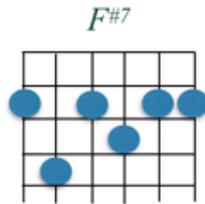


When You Wore a Tulip

Music by Percy Wenrich, Lyrics by Jack Mahoney 1914

D *E7*
I met you in a garden in an old Kentucky town.
A7 *D*
The sun was shining down. You wore a gingham gown.
D *E7*
I kissed you as I placed a yellow tulip in your hair;
A7 *D*
Upon my coat you pinned a rose so rare.
G
Time has not changed your loveliness;
D
You're just as sweet to me.
E7
I love you yet,
A7
I can't forget the days that used to be.

D *D7*
When you wore a tulip, a sweet yellow tulip;
G *D*
I wore a big red rose;
G *D*
When you caressed me, t'was then heaven blessed me;
E7 *A7*
What a blessing, no one knows.
D
You made life cheery;
D7
When you called me dearie;
G *F#7*
'Twas down where the blue grass grows.
G
Your lips were sweeter than julep;
D
When you wore that tulip;
E7 *A7* *D*
And I wore a big rose.



History

"When You Wore a Tulip and I Wore a Big Red Rose" was written by Percy Wenrich (January 23, 1887 – March 17, 1952), a United States composer of ragtime and popular music.

Born in Joplin, Missouri, he moved to Chicago in 1901 where he attended classes at the Chicago Musical College. Wenrich moved on to New York City around 1907 to work as a Tin Pan Alley composer, but his music retains a Missouri folk flavor. He composed at least eighteen rags, including "Ashy Africa," "Noodles," "Peaches and Cream" (1905), "Crab Apples," and "The Smiler" (1907). His songs include "Wabash Avenue After Dark" and the hits "**Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet**" (1909, lyrics by Stanley Murphy), "When You Wore a Tulip and I Wore a Big Red Rose" (1914, lyrics by Jack Mahoney) and "Minnetonka" (1921, lyrics by Gus Kahn).



Percy Wenrich
Photograph from
parlorsongs.com

"If It's Good Enough for Washington It's Good Enough for Me" with words by Ten Shields, from 1908, was a song about a homeless man sleeping on a bench in a public square with statues of Washington, Jefferson, McKinley, Grant and Lee.

If it's good enough for Washington, It's good enough for me,
I'm proud that I am here tonight to keep him company,
I'm proud to sleep out with the man that set our country free,
If it's good enough for Washington, it's good enough for me."

Wenrich married vaudeville performer Dolly Connolly and in 1911 wrote the hit "Red Rose Rag" for her with lyrics by Edward Madden. In 1912, Wenrich and Madden had another hit with "Moonlight Bay." Wenrich and Connolly toured together for many years.

In the late 1930s, Wenrich and several of his fellow hitmakers formed a sensational review called "Songwriters on Parade", performing all across the Eastern seaboard on the Loew's and Kieth circuits.

Wenrich's last memorable song "Sail Along, Silv'ry Moon" was published in 1937. He died in New York City in 1952 at the age of 65.