance was a resounding success, and it quickly became a popular concert piece and drawing-room favorite.



## The Scores of Sullivan - If Doughty Deeds, May Lady Please - Sheet Music for Voice and Piano by Ian Hughes MA

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1152 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 8 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



The lyrics of "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please" were written by Burnand and are a playful and charming ode to a knight errant's quest for love. The knight sings of his determination to prove his worthiness through brave deeds, hoping to win the favor of his beloved lady.

### **The Musical Structure of "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please"**

Sullivan's musical setting of "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please" is a masterpiece of vocal writing. The song is written in the key of A major and features a soaring melody that showcases the singer's vocal range. The piano accompaniment provides a rich and supportive foundation, with arpeggiated chords and delicate countermelodies that enhance the song's lyrical beauty.

The song's form is a simple but effective ternary structure (ABA). The A section presents the main melody, which is repeated in the B section with variations. The A section returns in the end, providing a satisfying sense of closure.

### **Performance Considerations for "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please"**

When performing "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please," singers should pay careful attention to the song's dynamics and phrasing. The opening lines should be sung with a strong and confident tone, gradually building up to the climax of the B section. The A section's return should be more reflective, allowing the singer to convey the knight's longing and vulnerability.

Pianists should provide a sympathetic and supportive accompaniment, carefully balancing the melody with the arpeggiated chords. The countermelodies should be played with clarity and articulation, adding depth and interest to the texture.

## **The Legacy of "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please"**

"If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please" remains one of Sullivan's most beloved songs, performed by countless singers around the world. Its enduring popularity is a testament to Sullivan's musical genius and the timeless appeal of its melody and lyrics.

The song has been featured in numerous recordings, including those by renowned vocalists such as Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Bryn Terfel, and Ian Bostridge. It has also been arranged for various ensembles, including choirs and instrumental groups, further demonstrating its versatility.

## **Sheet Music for "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please"**

For those who wish to perform "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please," sheet music is readily available from various sources, including online retailers and music publishers. When selecting sheet music, it is essential to choose a reputable edition that accurately reflects Sullivan's original composition. Engraved editions are generally more reliable than scanned copies, ensuring that the notes and dynamics are correctly represented.

Singers and pianists can also find useful resources online, such as performance videos and tutorials. These resources can provide valuable insights into the song's interpretation and technical demands.

"If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please" is a timeless masterpiece from the pen of Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan. Its soaring melody, charming lyrics, and skillful musical craftsmanship have captivated audiences for over a century. Whether performed in a concert hall or a drawing-room, this song continues to enchant listeners with its beauty and emotional depth. As a testament to Sullivan's enduring legacy, "If Doughty Deeds May Lady Please" remains a cherished part of the vocal repertoire, inspiring and delighting generations of singers and music lovers alike.



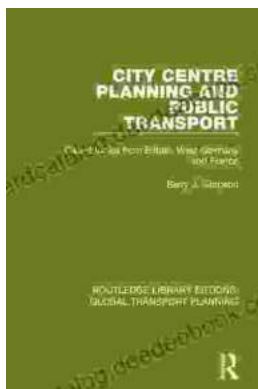
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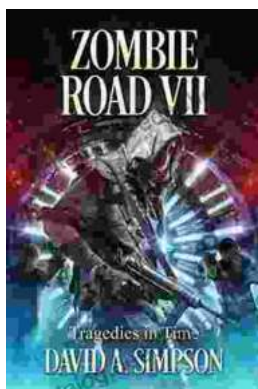
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