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31st of April

~ Jim Blake (c1985)

Late one night I was sitting in a chair
When I thought I heard a funny noise
outside.

Up I rose and went out into the square,
I beheld a sight to make my eyes grow
wide.

Hankies in their hands, ribbons in their hair,
Never had I seen such peculiar folk.
Stamping on the ground and shouting to the
air,
Come and dance the Morris with Hearts of
Oak.

Have you heard the music? Have you heard
the bells?
Have you seen the sticks they've cracked
and broke?
No one does the dances half so well,
As the highly celebrated Hearts of Oak!

On and on they continued through the night,
'Till I felt for certain that their legs would
drop.
As I stood there arrested by the sight,
I began to wonder would they ever stop.

Pausing just a moment for half a case of
beer,
Whiskey from the bottle and a smoke.
Forming up a side they called for me to
hear,
Come and dance the morris with the Hearts
of Oak

Have you heard the music? Have you heard
the bells?
Have you seen the sticks they've cracked
and broke?
No one does the dances half so well,

As the highly celebrated Hearts of Oak!

Left right left and the hankies up and down,
They explain each figure every step and
turn.

Up and back and you circle all around,
While I listened closely and I tried to learn.

But, stumbling on my feet 'till I could nearly
scream,
Feeling like a fool or an awful joke.
Well looking at me now no one could ever
dream,
I could dance the morris with the Hearts of
Oak.

Have you heard the music? Have you heard
the bells?
Have you seen the sticks they've cracked
and broke?
No one does the dances half so well,
As the highly celebrated Hearts of Oak!

So late one night if you're sitting in a chair,
And you're not quite certain that you hear a
sound,
Rise on up and go out into the square.
When you see the dancing this is what
you've found.

Hankies in our hands, ribbons in our hair,
No one but the finest dancing folk.
Stamping on the ground and shouting to the
air,
Come and dance the morris with the Hearts
of Oak.

Have you heard the music? Have you heard
the bells?
Have you seen the sticks they've cracked
and broke?
No one does the dances half so well,
As the highly celebrated Hearts of Oak!

1952 Vincent Black Lightning

~ Richard Thompson

Oh says Red Molly to James "That's a fine motorbike.

A girl could feel special on any such like"

Says James to Red Molly "My hat's off to you

It's a Vincent Black Lightning, 1952.

And I've seen you at the corners and cafes it seems

Red hair and black leather, my favourite colour scheme"

And he pulled her on behind and down to Boxhill they did ride

Oh says James to Red Molly "Here's a ring for your right hand

But I'll tell you in earnest I'm a dangerous man.

For I've fought with the law since I was seventeen,

I robbed many a man to get my Vincent machine.

Now I'm 21 years, I might make 22

And I don't mind dying, but for the love of you.

And if fate should break my stride

Then I'll give you my Vincent to ride"

"Come down, come down, Red Molly" called Sergeant McRae

"For they've taken young James Adie for armed robbery.

Shotgun blast hit his chest, left nothing inside.

Oh come down, Red Molly to his dying bedside"

When she came to the hospital, there wasn't much left

He was running out of road, he was running out of breath

But he smiled to see her cry
He said "I'll give you my Vincent to ride"

Says James "In my opinion, there's nothing in this world

Beats a 52 Vincent and a red headed girl.
Now Nortons and Indians and Greeves won't do,

Ah, they don't have a soul like a Vincent 52"

Oh he reached for her hand and he slipped her the keys

Said "I've got no further use for these.

I see angels on Ariels in leather and chrome,

Swooping down from heaven to carry me home"

And he gave her one last kiss and died

And he gave her his Vincent to ride.

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/j0kJdrfzjAg>

Adieu Sweet Lovely Nancy

[Roud 165]

Adieu, sweet lovely Nancy, ten thousand
times adieu
I'm a-going round the ocean, love, to seek
for something new
Come change your ring with me, dear girl,
come change your ring with me,
For it might be a token of true love while I
am on the sea.

When I am far upon the sea, who knows not
where I am
Kind letters I will write to you from every
foreign land
The secrets of your heart, dear girl, are the
best of my good will
So let my body be where it might, my heart
is with you still.

There's a heavy storm arising, see how it
comes around
While we poor sailors are on the sea,
a-fighting for the crown
Our officer commanded us, and him we
must obey
Expecting every moment all to get cast
away.

There are tinkers, tailors, and shoemakers,
lie snoring in their sleep
While we poor souls on the ocean wide are
a-plowing through the deep
There's nothing to defend us, love, nor to
keep us from the cold
On the ocean wide, where we must bide like
jolly seamen bold.

But when the wars are over, there'll be
peace on every shore
We will drink to our wives and our children,
and the girls that we adore

We'll call for liquor merrily, and spend out
money free
And when the money it is all gone, we'll
boldly go to sea.

So adieu, sweet lovely Nancy, ten thousand
times adieu
I'm a-going round the ocean, love, to seek
for something new
Come change your ring with me, dear girl,
come change your ring with me,
For it might be a token of true love while I
am on the sea.

Peter Bellamy: <https://youtu.be/zra5wlhLJh8>

Al Bowlly's In Heaven

~ Richard Thompson

Well we were heroes then, and the girls
were all pretty
And a uniform was a lucky charm, bought
you the key to the city
We used to dance the whole night through
While Al Bowlly sang "The Very Thought Of
You"
Now Bowlly's in heaven and I'm in limbo
now

Well I gave my youth to king and country
But what's my country done for me but
sentenced me to misery
I traded my helmet and my parachute
For a pair of crutches and a demob suit
Al Bowlly's in heaven and I'm in limbo now

Hard times, hard hard times
Hostels and missions and dosser's soup
lines
Can't close me eyes on a bench or a bed
For the sound of some battle raging in my
head

Old friends, you lose so many
You get run around, all over town
The wear and the tear, oh it just drives you
down
St Mungo's with its dirty old sheets
Beats standing all day down on
Scarborough Street
Al Bowlly's in heaven and I'm in limbo now

Can't stay here, you got to foot-slog
Once in a blue moon you might find a job
Sleep in the rain, you sleep in the snow
When the beds are all taken you've got
nowhere to go

Well I can see me now, I'm back there on
the dance floor

Oh with a blonde on me arm, red-head to
spare
Spit on my shoes and shine in me hair
And there's Al Bowlly, he's up on a stand
Oh that was a voice and that was a band
Al Bowlly's in heaven and I'm in limbo now

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/ze2YJURB-jM>

Albion Sunrise

~ Richard Thompson

Albion Country Band:

<https://youtu.be/8CjACtRzR60>

When the sun comes up in the morning and
you hear the dancing boys
Mother leave your pots and pans, sister
leave your toys

If you have to break a camel's back or pull
the crowds apart
You'll find a way to get there when that old
time music starts

Just down the street
There's a rattling sound
There's a country band
Playing hand me down
And it's a jamboree

It was in my father's father's time they new a
rolling air
And the Albion boys will show you how, they
sang it everywhere

And if you come along with us you're
numbered as a friend
And the faded flower of England will rise
and bloom again

Just down the street
There's a rattling sound
There's a country band
Playing hand me down
And it's a jamboree

The dancers standing three and three are a
most illustrious sight
If someone saw a better one then you
surely know he lied

You can hear the bells a-ringing as the
singer calls them on
They can dance away the night and day and
never step it wrong

Ale, Ale, Glorious Ale

[Roud 1512]

When I was a young man my father did say
The Summer is comin' 'tis time to make hay
And when hay's been carted don't you ever
fail
to drink gaffer's health in a pint of good ale

Ale, Ale, Glorious Ale

Served up in pewter, it tells its own tale
Some folks like radishes, some cur-lie kale
But give I boiled parsnips and a gert dish of
taters
and a lump of fatty bacon, and a pint of
good ale

Our MP's in parliament our faith for to keep
And I hope now we've put 'im there he won't
sit and sleep
He'll always get my vote if he doesn't fail
To bring down the price of our Good English
Ale

Ale, Ale, Glorious Ale

Served up in pewter, it tells its own tale
Some folks like radishes, some cur-lie kale
But give I boiled parsnips and a gert dish of
taters
and a lump of fatty bacon, and a pint of
good ale

Some folks is teetotallers, they drink water
neat
It must rot their gutses and give 'em damp
feet
But as for my part I know I'll not fail
On boiled beef and bacon and Good
English Ale

Ale, Ale, Glorious Ale

Served up in pewter, it tells its own tale
Some folks like radishes, some cur-lie kale

But give I boiled parsnips and a gert dish of
taters
and a lump of fatty bacon, and a pint of
good ale

The Americans Have Stolen My True Love Away

[Roud 587]

Eliza Carthy & Saul Rose:

<https://youtu.be/xJPHxbBbKlw>

The Americans have stolen my true love
away
And I in old England no longer can stay
I will cross the briny ocean all on my sad
breast
To find out my true love who I do love best

And when I have found him, my joy and
delight
I'll be constant unto him by day and by night
I will always prove as constant as a true
turtle dove
And I never will in no time prove false to my
love

When meeting is a pleasure but parting's a
grief
And an inconstant lover is worse than a thief
For a thief he will but rob you, take all that
you have
But an inconstant lover brings you to the
grave

The grave it will rot you and bring you to
dust
There is not one in twenty pretty ladies can
trust
For they'll kiss you and court you and swear
they'll prove true
And the very next morning they will bid you
adieu

Come all you pretty maidens wherever you
be
Don't settle your mind on yon sycamore tree
For the leaves they will wither and the
branches will die
And you'll be forsaken, you won't know not
for why.

