

Sea Shanties



A songbook prepared by
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WARNING

These shanties are a product of their time,
some may represent regressive views.

This shanty songbook strives to ride the line between
authentic but also not problematic. We did our best.

June 2025, Version 3

All For Me Grog

CHORUS

C F
All for me grog, me jolly jolly grog

C G
All for me beer and tobacco

C F
For I spent all me tin down on South Street sipping gin

C G7 C
And across the western ocean I must wander

Where are me boots, me noggin', noggin' boots,

They're all gone for beer and tobacco

For the heels they are worn out and the toes are kicked
about

And the soles are looking out for better weather.

CHORUS

Where is me shirt me noggin noggin shirt
All gone for beer and tobacco
For the collar is wore out and the front is knocked about
And the tail is look-in out for better weather

CHORUS

I'm sick in the head and I haven't been to bed,
Since first I came ashore from me slumber,
For I spent all me dough on me ladies don't you know
Far across the western ocean I must wander

CHORUS

Bully Boys

CHORUS

^C And it's row me ^Fbully boys we're in a hurry boys

^C we've got a long way to ^{G7}go

^C And we'll sing and we'll dance and bid ^Ffarewell to France

^{G7} row me ^Cbully boys row

And we sailed away in the roughest of water,

row me bully boys row

But now we return in the most royal quarters,

row me bully boys row

CHORUS

See, now, how we feast on pheasants by a flock,

row me bully boys row

It's a long, long way from the gruel and the stocks,

row me bully boys row

CHORUS

A wee dram of whiskey for every man,

row me bully boys row

And a barrel of rum for the shanty man,

row me bully boys row

CHORUS

And we sailed away in the roughest of water,

row me bully boys row

And now we return and so lock up your daughters,

row me bully boys row

CHORUS

Bully in the Alley

Sally is the girl that I love dearly,

way hey bully in the alley

Sally is the girl that I spliced nearly,

bully down in shinbone al-

CHORUS

G

So help me ba ba bully in the alley,

C G D

way hey bully in the alley

G

So help me ba ba bully in the alley,

C G D7 G

bully down in shinbone al-

Seven long years I've courted Sally

way hey bully in the alley

All she did was dilly and dally,

bully down in shinbone al-

CHORUS

Sally Brown I took a notion

way hey bully in the alley

To sail across this wide damn ocean,

bully down in shin-bone al-

CHORUS

Well I'll leave Sal and I'll go sailin'

way hey bully in the alley

Leave my gal and I'll go whalin',

bully down in shinbone al-

CHORUS

Drunken Sailor

What will we do with a drunken sailor?

What will we do with a drunken sailor?

What will we do with a drunken sailor?

Early in the morning!

CHORUS

Dm

Way hey and up she rises

C

Way hey and up she rises

Dm

Way hey and up she rises

F C Dm

Early in the morning!

Shave his belly with a rusty razor

Shave his belly with a rusty razor

Shave his belly with a rusty razor

Early in the morning!

CHORUS

Put him in a long boat till he's sober

Put him in a long boat till he's sober

Put him in a long boat till he's sober

Early in the morning!

CHORUS

Stick him in a scupper with a hose-pipe bottom

Stick him in a scupper with a hose-pipe bottom

Stick him in a scupper with a hose-pipe bottom

Early in the morning!

CHORUS

That's what we do with a drunken sailor

That's what we do with a drunken sailor

That's what we do with a drunken sailor

Early in the morning!

Health to the Company

Kind friends and companions, come join me in rhyme

Come lift up your voices in chorus with mine

Come lift up your voices all grief to refrain

For we may or might never all meet here again

CHORUS

Am Em G Am
Here's a health to the company and one to my lass

Am C Am G
Let us drink and be merry all out of one glass

Am C Am G
Let us drink and be merry all grief to refrain

Am Em G Am
For we may or might never all meet here again

Here's a health to the dear lass that I love so well

For her style and her beauty, sure none can excel

There's a smile on her countenance as she sits on my knee

There's no man in this wide world as happy as me

CHORUS

Our ship lies at anchor, she's ready to dock
I wish her safe landing, without any shock
If ever I should meet you by land or by sea
I will always remember your kindness to me

CHORUS

Joli Rouge

The Dreadnoughts, 2019

Dm Am Dm Am
From France we get the Brandy, from Martinique the rum

Dm C Dm C
Sweet red Cabernet from Italy does come

Dm C F C
But the fairest of them all, me boys the one to beat the day

Dm F C7 F
...is made from apples up the mighty Saguenay.

CHORUS

Dm Am Dm Am
So follow me lads... cause this ain't no grog or ale

Dm C Dm C
One pint down you'll be swinging in the gale

Dm C F C
Five pints bully you'll be shaking in your shoes

Dm F C Dm
...We're half-seas over on the Joli Rogue.

