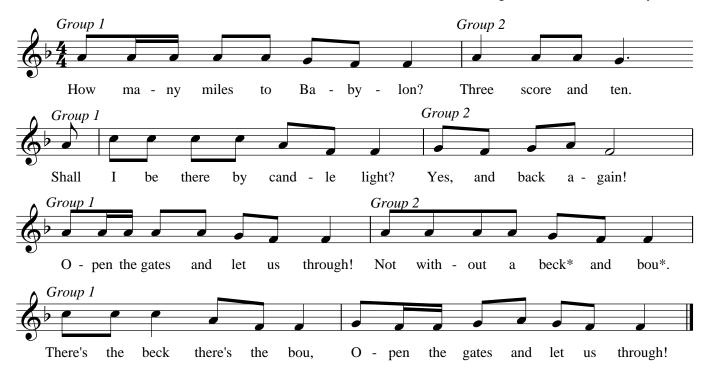
How Many Miles to Babylon

Source:

James T.R. Ritchie

Golden City

Edinborough/London: Oliver A. Boyd, 1965



*beck=curtsey

*bou=bow

Game Directions

The players form into two rows facing each other, each row singing its own line. For the "beck" those in Row 1 bend back, and for the "bou" they bow forward. At the demand "open the gates and let us through!" those in Row 2 form an arch, through which those in Row 1 rush. Row 1 now becomes Row 2, and the players forming the arch become Row 1 and the game restarts.

Background Information

This game goes back at least to the 13th century, when it was referred to in a Latin sermon as "Quot leucas habeo ad Beverleyham." This version was collected in Scotland. The game exists in many variants in the United States and the British Isles.