Anchor Song

[words Rudyard Kipling, music Peter Bellamy]

[Line by line](#) analysis

Heh! Walk her round. Heave, ah, heave her short again!

Over, snatch her over, there, and hold her on the pawl.

Loose all sail, and brace your yards aback and full --

Ready jib to pay her off and heave short all!

Well, ah, fare you well; we can stay no more with you, my love --

Down, set down your liquor and your girl from off your knee;

For the wind has come to say:

"You must take me while you may,

If you'd go to Mother Carey

(Walk her down to Mother Carey!),

Oh, we're bound to Mother Carey where she feeds her chicks at sea!"

Heh! Walk her round. Break, ah, break it out o' that!

Break our starboard-bower out, apeak, awash, and clear!

Port -- port she casts, with the harbour-mud beneath her foot,

And that's the last o' bottom we shall see this year!

Well, ah, fare you well, for we've got to take her out again --

Take her out in ballast, riding light and cargo-free.

And it's time to clear and quit

When the hawser grips the bitt,

So we'll pay you with the foresheet and a promise from the sea!

Heh! Tally on. Aft and walk away with her! Handsome to the cathead, now; O tally on the fall!

Stop, seize and fish, and easy on the davit-guy.

Up, well up the fluke of her, and inboard haul!

Well, ah, fare you well, for the Channel wind's took hold of us,

Choking down our voices as we snatch the gaskets free.

And it's blowing up for night,

And she's dropping light on light,

And she's snorting under bonnets for a breath of open sea,

Wheel, full and by; but she'll smell her road alone to-night.

Sick she is and harbour-sick -- Oh, sick to clear the land!

Roll down to Brest with the old Red Ensign over us --

Carry on and thrash her out with all she'll stand!

Well, ah, fare you well, and it's Ushant slams the door on us,

Whirling like a windmill through the dirty scud to lee:

Till the last, last flicker goes

From the tumbling water-rows,

And we're off to Mother Carey

(Walk her down to Mother Carey!),

Oh, we're bound for Mother Carey where she feeds her chicks at sea!

Peter Bellamy:

<https://youtu.be/kjWn-RmKGSE>

Fay Hield: <https://youtu.be/j5ergi9p5JE>

Tony Barrand & John Roberts:

<https://youtu.be/UCasXPDI5Ws>

Anderson's Coast

~ John Warner

Oh, Annie dear, don't wait for me
I fear I shall not return to thee
There's naught to do but endure my fate
And watch the moon
The lonely moon
Light the breakers on wild Bass Strait.

Now Bass Strait roars like some great mill
 race
And where are you, my Annie
And the same moon shines on this lonely
 place
As shone one day on my Annie's face

But Annie dear, don't wait for me
I fear I shall not return to thee
There's naught to do but endure my fate
And watch the moon
The lonely moon
Light the breakers on wild Bass Strait.

We stole a vessel and all her gear
And where are you, my Annie
And from Van Diemen's we north did steer
'Till Bass Strait's wild waves wrecked us
 here

But Annie dear, don't wait for me
I fear I shall not return to thee
There's naught to do but endure my fate
And watch the moon
The lonely moon
Light the breakers on wild Bass Strait.

A mile inland, as our path was laid
And where are you, my Annie?
We found a government stockade.
Long deserted, but stoutly made.

But Annie dear, don't wait for me
I fear I shall not return to thee

There's naught to do but endure my fate
And watch the moon
The lonely moon
Light the breakers on wild Bass Strait.

And somewhere west, Port Melbourne lies
And where are you, my Annie
Through swamps infested with snakes and
 flies
The fool who walks there, he surely dies

But Annie dear, don't wait for me
I fear I shall not return to thee
There's naught to do but endure my fate
And watch the moon
The lonely moon
Light the breakers on wild Bass Strait.

We hail no ships, though the time it drags
And where are you, my Annie
Our chain gang walk and government rags
All mark us out as Van Diemen's lags

But Annie dear, don't wait for me
I fear I shall not return to thee
There's naught to do but endure my fate
And watch the moon
The lonely moon
Light the breakers on wild Bass Strait.

We fled the lash and the chafing chain
And where are you, my Annie
We fled hard labour and brutal pain
And here we are and here remain

But Annie dear, don't wait for me
I fear I shall not return to thee
There's naught to do but endure my fate
And watch the moon
The lonely moon
Light the breakers on wild Bass Strait.

Nancy Kerr & James Fagan:

<https://youtu.be/EdB7z-aJQSI>

Angel From Montgomery

~ John Prine

I am an old woman named after my mother
My old man is another child that's grown old
If dreams were lightning thunder was desire
This old house would have burnt down a
long time ago

Make me an angel that flies from
Montgom'ry
Make me a poster of an old rodeo
Just give me one thing that I can hold on to
To believe in this living is just a hard way to
go

When I was a young girl well, I had me a
cowboy
He weren't much to look at, just free
rambling man
But that was a long time and no matter how
I try
The years just flow by like a broken down
dam.

Make me an angel that flies from
Montgom'ry
Make me a poster of an old rodeo
Just give me one thing that I can hold on to
To believe in this living is just a hard way to
go

There's flies in the kitchen I can hear 'em
there buzzing
And I ain't done nothing since I woke up
today.
How the hell can a person go to work in the
morning
And come home in the evening and have
nothing to say.

Make me an angel that flies from
Montgom'ry
Make me a poster of an old rodeo

Just give me one thing that I can hold on to
To believe in this living is just a hard way to
go

John Prine:

<https://youtu.be/U6cagWYTGCY>

The Angels Took My Racehorse Away

~ Richard Thompson

Well the angels came to see me today
Said "We've taken your racehorse away"
And I believe it was that bookmaker from
Crail
I believe that he put one in her pail

All the finest in the field
Only measured to her shoulders, they only
ever see her heels
And I believe (I believe) every sporting man
will cry
I believe (I believe) to see his income pass
him by

She won the Lanark Silver Bell and she
stole every heart away
She stood her stand at sixteen hands and
I'd ride her easy
But they've taken her away, they've taken
my racehorse away

There's a racecourse in the sky
And that's where all the racing horses must
go by and by
And I believe (I believe) every steward, lord
and groom,
I believe (I believe) that they're calling her
name

She would look at me in the eyes and that
was all she had to say
She stood her stand at sixteen hands and
I'd ride her easy
But they've taken, they've taken my
racehorse away

They've taken my racehorse away
They've taken my racehorse away
They've taken my racehorse away

They've taken my racehorse away
They've taken my racehorse away.

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/VE_RkWOPWgQ

Another May Day Morning

~ Jim Blake (c1986 & 1995)

Look at the sunrise on the river,
One more year it's springtime again.
April has promised, May delivers,
One more May Day morning.

Winter at last has past behind us,
Cold I was, how cold it has been.
Summer is creeping up to find us,
One more May Day morning.

Another May Day morning,
New life in the ground.
Let's sing a song to greet the day,
Let's fill our lungs with the air of May.
Let's watch the winter float away,
And pass the bottle round.
Let's watch the winter float away,
And pass the bottle round.

Such a brave crowd and such ambition,
Traveling here at break of day.
Carrying on the old tradition,
One more May Day morning.

Singing and standing here together,
Magic runs within our ring.
Bringing about a change in the weather,
One more May Day morning.

Another May Day morning,
New life in the ground.
Let's sing a song to greet the day,
Let's fill our lungs with the air of May.
Let's watch the winter float away,
And pass the bottle round.
Let's watch the winter float away,
And pass the bottle round.

