

# WELLERMAN

New Zealand Folksong

Lively Sea Shanty

N.C.(Bm) Em

1. There once was a ship that put to sea, and the name of the ship was the  
2. had not been two weeks from shore when down on her a  
3.-6. (See additional lyrics)

Bm

Bil - ly of Tea. The winds blew hard, her bow tipped and down. he'd  
right whale bore. The cap - tain called all hands and swore he'd

Chorus

A Bm G D

Blow, my bul - ly boys, in blow. tow. Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to  
take that whale in tow. Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to

The musical score is written for a guitar and piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating G major. The guitar part includes chords A, Bm, G, D, and A. The piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are as follows:

bring us sug - ar and tea and rum. One day when the

ton - guin' is done, we'll take our leave and go. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Bm 2. She go. 6. Bm

*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.  
(To 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 the ship in tow.  
(To 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 the whale did go.  
(To 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.  
(To Chorus)*