

Come All You Fair and Tender Ladies

Informant/Performer:
Mrs. Jane Gentry
Hot Springs, NC, 1916

Source:
Olive Dame Campbell and Cecil J. Sharp
English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians
New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1917

The musical score is written on four staves in 3/2 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and folk-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the song, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the third line. The lyrics are: 'Come all ye fair and tender ladies. Take warn - ing how you court young men; They're like a star of a sum - mer's morn - ing, They'll first ap - pear and then they're gone.'

Come all ye fair and tender ladies.

Take warn - ing how you court young men;

They're like a star of a sum - mer's morn - ing,

They'll first ap - pear and then they're gone.

2. They'll tell to you some pleasing story,
They'll declare to you they are your own;
Straightway they'll go and court some other
And leave you here in tears to mourn.
3. I wish I were a little sparrow
And I had wings and I could fly;
Straight after my true love I would follow,
When they'd be talking I'd be by.
4. But I am not a little sparrow,
Got no wings, nor I can't fly;
I will sit right down in grief and sorrow
And try to pass my troubles by.
5. If I had known before I courted
That love had been so hard to win,
I'd locked my heart with the keys of golden,
And pinned it down with a silver pin.