I hear the bells that bring the springtime,
Dusted off for one special day
Ushering in our dance and sing time,

One more May Day morning

All my old teammates, how I miss them;
Moved or changed or drifted away
If they were here I'd shout and wish them
One more May Day morning

Another May Day morning,
New life in the ground.
Let's sing a song to greet the day,
Let's fill our lungs with the air of May.
Let's watch the winter float away,
And pass the bottle round.
Let's watch the winter float away,
And pass the bottle round.

Dawn and Jay Garrett-Larsen (2021):
<https://tinyurl.com/yehuj5tp>

Apple Picker's Reel

~ Larry Hanks (c1966)

Hey, ho, makes you feel so fine
Looking out across the orchard in the bright
sunshine.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so free
Standing in the top of an apple tree.

Up in the morning before the sun
I don't get home until the day is done;
My pick-sack's heavy and my shoulder's
sore
But I'll be back tomorrow to pick some more.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so fine
Looking out across the orchard in the bright
sunshine.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so free
Standing in the top of an apple tree.

Start at the bottom and you pick 'em from
the ground
And you pick the tree clean all the way
around;
Then you set up your ladder and you climb
up high
And you're looking through the leaves at the
clear blue sky.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so fine
Looking out across the orchard in the bright
sunshine.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so free
Standing in the top of an apple tree.

Three-legged ladder, it's wobbly as hell
Reaching for an apple---whoa!---I almost
fell.
Got a twenty-pound sack hanging 'round my
neck
And there's three more apples that I can't
quite get.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so fine
Looking out across the orchard in the bright
sunshine.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so free
Standing in the top of an apple tree.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so funny
When you walking through the town and got
no money.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so free
Standing in the top of an apple tree.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so down
Picking up windfalls, crawling on the
ground.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so free
Standing in the top of an apple tree.

Hey, ho, you lose your mind
If you sing this song about a hundred times;
Hey, ho, makes you feel so free
Standing in the top of an apple tree.

Larry Hanks (1972):

<https://youtu.be/G8KAGW5iFFg>

Apple Tree Wassail

O lily-white lily, o lily-white pin,
Please to come down and let us come in!
O lily-white lily, o lily-white smock,
Please to come down and pull back the
lock!

For it's our wassail jolly wassail!
Joy come to our jolly wassail!
How well they may bloom, how well they
may bear,
So we may have apples and cider next year.

O master and mistress, o are you within?
Please to come down and pull back the pin.
Good luck to your house, may riches come
soon,
So bring us some cider, we'll drink down the
moon.

For it's our wassail jolly wassail!
Joy come to our jolly wassail!
How well they may bloom, how well they
may bear,
So we may have apples and cider next year.

There was an old farmer and he had an old
cow,
But how to milk her he didn't know how.
He put his old cow down in his old barn.
And a little more liquor won't do us no harm.
Harm me boys harm, harm me boys harm,
A little more liquor won't do us no harm.

For it's our wassail jolly wassail!
Joy come to our jolly wassail!
How well they may bloom, how well they
may bear,
So we may have apples and cider next year.

O the ringles and the jingles and the tenor
of the song goes
Merrily merrily merrily.

O the tenor of the song goes merrily.

The Watersons:

<https://youtu.be/vh7JbVKwJjk>

Jon Boden: <https://youtu.be/L0FQ1tGfVXk>

Arthur McBride

[Roud 2355]

I had a first cousin called Arthur McBride,
He and I took a stroll down by the seaside
A-seeking good fortune and what might
betide,
T'was just as the day was a-dawning
And then after resting we both took a tramp,
We met Sergeant Harper and corporal
Cramp
Besides the wee drummer who beat up for
camp
With his rowdy-dow-dow in the morning

He says 'My young fellows, if you will enlist,
A guinea you quickly will have in your fist
Besides a Crown for to kick up the dust
And drink the King's health in the morning'
Had we been such fools as to take the
advance
The wee bit of money we'd have to run
chance
'Do ye think it no scruples for to send us to
France
Where we would be killed in the morning'

He says 'My young fellows, if I hear but one
word,
I instantly now will out with my sword
And into your bodies as strength will afford,
So now, my gay devils, take warning'
But Arthur and I we took in the odds,
We gave them no chance to launch out their
swords
Our whacking shillelaghs came over their
heads
And paid them right smart in the morning

As for the young drummer we rifled his
pouch
And we made a football of his
rowdy-dow-dow
And into the ocean to rock and to roll

And bade it a tedious returning
As for the old rapier that hung by his side
We flung it as far as we could in the tide
To the devil I pitch you, says Arthur McBride
To temper your steel in the morning

Planxty: <https://youtu.be/0hV9fvhCmbw>

Awake, Awake

[Roud 701]

Awake, Awake, you drowsy souls
And hear what I do say:
Remember Christ, our Savior dear,
Was born upon this day.
The Prince of Peace upon this earth,
A humble stable saw his birth.

God send you all a joyful New Year, a New
Year,
And God send you all a joyful New Year.

The shepherds wondered at the sight
Of the babe that was foretold;
The son of God brought down to earth,
In a stable bleak and cold.
Upon the straw he lay his head,
With ass and oxen 'round his bed.

God send you all a joyful New Year, a New
Year,
And God send you all a joyful New Year.

The eastern kings they heard the news
Of the child, the lord of all;
And following the guiding star,
They came upon his stall.
In squalor cold they brought him gold,
And frankincense and myrrh, it's told.

God send you all a joyful New Year, a New
Year,
And God send you all a joyful New Year.

God bless you master of this house
And send you long to reign;
Remembering Christ who came to earth,
So humble to remain.
And may the poor of lowly birth,
Inherit all the joys of earth.

God send you all a joyful New Year, a New
Year,
And God send you all a joyful New Year.

Waterson:Carthy:

<https://youtu.be/aljdFnS9ROM>

This is the dark Easter version, not
Finest Kind's lighter Christmas version

Babes in the Wood

[Roud 288]

O, don't you remember a long time ago
Those two little babies their names I don't
 know,
They strayed away one bright summer's
 day,
Those two little babies got lost on their way.

Pretty babes in the wood, pretty babes in
 the wood,
O, don't you remember those babes in the
 wood?

Now the day being done and the night
 coming on
Those two little babies sat under a stone.
They sobbed and they sighed, they sat
 there and cried,
Those two little babies they lay down and
 died.

Pretty babes in the wood, pretty babes in
 the wood,
O, don't you remember those babes in the
 wood?

Now the robins so red how swiftly they
 sped,
They put out their wide wings and over them
 spread.
And all the day long in the branches they
 throng,
They sweetly did whistle and this was their
 song.

Pretty babes in the wood, pretty babes in
 the wood,
O, don't you remember those babes in the
 wood?

Tim Hart & Maddy Prior:

<https://youtu.be/3JUzTY4g2hk>

Back in Durham Gaol

~ Jez Lowe

I'm a poor man as honest as they come
I never was a thief until they caught me,
The judge said he saw my hands were red,
No matter how I pled they found me guilty,
There was no bail, off to Durham Gaol,
I went knowing nothing now can save me,
Calamities they always come in threes,
And that's how many months it was he gave
me.

And it's no never in the live-long day,
You'll not find me back in Durham Gaol.

'Twas a grey day when first I went astray,
The devil take the man who came to tempt
me,
For in no time my life was one of crime,
And now you see the trouble that it's got
me.

There are four bare walls at which to stare,
Me food and my lodgings are all paid for,
You can't see the turning of the key,
To hear it turning back is all you wait for.

And it's no never in the live-long day,
You'll not find me back in Durham Gaol.

Sad to say, here I am to stay,
With only iron bars around to lean on,
I get a cold bath to dampen down me wrath,
Though it's barely just a month ago I had
one,
And God knows, I need a suit of clothes,
You'd think they could've found a one to fit
me
Me boots would be fine if they were both a
nine,
I'm walking like a fall of stones had hit me

And it's no never in the live-long day,
You'll not find me back in Durham Gaol.

And I'm sure that me mother's heart would
break,

To see me in a state of such repentance,
I'm glad she's not around to see,
And I'll be out before she finishes her
sentence,

The sun will shine, I'll leave it all behind,
Knowing I've done my time and done my
duty,
And out of the gates on the narrow and the
straight,
To the place where I've buried all the booty.

And it's no never in the live-long day,
You'll not find me back in Durham Gaol.

