



A LA CLAIRE FONTAINE



WHERE DOES "A LA CLAIRE FONTAINE" COME FROM?

"A la claire fontaine" is a traditional French song, written by an anonymous poem written around the 15th century. It is also known as 'Coming back from the wedding'.



WHO WROTE THIS SONG ?

It is a traditional song, the author is therefore unknown. Supposedly, a juggler wrote it in the 16th century.



DOES THIS SONG EXIST IN OTHER LANGUAGES OR COUNTRIES?

"A la claire fontaine" also exists in Creole (a language resulting from mixtures of several languages) and in Québécois (a variety of French spoken by the French of Quebec). "A la claire fontaine" exists in French-speaking countries and regions, particularly in the province of Quebec in Canada and the islands of the Indian Ocean (Mauritius, Réunion, etc.).

ON WHAT OCCASION DO WE SING THIS SONG?

It is supposed to be a medieval song that became the national anthem of Quebec in the 19th century. Today, it is often sung in schools and children's choirs.



WHAT DO THE LYRICS MEAN?

The song tells of the unhappiness and sadness experienced by a person whose love has been spurned.



In Canada, at the beginning of the English conquest in the 18th century, "A la claire fontaine" was considered a song of resistance for the French against the English invaders. In this song, the rose symbolizes the English, and the "friend" in the line "I will never forget" represents France. In the 19th century, "A la claire fontaine" became the national anthem of New France (which is now Quebec).

