

**No Mans Land Flowers Of The Forest**  
**June Tabor**

[Verse]

**D** **G** **Em**  
Well, how do you do, Private William McBride  
**A** **G** **A**  
D you mind if I sit here down by your graveside?  
**D** **G** **Em**  
And rest for awhile in the warm summer sun  
**A** **G** **D**  
I ve been walking all day, and I m nearly done  
**Em** **G**  
And I see by your gravestone you were only nineteen  
**A** **G** **D** **A**  
When you joined the glorious fallen in Nineteen Sixteen  
**D** **Em**  
Well, I hope you died quick and I hope you died clean  
**A** **G** **D**  
Or, William McBride, was it slow and obscene?

[Chorus]

**A** **G** **D**  
Did they beat the drum slowly, did they sound the pipes lowly?  
**Em** **A** **D**  
Did the rifles fire o er thee as they lowered thee down?  
**G** **A**  
Did the bugles sing The Last Post in chorus?  
**G** **Em** **A** **D**  
Did the pipes play the Flowers of the Forest ?

[Verse]

**G** **Em**  
And did thee leave wife or a sweetheart behind  
**A** **G** **A**  
In some loyal heart, is your memory enshrined?  
**D** **G** **Em**  
And, though you died back in Nineteen Sixteen  
**A** **G** **D**  
To that faithful heart, are you always nineteen?  
**Em** **G**  
Or are you just a stranger without even a name  
**A** **G** **D** **A**  
Forever enclosed behind some glass pane  
**D** **Em**  
In an old photograph, torn and tattered and stained  
**A** **G** **D**  
And fading to yellow in a brown leather frame?

[Chorus]

**A** **G** **D**  
 Did they beat the drum slowly, did they sound the pipes lowly?  
**Em** **A** **D**  
 Did the rifles fire o'er thee as they lowered thee down?  
**G** **A**  
 Did the bugles sing The Last Post in chorus?  
**G** **Em** **A D**  
 Did the pipes play the Flowers of the Forest ?

[Verse]

**G** **Em**  
 The sun is shining down on these green fields of France  
**A** **G** **A**  
 The warm wind blows gently and the red poppies dance  
**D** **G** **Em**  
 The trenches have vanished now under the plough  
**A** **G** **D**  
 No gas and no barbed-wire, no guns firing now  
**Em** **G**  
 But here in this graveyard it's still No Man's Land  
**A** **G** **A**  
 And the countless white crosses, in mute witness stand  
**D** **Em**  
 To man's blind indifference to his fellow man  
**A** **G** **D**  
 And a whole generation who were butchered and damned

[Chorus]

**A** **G** **D**  
 Did they beat the drum slowly, did they sound the pipes lowly?  
**Em** **A** **D**  
 Did the rifles fire o'er thee as they lowered thee down?  
**G** **A**  
 Did the bugles sing The Last Post in chorus?  
**G** **Em** **A D**  
 Did the pipes play the Flowers of the Forest ?

[Verse]

**G** **Em**  
 And I can't help but wonder now, Willie McBride  
**A** **G** **A**  
 Do all those who lie here know why they died?  
**D** **G** **Em**  
 Did you really believe them when they told you The Cause ?  
**A** **G** **D**  
 Did you really believe that this war would end wars?  
**Em** **G**  
 Well, the suffering, the sorrow, the glory, the shame  
**A** **G** **D** **A**  
 The killing, the dying, it was all done in vain  
**D** **Em**  
 For Willie McBride, it all happened again  
**A** **G** **D**

And again, and again, and again, and again

[Chorus]

Did they beat the drum slowly, did they sound the pipes lowly?

Did the rifles fire o'er thee as they lowered thee down?

Did the bugles sing The Last Post in chorus?

Did the pipes play the Flowers of the Forest ?

[Outro]

N.C.  
Did the bugles sing The Last Post in chorus?

N.C.  
Did the pipes play the Flowers of the Forest ?