Jez Lowe: <https://youtu.be/zhb2iYlj5x4>

The Ballad of Ned Kelly

~ Trevor Lucas

Eighteen hundred and seventy eight
Is a year I remember so well
When they drove Old Red into an early
grave
And sent my mother to jail
Now I don't know what's right or wrong
But they hung Christ on nails
But with six kids at home and two still on her
breast
They wouldn't even give her bail

Oh Ned, you're better off dead
You get no peace of mind
A track's a trail
And they're hot on your tail
Before they're gonna hang you high

I did write a letter
And I sealed it with my hand
Tried to tell about Stringy Bark Creek
And tried to make them understand
Oh, that I didn't wanna kill Kennedy
Or cause his blood to run
Well he alone could have saved his life
By throwing down his gun

Oh Ned, you're better off dead
You get no peace of mind
A track's a trail
And they're hot on your tail
Before they're gonna hang you high

Well I'd rather die like Donahue
That bush-ranger so brave
Than be taken by the government
And forced to walk in chains
Well I'd rather fight with all my might
While I have eyes to see
Well I'd rather die ten thousand times
Than hang from a gallow's tree.

Oh Ned, you're better off dead
You get no peace of mind
A track's a trail
And they're hot on your tail
Before they're gonna hang you high

Fotheringay: <https://youtu.be/MVvpVvgYrY>

Bank Vault In Heaven

~ Richard Thompson

Got a bank vault in heaven, got my name on
the door

Every day I get richer, add a little bit more
Come you tellers and lenders and lend me
some more

Got a bank vault in heaven and it's mine for
evermore

And the angels sing "Fly, fly, fly"

The angels sing "Fly, fly, fly"

Fly from the darkness that covers you all
Fly to the sky where the only wall is infinity,
infinity

Going to shine down from heaven right into
your room

Take the minds of your children right off to
the moon

Every mud hut and igloo, every penthouse
and farm

I'll shine down from heaven and I'll do my
snake-charm

And the angels say "Sing, sing, sing", "Sing,
sing, sing"

Oh the whole world is singing the same
happy tune

Something so low even hound dogs can
croon to insanity, insanity

Oh there's a signpost in heaven, in the
firmament blue

You can run to the wastelands, but it points
straight at you

I've got a bank vault in heaven, what joy will
it bring

All you Punchs and Judys, I'll be pulling
your strings

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/cBy6ZJ5qG74>

The Banks of the Nile

[Roud 950]

“Oh hark! the drums do beat, my love, no
longer can we stay.
The bugle-horns are sounding clear, and we
must march away.
We're ordered down to Portsmouth, and it's
many is the weary mile
To join the British Army on the banks of the
Nile.”

“Oh Willie, dearest Willie, don't leave me
here to mourn,
Don't make me curse and rue the day that
ever I was born.
For the parting of our love would be like
parting with my life.
So stay at home, my dearest love, and I will
be your wife.”

“Oh my Nancy, dearest Nancy, sure that will
never do.
The government has ordered, and we are
bound to go.
The government has ordered, and the
Queen she gives command.
And I am bound on oath, my love, to serve
in a foreign land.”

“Oh, but I'll cut off my yellow hair, and I'll go
along with you.
I'll dress myself in uniform, and I'll see Egypt
too.
I'll march beneath your banner while fortune
it do smile,
And we'll comfort one another on the banks
of the Nile.”

“But your waist it is too slender, and your
fingers they are too small.
In the sultry suns of Egypt your rosy cheeks
would spoil.

Where the cannons they do rattle, when the
bullets they do fly,
And the silver trumpets sound so loud to
hide the dismal cries.”

“Oh, cursed be those cruel wars, that ever
they began,
For they have robbed our country of manys
the handsome men.
They've robbed us of our sweethearts while
their bodies they feed the lions,
On the dry and sandy deserts which are the
banks of the Nile.”

Fotheringay: <https://youtu.be/zBSmR7fhNsk>

Bathsheba Smiles

~ Richard Thompson

Bathsheba smiles
She smiles and veins turn to ice
She smiles and heads bow down
She works the room
Air-kisses every victim twice
She spreads her joy around

Do you close your eyes to see miracles
Do you raise your face to kiss angels
Do you float on air to hear oracles
Bathsheba smiles, smiles
Bathsheba smiles, smiles
No doubt can cross her mind
Cross her mind

Bathsheba knows
She knows you better than yourself
Confess it on your knees
She shares her love
And sharing love is sharing wealth
Dig in your pockets please

Do you close your eyes to see miracles
Do you raise your face to kiss angels
Do you float on air to hear oracles
Bathsheba smiles, smiles
Bathsheba smiles, smiles
No doubt can cross her mind

No pain no gain's a strain
But she never seems to hurt
Catwalk pilgrims sing this song
Hello heaven, goodbye dirt
And no hair shirt

Do you close your eyes to see miracles
Do you raise your face to kiss angels
Do you float on air to hear oracles
Bathsheba smiles, smiles
Bathsheba smiles, smiles
No doubt can cross her mind

Do you close your eyes
Do you raise your face
Bathsheba smiles, smiles
Bathsheba smiles, smiles
Bathsheba smiles

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/CByWw_qO1hl

Beat the Retreat

~ Richard Thompson

I'm beating my retreat
Back home to you
I'm beating my retreat
Back home to you
I'm burning all my bridges
I'm burning all my bridges
I'm burning all my bridges
I'm running back home to you

I'm trailing my colours
Back home to you
I'm trailing my colours
Back home to you
This world is filled with sadness
This world is filled with sadness
This world is filled with sadness
I'm running back home to you

I'll follow the drum
Back home to you
I'll follow the drum
Back home to you
There was no joy in my leaving
There was no joy in my leaving
There was no joy in my leaving
I'm running back home to you

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/5vrNW6Vu9DA>

Beer That Tastes Like Beer

~ Nick Robertshaw

Here's to beer that tastes like beer,
An amber glass of wholesome cheer,
A noble brew that has no peer,
Beer that tastes like beer!

For centuries the brewers craft
Produced the most exquisite draft
When he brews with what he oughter
Barley malt, hops, yeast and water.

Let cheese be cheese and bread be bread
Don't serve us soap and cake instead
While sausages may cause some fear
For goodness sake let beer be beer!

Among the most requested favors,
Please avoid exotic flavors,
Fruits and nut and spices queer,
Have no place in honest beer,

Stay the bung, don't drive the spile,
On concoctions made with adjuncts vile,
Cornflakes, rice, and rats from sewers,
Fine for cooks, ... but not for brewers!

So stick with what is plain and true
A beery tasting smelling brew
Then you'll earn our highest rating
Refreshing yet intoxicating!

Nick Robertshaw:

<https://youtu.be/zUTcMOYqIIA>

Beeswing

~ Richard Thompson

I was nineteen when I came to town, they
called it the Summer of Love
They were burning babies, burning flags.
The hawks against the doves
I took a job in the steamie down on
Cauldrum Street
And I fell in love with a laundry girl who was
working next to me

Oh she was a rare thing, fine as a bee's
wing
So fine a breath of wind might blow her
away
She was a lost child, oh she was running
wild
She said "As long as there's no price on
love, I'll stay.
And you wouldn't want me any other way"

Brown hair zig-zag around her face and a
look of half-surprise
Like a fox caught in the headlights, there
was animal in her eyes
She said "Young man, oh can't you see I'm
not the factory kind
If you don't take me out of here I'll surely
lose my mind"

Oh she was a rare thing, fine as a bee's
wing
So fine that I might crush her where she lay
She was a lost child, she was running wild
She said "As long as there's no price on
love, I'll stay.
And you wouldn't want me any other way"

We busked around the market towns and
picked fruit down in Kent
And we could tinker lamps and pots and
knives wherever we went

And I said that we might settle down, get a
few acres dug
Fire burning in the hearth and babies on the
rug
She said "Oh man, you foolish man, it surely
sounds like hell.
You might be lord of half the world, you'll not
own me as well"

Oh she was a rare thing, fine as a bee's
wing
So fine a breath of wind might blow her
away
She was a lost child, oh she was running
wild
She said "As long as there's no price on
love, I'll stay.
And you wouldn't want me any other way"

We was camping down the Gower one time,
the work was pretty good
She thought we shouldn't wait for the frost
and I thought maybe we should
We was drinking more in those days and
tempers reached a pitch
And like a fool I let her run with the rambling
itch

Oh she was a rare thing, fine as a bee's
wing
So fine a breath of wind might blow her
away
She was a lost child, oh she was running
wild
She said "As long as there's no price on
love, I'll stay.
And you wouldn't want me any other way"

Oh the last I heard she's sleeping rough
back on the Derby beat
White Horse in her hip pocket and a
wolfhound at her feet
And they say she even married once, a man
named Romany Brown

