

# Black is the Color

Informant/Performer:  
Betty Smith  
NC

Source:  
Betty Smith  
*Songs Traditionally Sung in North Carolina*  
Folk-Legacy FSA 53

But black is the co - lor of my true love's hair.

His face is like some ro - sy fair.

The pret - tiest face and the neat - est hands.

I love the ground where - on he stands.

Transcribed by Ivy Rawlins

2. I love my love and well he knows,  
I love the ground whereon he goes.  
If you on earth no more I see,  
I can't serve you as you have me.
3. The winter's past and the leaves are green.  
The time is past that we have seen.  
And yet I hope the time will come  
When you and I shall be as one.
4. I'll go to the Clyde for to mourn and weep,  
But satisfied I never could sleep.  
I'll write to you in a few short lines,  
I'll suffer death ten thousand times.
5. My own true love so fare thee well,  
The time has passed and I wish you well.  
And yet I hope the time will come  
When you and I shall be as one.
6. I love my love and well he knows  
I love the ground whereon he goes.  
The prettiest face and the neatest hands.  
I love the ground whereon he stands.

With psaltery accompaniment

## Background Information

About the psaltery: The psaltery is an ancient instrument, generally believed to have originated in the east - Persia or India. Surely, it is the ten-string instrument mentioned in the Bible. Essentially the same instrument as the hammered dulcimer, it is the forerunner of the keyboard instruments, but plucked like the harpsichord, only with the fingers.