

**The Daffodils [1940]**

**Edward Joseph Collins, music**  
William Wordsworth, words

*dedicated to Ethel Reid*

I wander'd lonely as a cloud  
that floats on high o'er vales and hills,

When all at once I saw a crowd,  
a host, of golden daffodils;

Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
fluttering, dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
and twinkle on the Milky Way,

They stretched in never ending line  
along the margin of a bay:

Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they  
outdid the sparkling waves in glee:

A poet could not but be gay,  
in such a jocund company!

I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
what wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
in vacant or in pensive mood,

They flash upon that inward eye  
which is the bliss of solitude;

And then my heart with pleasure thrills,  
and dances with the daffodils.