But even a gypsy caravan was too much
settling down

And they say her flower is faded now, hard
weather and hard booze

But maybe that's just the price you pay for
the chains you refuse

Oh she was a rare thing, fine as a bee's
wing

And I miss her more than ever words could
say

If I could just taste all of her wildness now

If I could hold her in my arms today

Well I wouldn't want her any other way

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/HAPy-Xoix-g>

The Big Hewer

~ Ewan McColl

Out of the dirt and darkness I was born, go
down
Out of the hard black coalface I was torn, go
down
Kicked on the world and the earth split open
Crawled through a crack where the rock
was broken
Burrowed a hole, away in the coal, go down

In a cradle of coal in the darkness I was
laid, go down
Down in the dirt and darkness I was raised,
go down
Cut me teeth on a five-foot timber
Held up the roof with my little finger
Started me time away in the mine, go down

On the day that I was born I was six feet tall,
go down
And the very next day I learned the way to
haul, go down
On the third day worked at board and pillar
Worked on the fourth as a long-wall filler
Getting me steam up, hewing the seam, go
down

I'm the son of the son of the son of a
collier's son, go down
Coal dust runs in the veins where the blood
should run, go down
Five steel ribs and an iron backbone
Teeth that can bite through rock and
blackstone
Working me time, away in the mine, go
down

Three hundred years I hewed at the coal by
hand, go down
In the pits of Durham and East
Northumberland, go down

Been gassed and burned and blown
asunder
Buried more times than I can number
Getting the coal, away in the hole, go down

I've scabbled and picked at the face where
the roof was low, go down
Crawled in the seams where only a mole
could go, go down
In the thin-cut seams I've ripped and redded
Where even the rats are born bow-legged
Winning the coal, away in the hole, go down

I've worked in the Hutton, the Plessey, the
Brockwell Seam, go down
The Bensham, the Busty, the Beaumont, the
Marshall Green, go down
I've lain on me back in the old three-quarter
Up to the chin in stinking water
Hewing the coal, away in the hole, go down

In the northern pits I've sweated and earned
me pay, go down
Toiled in the worn-out drift mines night and
day, go down
Where the anthracite is hard and shining
I've tried me hand at the hard-rock mining
I dug a hole away in the coal, go down

Out of the dirt and darkness I was born, go
down
Out of the hard black coal-face I was torn,
go down
Lived in the shade of the high pit heap
I'm still down there where the seams are
deep
Digging a hole, away in the coal, go down

Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger:
<https://youtu.be/A8t4VdqpQZ4>
BBC Radio Dramas:
<https://youtu.be/mf7LuLSJBLM>

Big Sun Falling In The River

~ Richard Thompson

She spins me round
And turns me down
And I don't know why
And I don't know why

Did she just refuse me?
Did she just abuse me?
And I don't know why
And I don't know why

She's always bugging me, hugging me
Faking me, shaking me
Haunting me, taunting me

Big Sun Falling In The River
Big sky shining in the water
Big love dying like the dying day
Big Sun Falling In The River
Big sky shining in the water
We're done, but she don't have the nerve to
say

On the bridge of sighs
She close her eyes
And she looks away
And she looks away
As a compromise
She softly lies
And she looks away
And she looks away

The world is crashing around me and
Dashing around me and
Smashing around me

On the pleasure wheel
Pain is all I feel
And she bites her lip

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/kOU6dlXzoM>

Black Muddy River

~ Jerry Garcia / Robert Hunter

When the last rose of summer pricks my
finger

And the hot sun chills me to the bone
When I can't hear the song for the singer
And I can't tell my pillow from a stone

I will walk alone by the black muddy river
And sing me a song of my own
I will walk alone by the black muddy river
And sing me a song of my own

When the last bolt of sunshine hits the
mountain
And the stars start to splatter in the sky
When the moon splits the southwest horizon
With the scream of an eagle on the fly

I will walk alone by the black muddy river
And sing me a song of my own
I will walk alone by the black muddy river
And sing me a song of my own

Black muddy river, roll on forever
I don't care how deep or wide if you've got
another side
Roll muddy river, roll muddy river
Black muddy river, roll

Black muddy river, roll on forever
I don't care how deep or wide if you've got
another side
Roll muddy river, roll muddy river
Black muddy river, roll

When it seems like the night will last forever
And there's nothing left to do but count the
years
When the strings of my heart start to sever
And stones fall from my eyes instead of
tears

I will walk alone by the black muddy river
And dream me a dream of my own
I will walk alone by the black muddy river
And sing me a song of my own
And sing me a song of my own

Norma Waterson:

<https://youtu.be/svpcW1s7JV4>

The Blackest Crow

[trad]

As time draws near my dearest dear when
you and I must part
How little you know of the grief and woe in
my poor aching heart
'Tis but I suffer for your sake, believe me
dear that's true
I wish that you were staying here or I was
going with you

I wish my breast were made of glass
wherein you might behold
Upon my heart your name lies wrote in
letters made of gold
In letters made of gold my love, believe me
when I say
You are the one that I will adore until my
dying day

The blackest crow that ever flew would
surely turn to white
If ever I prove false to you bright day will
turn to night
Bright day will turn to night my love, the
elements will mourn
If ever I prove false to you the seas will rage
and burn

And when you're on some distant shore
think of your absent friend
And when the wind blows high and clear a
light to me pray send
And when the wind blows high and clear
pray send your love to me
That I might know by your hand light how
time has gone with thee

Hilary Hawke:

https://youtu.be/Z_wC7Q_kwSc

Red Tail Ring:

<https://youtu.be/4wRnDa7GdzQ>

Bruce Molsky:

<https://youtu.be/d6jh1vqNvMs>

PeakFidder: <https://youtu.be/tvLE92t2T6U>
(fiddle notation included)

Alt first verse

As time draws near my dearest dear when
you and I must part
How little you know of the grief and woe in
my poor aching heart
Each night I suffer for your sake, you're the
girl I love so dear
I wish that I was going with you or you were
staying here

Blackleg Miner

[Roud 3193]

It's in the evening after dark,
When the blackleg miner creeps to work,
With his moleskin pants and dirty shirt,
There goes the blackleg miner!

Well he grabs his duds and down he goes
To hew the coal that lies below,
There's not a woman in this town-row
Will look at the blackleg miner.

Oh, Delaval is a terrible place,
They rub wet clay in the blackleg's face,
And around the heaps they run a foot race
To catch the backleg miner!

So, dinna gang near the Seghill mine
Across the way they stretch a line
To catch the throat and break the spine
Of the dirty backleg miner.

They grab his duds and his pick as well,
And they hoy them down the pit of hell.
Down you go, and fare you well,
You dirty blackleg miner!

So join the union while you may,
Don't wait 'til your dying day
For that may not be far away,
You dirty blackleg miner

Offa Rex: <https://youtu.be/AAVKy9WUzeU>

Blues in the Bottle

~ Prince Albert Hunt

Blues in the bottle, blues in the bottle
Stopper in my hand, pretty mama
Blues in the bottle, stopper in my hand
Hunt: I'm goin' back to Fort Worth, find me
a woman
Kweskin: I'm looking for a woman who's
looking for a man

Dig your taters, go dig your taters
It's tater diggin' time, pretty mama
Go dig your taters, it's tater diggin' time
Old man Jack Frost done an' killed your vine

Asked my baby, asked my baby
Could she stand to see me cry, pretty mama
Asked my baby could she stand to see me
cry
She said, whoa black daddy, I can stand to
see you die

Rooster chews tobacco, rooster chews
tobacco
The hen uses snuff, pretty mama
The rooster chews tobacco and the hen
uses snuff
The little chickens don't use nothin', but they
strut their stuff

Goin' to Chattanooga, goin' to
Chattanooga
See my pony run, pretty mama
Goin' to Tadinoonie, see my pony run
If I win some money, gonna give my baby
some

Prince Albert Hunt:

<https://youtu.be/EfT4cJA1n64>

Blues in the Bottle

~ Peter Stampfel & Steve Weber version

Blues in the bottle, blues in the bottle
Where do you think you're at, pretty mama
Blues in the bottle, where do you think
you're at
You went and kicked my dog
And now you've drowned my cat

Goin' to Chattanooga, goin' to Chattanooga
See my ponies run, pretty mama
Goin' to Chattanooga to see my ponies run
If I win a prize
I'll give my baby some

Rooster chews tobacco, rooster chews
tobacco
Hen uses snuff, pretty mama
The rooster chews tobacco and the hen
uses snuff
The baby chickens don't take nothin'
But they just strut their stuff

Goin' to Sillypuddie, goin' to Sillypuddie
Sorry I can't take you, pretty mama
Goin' to Sillypuddie, sorry I can't take you
I can't abide no woman
Who goes round sniffin' glue

Jim Kweskin: <https://youtu.be/hXekjdArJiU>

Boatman's Cure

~ George Ward

Poling up the river in a three-hand boat,
Too deep to carry, too shallow to float,
Too deep to carry, too shallow to float.

