# I Have Twelve Oxen That Be Fair and Brown

Text by an anonymous poet of the 16th century [Br]
Set by *John Ireland* (1879–1962) [Irish], *I Have Twelve Oxen*; *Peter Warlock* (1894–1930) [Br], *Twelve Oxen*

| **I** | **have** | **twelve** | **oxen** | **that** | **be** | **fair** | **and** | **brown,** |
|------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|----------|---------|-----------|
| [aːɪ | hæv | twɛlv | ˈɑk.sən | ðæt | bi | fɛr | ænd | braːʊn] |

| **And** | **they** | **go** | **a-grazing** | **down** | **by** | **the** | **town.** |
|--------|---------|--------|---------------|---------|--------|--------|----------|
| [ænd | ðeːɪ | goːʊ | ə.ˈgreːɪz.ɪŋ | daːʊn | baːɪ | ðʌ | taːʊn] |

With hey! with how! with hey!
Sawest not you mine oxen, you little pretty boy?

I have twelve oxen, they be fair and white,
And they go a-grazing down by the dyke.
With hey! with how! with hey!
Sawest not you mine oxen, you little pretty boy?

I have twelve oxen, and they be fair and black,
And they go a-grazing down by the lake.
With hey! with how! with hey!
Sawest not you mine oxen, you little pretty boy?

I have twelve oxen, and they be fair and red,
And they go a-grazing down by the mead.
With hey! with how! with hey!
Sawest not you mine oxen, you little pretty boy?

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