



# Semerwater

Poem by Sir William Watson 1858-1935  
 Poetry set to music by Kathryn Wheeler

Note: An A&E drone works under the whole song, but it is even nicer if you can add arpeggiated chords as suggested below on top of the drone, to provide movement and extra harmony. This song is not strophic (i.e. doesn't have the same melody for each verse), but fragments of melody are repeated through the song e.g. the "King's tower and Queen's bower" motif is found several times.

Chords: A G D A Am7

instrumental introduction:

1. Deep a - sleep, deep a - sleep,

Chords: D Am Am7 D keep repeating chord sequence

7 deep a - sleep it - lies. The still - lake - of - Se-mer - wa - ter un - der the still

12 skies. And ma - ny a fath - om, man - y a fath - om, man - y a fath - om be - low. In a

17 King's to - wer and a Queen's bow - er the fish - es come and go. 2. Once there stood by

22 Se mer wa - ter a mick - le town and tall. King's to - wer and a

26 Queen's bow - er and the wake - man on the wall. Came a be ggar halt and sore, "I

31 faint for lack of King's to - wer and a Queen's bow - er cast him forth un - fed. 3. He

37  
knocked at the door of the ell er's cot, the ell - er's cot in the dale. They

41  
gave him of their oat - cake, they gave him of their ale. He has

45  
cursed a-loud that ci - ty proud, he's cursed it in its pride, he has

49  
cursed it in to Se - mer wa - ter, down the brant hill side, he has

53  
cursed it in to Se-mer wa - ter there to bide. 4.King's to-wer and a  
King's to-wer and a

58  
Queen's bow-er and a mick - le town and tall. By glimm-er of scale and  
Queen's bow-er and weed and reed in the gloom Anda

62  
gleam of fin folk have seen them all. lost ci-ty of Se - mer wa - ter,

67  
deep a - sleep til Doom.