If it doesn't lift your spirits it'll leave you
numb

Best cure for the river is a bottle of rum,
Best cure for the river is a bottle of rum.

Listen to the forwarder struttin' on the quay,
He's quick to tell the boatman how the river
will be,
He's quick to tell the boatman how the river
will be.

If it doesn't lift your spirits it'll leave you
numb

Best cure for the forwarder is a bottle of
rum,
Best cure for the forwarder is a bottle of
rum.

Workin' up the rift the current swung her
round,
Bedbugs swum ashore, poor boatman
nearly got drowned,
Bedbugs swum ashore, poor boatman
nearly got drowned.

If it doesn't lift your spirits it'll leave you
numb

Best cure for bedbugs is a bottle of rum,
Best cure for bedbugs is a bottle of rum.

Sweatin' in the heat of day, chillin' in the
rain,
Sleepin' in the open got the ague again,
Sleepin' in the open got the ague again.

If it doesn't lift your spirits it'll leave you
numb

Best cure for the ague is a bottle of rum,
Best cure for the ague is a bottle of rum.

Frostbite in November took my toes away,
Devil take the blackfly 'bout the last week in
May,
Devil take the blackfly 'bout the last week in
May.

If it doesn't lift your spirits it'll leave you
numb

Best cure for the blackfly is a bottle of rum,
Best cure for the blackfly is a bottle of rum.

Sweet Annie from Schenectady, she stole
my heart,
Her face is in the firelight, the river sings her
part,
Her face is in the firelight, the river sings her
part.

If it doesn't lift your spirits it'll leave you
numb
Best cure for a woman is a bottle of rum,
Best cure for a woman is a bottle of rum.

Got a callus on my shoulder and my hands
are sore,
Sweetest sight some thirsty frontier girl ever
saw,
Sweetest sight some thirsty frontier girl ever
saw.

If it doesn't lift your spirits it'll leave you
numb

Best cure for wisdom is a bottle of rum,
Best cure for wisdom is a bottle of rum.

I fought all through this wilderness in '59
Still fancy I see shadows moving most of
the time,
Still fancy I see shadows moving most of
the time.

If it doesn't lift your spirits it'll leave you
numb

Best cure for shadows is a bottle of rum,
Best cure for shadows is a bottle of rum.

Morning comes up early for a fast bateau,
Shoulder to the setting pole, you push off
and go,
Shoulder to the setting pole, you push off
and go.

If it doesn't lift your spirits it'll leave you
numb
But there ain't no cure for living in a bottle of
rum,
But there ain't no cure for living in a bottle of
rum.

John Roberts:

https://youtu.be/Vsw_X0-t06Y

Bold Riley

[Roud 18160]

Oh the rain it rains all day long,
Bold Riley-o, Bold Riley,
And the northern wind, it blows so strong,
Bold Riley-o has gone away.

Goodbye my sweetheart,
goodbye my dear-o
Bold Riley-o, Bold Riley,
Goodbye my darlin',
goodbye my dear-o,
Bold Riley-o has gone away.

Well come on, Mary, don't look glum,
Bold Riley-o, Bold Riley,
Come White-stockin' Day you'll be drinkin'
rum
Bold Riley-o has gone away.

Goodbye my sweetheart,
goodbye my dear-o
Bold Riley-o, Bold Riley,
Goodbye my darlin',
goodbye my dear-o,
Bold Riley-o has gone away.

Our anchor's aweigh and our sails are all
set
Bold Riley-o, Bold Riley,
Those Liverpool girls, we'll never forget
Bold Riley-o has gone away.

Goodbye my sweetheart,
goodbye my dear-o
Bold Riley-o, Bold Riley,
Goodbye my darlin',
goodbye my dear-o,
Bold Riley-o has gone away.

We're outward bound for the Bengal Bay,
Bold Riley-o, Bold Riley,
Get bending, me lads,

it's a hell-of-a-way,
Bold Riley-o has gone away.

Goodbye my sweetheart,
goodbye my dear-o
Bold Riley-o, Bold Riley,
Goodbye my darlin',
goodbye my dear-o,
Bold Riley-o has gone away.

The Teacups:

<https://youtu.be/5wyeIXWVW4U>

Bold Sir Rylas

[Roud 29 ; Child 18 ; trad.]

Now bold Sir Rylas a-hunting went,
All along and down alee.
And bold Sir Rylas a-hunting went,
Down by the riverside.
Bold Sir Rylas a-hunting went,
To catch some game was his intent,
Down in the grove where the wild flowers
grow
And the green leaves fall all around.

Well, he spied a wild woman sitting in a
tree,
All along and down alee.
“Good lord, what brings you here?” said
she,
Down by the riverside.
“Oh, there is a wild boar in this wood;
He'll eat your flesh and drink your blood.”
Down in the grove where the wild flowers
grow
And the green leaves fall all around.

Well, he put his horn unto his mouth,
All along and down alee.
And he blew it east, north, west and south.
Down by the riverside.
And the wild boar came out of his den,
Bringing his children nine or ten.
Down in the grove where the wild flowers
grow
And the green leaves fall all around.

Then bold Sir Rylas the wild boar fell on,
All along and down alee.
And bold Sir Rylas the wild boar fell on.
Down by the riverside.
Then he fought him three hours all the day
Until the boar would have run away.
Down in the grove where the wild flowers
grow
And the green leaves fall all around.

“Oh, now you have killed my spotted pig,
All along and down alee.
Oh, now you have killed my spotted pig,
Down by the riverside.
Oh, there are three things I'd have of thee,
Your horse and your hound and your fair
lady.”
Down in the grove where the wild flowers
grow
And the green leaves fall all around.

“Oh, now I've killed your spotted pig,
All along and down alee.
Oh, now I've killed your spotted pig,
Down by the riverside.
Oh, there's not one thing you'll have of me,
Nor my horse nor my hound nor my fair
lady.”
Down in the grove where the wild flowers
grow
And the green leaves fall all around.

Then bold Sir Rylas the wild woman fell on,
All along and down alee.
And bold Sir Rylas the wild woman fell on,
Down by the riverside.
And he split her head down to her chin,
You should have seen her kick and grin.
Down in the grove where the wild flowers
grow
And the green leaves fall all around.

Spiers & Boden:

<https://youtu.be/N9hNvI4NCM0>

A Bone Through Her Nose

~ Richard Thompson

Oh the drones on the corner don't look her
in the eye when she comes out to play
And three times now at the Club Chi-Chi
they've turned her away
Last week she was the belle of the ball but
another week passes
It's time to cast off crutches, scars and
pebble glasses

She's got everything a girl might need
She's a tribal animal, yes indeed
But she hasn't got a bone through her nose,
through her nose
Hasn't got a bone through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose,
through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose
Hasn't got a bone through her nose, through
her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose

Oh she gets her suits from a personal
friend, Coco the clown
She got dustman's jacket, inside out, it's a
party gown
If it's bouffons, she's got bouffons, if it's tat
she got tat
She got hoochie coochie Gucci and a
pom-pom hat

She's got everything a girl might need
She's a tribal animal, yes indeed
But she hasn't got a bone through her nose,
through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose,
through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose,
through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose

No!

Well, her ma writes cook books, she wrote
one once, and it sold one or two
Her pa's in the city, he's so witty, he calls it
the zoo
Her boyfriend plays in Scritti Politti, Aunt
Sally's brown bread
In a few more years she can marry some
fool and knock it on the head

She's got everything a girl might need
She's a tribal animal, yes indeed
But she hasn't got a bone through her nose,
through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose,
through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose,
through her nose
She hasn't got a bone through her nose
She hasn't got a, Oh she hasn't got a, Oh

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/9z2V_IBs7hA

Borrowed Time

~ Richard Thompson

There's riders in this county
They're taking heads for bounty
Wake up Corinne, they come to ride us
down
Sweetness we have tasted
The time to move is wasted
They're riding like a hurricane through this
town

We've been too many nights sleeping in a
feather bed
You can't close both your eyes with a price
on your head
You got to stand and fight for what you
believe
You got to face death with your heart on
your sleeve
Life is a card-game, you've soon got to
leave

Living on borrowed, living on borrowed,
living on borrowed time

If you say that you want your freedom
They'll hear you in every kingdom
They'll travel ten thousand miles just to
shoot you down
Well the judge he was deluded
And the sheriff he soon colluded
And they swore they'd hang me six feet off
the ground

They'll hunt you down 'cos you dare to tell
the truth
A man ain't safe these days under his own
roof
But you can't live your life under no man's
thumb
They'll all pay double for what they've done
Our day's coming but their day's come

Living on borrowed, living on borrowed,
living on borrowed time

You can't live your life under no man's
thumb
They'll all pay double for what they've done
Our day's coming but their day's come

Living on borrowed, living on borrowed,
living on borrowed time

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/8NAnaUfj9I8>

Both Sides the Tweed

~ Dick Gaughan

What's the spring-breathing jasmine and
rose?

