# **Amaethon and Arawn**

a Welsh folk song sonata for open-G (Taro Patch) guitar

William D Clinger
Opus 3

### I. Taffy and the Ash Grove











### II. Dafydd y Garreg Wen



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## III. Breuddwyd y Frenhines





#### Program Notes.

Amaethon was the Welsh god of agricultural fertility, patron of farmers, deification of organic fertilizer. Arawn was king of Annwn, home of departed souls. Amaethon stole a dog, a bird, and a deer from Arawn. These thefts led eventually to the epic Cad Goddeu (Battle of the Trees), a sixth century Welsh poem from the Book of Taliesin that relates how Arawn was ultimately defeated by the savage fir, cruel ash, and other magically animated trees. According to Robert Graves, Cad Goddeu should be read as a metaphorical battle of wits and scholarship.

The escalating conflict between Amaethon and Arawn is told as comic tit-for-tat by the Welsh nursery rhyme, "Taffy was a Welshman", that opens this sonata. Its deific frivolity yields to "The Ash Grove", a song of loving and losing. "Taffy" was published in 1780, "The Ash Grove" in 1802 and 1804.

The second movement is an old Welsh melody that Ceiriog (John Hughes, 1832-1887) used for the last song of a dying bard, Dafydd y Garreg Wen (David of the White Rock).

Breuddwyd y Frenhines (Springtime is Returning), also by Ceiriog, is set to the tune of "The Queen's Dream". The third movement combines this gay melody with the opening themes in a mathematically precise musical structure that contrasts with the loose sonata-allegro form of the first movement and the simple AA'A form of the second.

The tuning, sonata form, and themes of this work were suggested by Matanya Ophee.

Performance Notes.

Tune the guitar to open-G, DGDGBD. Dynamics are left to the performer's judgement.

William D Clinger February 2006