She's called the Dreadnought Cider, she's proper and she's fine

And when the day is over sure I wish that she were mine

Or in the dark of winter, or on a summer's eve

...One hand giveth and the other does receive.

CHORUS

So turn your sails over and bring her hard to port

Find that little star and fly straight into the North

The wild sun upon your back the wind a-blowing free

...You're rolling up the river boys to old Chicoutimi.

CHORUS

So you can have a Magners and pour it over ice

Or you can have a Strongbow if it's sadness that you like

Or join us up the river and we'll set your heart aglow

...And how you'll feel when the real cider starts to flow.

CHORUS

Leave Her Johnny

^C
I thought I heard the old man say

^G ^C
Leave her Johnny leave her

^F ^C ^G ^C
Tomorrow ye will get yer pay

^C ^{G7} ^C
And it's time for us to leave her

CHORUS

^G ^C
Leave her Johnny leave her

^F ^C
Oh leave her Johnny leave her

^F ^C ^G ^C
For the voyage is long and the winds don't blow

^C ^{G7} ^C
And it's time for us to leave her

Oh the wind was foul and the sea was high

Leave her Johnny leave her

She shipped it green and none went by

And it's time for us to leave her

CHORUS

I hate to sail on this rotten tub

Leave her Johnny leave her

No grog allowed and rotten grub

And it's time for us to leave her

CHORUS

We swear by rote for want of more

Leave her Johnny leave her

But now we're through so we'll go on shore

And it's time for us to leave her

CHORUS

Randy Dandy ③

Now we are ready to sail for the Horn

Way hey roll and go

Our boots an' our clothes, boys, are all in the pawn

To me rollickin' randy dandy O

CHORUS

E_b

Heave a pawl oh heave a way

B_b

Way hey roll and go

E_b

B_b

The anchor's on board and the cable's all stored

G_m

C_m

To me rollickin' randy dandy O

Man the stout caps'n and heave with a will

Way hey roll and go

For soon we'll be drivin' away up the hill

To me rollickin' randy dandy O

CHORUS

Heave away, bullies, ye parish rigged bums

Way hey roll and go

Take your hands from your pockets and don't suck your thumbs

To me rollickin' randy dandy O

CHORUS

We're outward bound for Vallipo Bay

Way hey roll and go

Get crackin', me lads, it's a hell of a way!

To me rollickin' randy dandy O

CHORUS

Soon we'll be warping her out through the locks

Way hey roll and go

Where the pretty young girls all come down in their frocks

To me rollickin' randy dandy O

CHORUS

Come breast the bar bullies heave with a will

Way hey roll and go

Oh soon we'll be rolling her down through the bay

To me rollickin' randy dandy O

Roll the Old Chariot Along

We'd be all right if the wind was in our sails.

We'd be all right if the wind was in our sails.

We'd be all right if the wind was in our sails.

And we'll all hang on behind.

CHORUS

Dm

And we'll roll the old chariot along

C

We'll roll the old chariot along

Dm

We'll roll the old chariot along

F

A7

Dm

And we'll all hang on behind

We'll be all right if we make it round The Horn.

We'll be all right if we make it round The Horn.

We'll be all right if we make it round The Horn.

And we'll all hang on behind.

CHORUS

Well a nice wash below wouldn't do us any harm.

Well a nice wash below wouldn't do us any harm.

Well a nice wash below wouldn't do us any harm.

And we'll all hang on behind.

CHORUS

Well a night on the town wouldn't do us any harm.

Well a night on the town wouldn't do us any harm.

Well a night on the town wouldn't do us any harm.

And we'll all hang on behind.

CHORUS

Oh a drop of Nelson's blood wouldn't do us any harm.

Oh a drop of Nelson's blood wouldn't do us any harm.

Oh a drop of Nelson's blood wouldn't do us any harm.

And we'll all hang on behind.

CHORUS

Wellerman

Cm

There once was a ship that put to sea,

Fm

Cm

the name of the ship was the Billy o Tea.

Cm

The winds blew hard, her bow dipped down.

G

Cm

Oh blow my bully boys blow.

CHORUS

Ab

Eb

Soon may the Wellerman come

Fm

Cm

to bring us sugar and tea and rum

Ab

Eb

One day the tonguin is done

G

Cm

we'll take our leave and go

She'd not been two weeks from shore,

when down on her a right whale bore.

The captain called all hands and swore

"We'll take that whale in tow".

CHORUS

Before the boat had hit the water,
the whale's tail came up and caught her.
All hands to the side, harpooned and fought her,
when she dived down below.

CHORUS

No line was cut, no whale was freed,
The captain's mind was not of greed.
But he belonged to the Whaleman's creed.
She took that ship in tow.

CHORUS

For forty days or even more,
The line went slack then tight once more.
All boats were lost, there were only four,
but still that whale did go.

CHORUS

As far as I've heard, the fight's still on
The line's not cut and the whale's not gone.
The Wellerman makes his regular call
To encourage the captain crew and all.

CHORUS