What's the summer with all its gay train
Or the splendour of autumn to those
Who've bartered their freedom for gain?

Let the love of our land's sacred rights
To the love of our people succeed
Let friendship and honour unite
And flourish on both sides the Tweed.

No sweetness the senses can cheer
Which corruption and bribery bind
No brightness that gloom can e'er clear
For honour's the sum of the mind

Let the love of our land's sacred rights
To the love of our people succeed
Let friendship and honour unite
And flourish on both sides the Tweed.

Let virtue distinguish the brave
Place riches in lowest degree
Think them poorest who can be a slave
Them richest who dare to be free

Let the love of our land's sacred rights
To the love of our people succeed
Let friendship and honour unite
And flourish on both sides the Tweed.

Dick Gaughan:

https://youtu.be/f0E0UDbY_Vo

The Bows of London

[Roud 8 ; Child 10 ; trad.]

There were two little sisters a-walking alone
Hey the gay and the grinding
Two little sisters a-walking alone
By the bonny bonny bows of London

And the eldest pushed her sister in
Pushed her sister into the stream

Oh she pushed her in and she watched her
drown
Watched her body floating down

Oh she floated up and she floated down
Floats till she come to the miller's dam

And out and come the miller's son
"Father dear here swims a swan"

Oh they laid her out on the bank to die
Fool with a fiddle come a-riding by

And he took some strands of her long
yellow hair
Took some strands of her long yellow hair

And he made some strings from this yellow
hair
Made some strings from this yellow hair

And he made fiddle pegs from her long
fingerbone
Made fiddle pegs from her long fingerbone

And he made a fiddle out of her breastbone
Sound would pierce the heart of a stone

But the only tune that the fiddle would play
Was oh the bows of London
The only tune the fiddle would play
Was the bonny bonny bows of London

So the fool's gone away to the king's high
hall

There was music dancing and all

And he laid this fiddle all down on a stone
Played so loud it played all alone

It sang, "Yonder sits my father the king
Yonder sits my father the king

"And yonder sits my mother the queen
How she'll grieve at my burying

"And yonder she sits my sister Anne
She who drowned me in the stream"

Martin & Eliza Carthy:

<https://youtu.be/5DAO8dsIHLA>

See also: [Cruel Sister](#)

The Brand New Tennessee Waltz

~ Jesse Winchester

Jesse Winchester:

<https://youtu.be/APirVxOpZFk>

Oh my, but you have a pretty face
You favor I girl that I knew
I imagine that she's back in Tennessee
And by God, I should be there too
I've a sadness too sad to be true

But I left Tennessee in a hurry dear
In same way that I'm leaving you
Because love is mainly just memories
And everyone's got him a few
So when I'm gone I'll be glad to love you

At the Brand New Tennessee Waltz
You're literally waltzing on air
At the Brand New Tennessee Waltz
There's no telling who will be there

When I leave it will be like I found you love
Descending Victorian stairs
And I'm feeling like one of your
 photographs, girl
Trapped while I'm putting on airs
Getting even by saying Who cares

At the Brand New Tennessee Waltz
You're literally waltzing on air
At the Brand New Tennessee Waltz
There's no telling who will be there

So have all your passionate violins
Play a tune for a Tennessee kid
Who's feeling like leaving another town
But with no place to go if he did
Cause they'll catch you wherever you're hid

At the Brand New Tennessee Waltz
You're literally waltzing on air
At the Brand New Tennessee Waltz
There's no telling who will be there

Bright Shining Morning

[Roud 21097]

||: The bright shining morning smiles over the hills

With blushes adorning the meadows and rills. :||

||: And the merry, merry, merry horn cries come, come away, :||

||: Awake from your slumbers and hail the new day. :||

||: The horses all saddled, they dance on the ground,

And they lift up their heads at the bay of the hound. :||

||: And the merry, merry, merry horn cries come, come away, :||

||: Awake from your slumbers and hail the new day. :||

||: And over the hilltops the huntman's hollo,
Comes echoing down to the valley below. :||

||: And the merry, merry, merry horn cries come, come away, :||

||: Awake from your slumbers and hail the new day. :||

||: The fox runs before us, he seems for to fly
And he pants to the chorus of the hounds in full cry. :||

||: And the merry, merry, merry horn cries come, come away, :||

||: Awake from your slumbers and hail the new day. :||

||: When our day's work is ended, we home do retire

And we pull off our boots by the light of the fire. :||

||: And the merry, merry, merry horn cries come, come away, :||

||: Awake from your slumbers and hail the new day. :||

||: Come, fill up your glasses, let the toast go around,

We'll drink to all hunters where e'er they're found. :||

||: And the merry, merry, merry horn cries come, come away, :||

||: Awake from your slumbers and hail the new day. :||

The Bromleys:

<https://youtu.be/CgynWW0p7VQ>

Verses 3 & 4 from the Revels song session,
not commonly sung

A Bright String of Pearls

~ John Kirkpatrick

Your Majesty, I present to you a gift that's
rare and fine
In all the Tower of London no brighter jewel
could shine
A string of pearls laid out for you, it's fitting
for a Queen
And threaded along a railway line, and
polished in the steam

Oh a Bright String of Pearls laid out across
the country
From the capital down to Cornwall, from the
city to the shore
The finest towns are newly crowned with
even greater glory
For the Great Western Railway joins them
up for evermore.

From Paddington down to Bristol it's as
smooth as a bowling green
With bridges and tunnels and viaducts, the
sweetest ever seen
Through Slough and Reading and Didcot,
rolling on to Swindon Town
That's where we built our railway works, the
jewel in our crown

Oh a Bright String of Pearls laid out across
the country ...

We've branches go up to Oxford and to
Gloucester and to Wales
And right across to Fishguard where the
Irish ferry sails
Down through Frome and on to Yeovil, and
to Weymouth, and to Chard
How all these places prosper now they have
a railway yard!

Oh a Bright String of Pearls laid out across
the country ...

Chippenham next, and onwards, there's a
test for an engineer!
With arches and embankments, riding high
for two miles clear
And Box the largest tunnel for trains, it's
nearly two miles long
And to enter Bath in the finest style, we
moved the canal along

Oh a Bright String of Pearls laid out across
the country ...

There's eleven short miles to run from Bath
to Bristol Temple Meads
Two viaducts, seven tunnels, and five
bridges is all it needs!
From there we'll fly to Taunton, down to
Exeter and the sea
And along the coast to Dawlish, and in
Plymouth then we'll be

Oh a Bright String of Pearls laid out across
the country ...

You rattle across the Royal Albert Bridge
and Cornwall comes in view
Through Truro down to old Penzance, and
so our journey's through
So there we are, Your Majesty, you
darlingest of girls
Laid out across the counties is your bright
string of pearls

Oh a Bright String of Pearls laid out across
the country ...

Alex Cumming:

https://youtu.be/YiC8UjM_x8o

Bring The New Year In

~ Pete Coe

In comes Old King Christmas, all dressed in
green and gold
And may he never be forgot, his story left
untold
For it's once a year he brings good cheer,
our spirits to engage
The like was never seen before on any
common stage:

For we are not of the ragged sort, but some
of royal trim
We'll sweep away the old year and bring the
new year in.

In then comes Saint George, that noble
champion bold
Who fought the fiery dragon, made the
tyrant's blood run cold
And through this world he wanders to fulfill
his destiny
Well, they must die who dare to try and
challenge liberty:

For we are not of the ragged sort, but some
of royal trim
We'll sweep away the old year and bring the
new year in.

In comes a valiant soldier, Prince Paradine
by name
With sword and shield he will not yield, and
hopes to win more fame
So it's of these noble champions, both born
of high renown
And they have made a solemn vow to pull
the other down:

For we are not of the ragged sort, but some
of royal trim
We'll sweep away the old year and bring the
new year in.

In then comes a working man, they call him
Common Jack
He puts food inside our bellies, and clothes
upon our back
Hard labor is his destiny, from the moment
of his birth
And the rich take all the money, for the poor
will take the earth:

For we are not of the ragged sort, but some
of royal trim
We'll sweep away the old year and bring the
new year in.

And in then comes a doctor, as plainly doth
appear
With bitter pills to cure all ills, he travels far
and near
With his lotions and his potions, to ease us
of our pain
And by his art he'll play his part, make
heroes rise again:

For we are not of the ragged sort, but some
of royal trim
We'll sweep away the old year and bring the
new year in.

In then comes Beelzebub, a name forever
cursed
He's before you, he's behind you, he's the
last that would be first
Put hands into your pockets, your money he
do crave
To see this play you must pay, or join him in
the grave:

For we are not of the ragged sort, but some
of royal trim
We'll sweep away the old year and bring the
new year in
We'll sweep away the old year and bring the
new year in.

Nowell Sing We Clear:

<https://youtu.be/wx6872iVzZs>

Bully in the Alley

[Roud 8287 ; Ballad Index Hug522 ; trad.]

Finest Kind version:

Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Way hey, bully in the alley
Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Bully down the shinbone al

I'll leave my gal and I'll go sailing
Way hey, bully in the alley
Leave my Sally and I'll go a-whaling
Bully down the shinbone al

Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Way hey, bully in the alley
Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Bully down the shinbone al

Sally is the gal that I love dearly
Way hey, bully in the alley
Sally is the gal that I spliced nearly
Bully down the shinbone al

Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Way hey, bully in the alley
Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Bully down the shinbone al

I shipped on board of the Robert E. Lee,
boys
Way hey, bully in the alley
Made a lot of money, spent it fast and free
Bully down the shinbone al

Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Way hey, bully in the alley
Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Bully down the shinbone al

We've got British ammunition and French
champaign
Way hey, bully in the alley

When I get to Charlestown gonna feel no
pain
I'll be bully down the shinbone al

Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Way hey, bully in the alley
Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Bully down the shinbone al

I shipped on board of a Charlestown liner
Way hey, bully in the alley
Carolina's fine but St. George is finer
Bully down the shinbone al

Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Way hey, bully in the alley
Help me, Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Bully down the shinbone al

Ian Robb, et al:

<https://youtu.be/n6czn2-yPkk>

Bully in the Alley (ii)

[Roud 8287 ; Ballad Index Hug522 ; trad.]

Kimber's Men version:

Help me Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Wey hey, bully in the alley
Help me Bob, I'm bully in the alley
Bully down in Shinbone Al

Now Sally is a girl in Shinbone Alley
Wey hey, bully in the alley
Sally is the girl that I spliced nearly
Bully down in Shinbone Al

Help me Bob...

I found myself out under three-oh
Wey hey, bully in the alley
I found myself with time so free-oh
Bully down in Shinbone Al

Help me Bob...

I waltzed up to the angel little
Wey hey, bully in the alley
And kicked down the door, and walked right
in oh
Bully down in Shinbone Al

Help me Bob...

I walked up to the barroom counter
Wey hey, bully in the alley
There I met with Greasy Artie
Bully down in Shinbone Al

Help me Bob...

Greasy Ann, it's slimy horror
Wey hey, bully in the alley
Henry shell back knock in her daughter
Bully down in Shinbone Al

Help me Bob...

I bought her rum and I bought her gin, oh
Wey hey, bully in the alley
And bought her wine, of white and red, oh
Bully down in Shinbone Al

Help me Bob...

And when I've spent a folly total
Wey hey, bully in the alley
Off to bed, we end up cripol
Bully down in Shinbone Al

Help me Bob...

We're open, tope a low light lark, oh
Wey hey, bully in the alley
Dawn and rain, can the cock did call, oh
Bully down in Shinbone Al

Help me, Bob...

Kimber's Men:

<https://youtu.be/uS5xR7jBxDw>

The Bunch of Thyme

[Roud 3]

Thyme it is a precious thing,
Thyme brings all things to my mind,
Thyme with all its labours along with all its
joys,
Thyme brings all things to an end.

Once I had a bunch of thyme,
I thought it never would decay,
Until a handsome sailor he happened to
pass by,
And stole my bunch of thyme away.

Thyme it is a precious thing,
Thyme brings all things to my mind,
Thyme with all its labours along with all its
joys,
Thyme brings all things to an end.

I thought my love was like the sun,
In the pleasant month of June,
Now I am like the star that wanders up and
down,
But you, my love, are like the moon.

Thyme it is a precious thing,
Thyme brings all things to my mind,
Thyme with all its labours along with all its
joys,
Thyme brings all things to an end.

In June there's a red and rosy bloom,
The sharpest thorns are wrapped up tart?
(taut?),
Never put your hand in to pick those pretty
flowers,
Or else you'll surely feel the smart.

Thyme it is a precious thing,
Thyme brings all things to my mind,
Thyme with all its labours along with all its
joys,

Thyme brings all things to an end.

When I wore my apron low,
He'd follow me through frost and snow,
Now that I wear my apron to my chin,
He sails on by and says nothing.

Thyme it is a precious thing,
Thyme brings all things to my mind,
Thyme with all its labours along with all its
joys,
Thyme brings all things to an end.

There is an alehouse in our town,
Where my true lover sits him down,
You can see him take those flash girls and
sit them on his knee,
And never ever mentions me.

Love, oh love, oh careless love.
Love, oh love, oh careless love.
You can see him take those flash girls and
sit them on his knee,
Can't you see what love has done to me.

Thyme it is a precious thing,
Thyme brings all things to my mind,
Thyme with all its labours along with all its
joys,
Thyme brings all things to an end.

Norma Waterson:

<https://youtu.be/Jrd4kmkF0qQ>

Byker Hill

Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more
Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more

If I had another penny
I would buy another gill
I would make the piper play
The Bonny Lass of Byker Hill

Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more
Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more

When I first went to the dirt
I had no trousers and no pit shirt
Now I've gettin' two or three
Walker Pit's done well by me.

Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more
Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more

Geordie Charlton had a pig
He hit it with a shovel and it danced a jig
All the way to Walker Shore
To the tune of Elsie Marley

Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more
Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more

The poor coal carter gets two shillings
The deputy gets half a crown
The overman gets five and six
Just for riding up and down

Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more

Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more

The pitman and the keelman trim
They drink bumble made of gin
Then to dance they all begin
To the tune of Elsie Marley

Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more
Byker Hill and Walker Shore
Collier lads for ever more

Campbell the Drover

[Roud 881]

The first day of April I'll never forget
Three English lassies together they met
They mounted their horses and swore
solemnly
That they would play a trick on the first man
they see

Oh, Campbell, the drover, went riding one
day
And soon he encountered those ladies so
gay
They reined in their horses and he did the
same
And in close conversation together they
came

And sing fol the rol daddy
Fol the rol daddy
Fol the rol daddy
Sing fol the rol day

They asked him to show them the way to
the inn
And would he drink whiskey or would he
drink gin?
Then Campbell made answer and said with
a smile
"Sure, I long for to taste the strong ale of
Carlisle"

They called in the servants and started a
dance
They ordered the landlord to spare no
expense
They danced the next morning 'til 'twixt eight
and nine
And they called for their breakfast and
afterwards wine

And sing fol the rol daddy
Fol the rol daddy

Fol the rol daddy
Sing fol the rol day

They mounted their horses, alas and alack
It dawned on the landlord they weren't
coming back
He said, "My dear Irishman, I am afraid
That those three English jokers a trick on
you played"

"Never mind," says old Campbell, "If they've
gone astray
I've plenty of money, the reckoning to pay
Just sit down beside me, and before that I
go
I'll teach you a trick that perhaps you don't
know

And sing fol the rol daddy
Fol the rol daddy
Fol the rol daddy
Sing fol the rol day

"I'll teach you a trick that's contrary to law
Two kinds of whiskey from one cask to
draw"
The landlord being eager to learn of the
plan
Straightway to the cellar with Campbell, he
ran

He soon bore a hole in a very short space
And he bade the landlord stick his thumb on
then place
He then bored another, "Place your other
thumb here
While I for a tumbler must run up the stairs"

And sing fol the rol daddy
Fol the rol daddy
Fol the rol daddy
Sing fol the rol day

When Campbell was mounted and well out
of sight
The hostler came in in a terrible fright
He hunted the house, high up and low down
Half dead in the cellar, his master he found

"Go and find that bold Irishman," loudly he
cried
"I fear he has vanished," the hostler replied
He said, "My dear landlord, I am afraid
That Campbell the drover, a trick on you
played."

And sing fol the rol daddy
Fol the rol daddy
Fol the rol daddy
Sing fol the rol day

Ian Robb: <https://youtu.be/9lhYtQ8eaDI>

Collected by Helen Creighton from Angelo
Dornan of New Brunswick

Can't Win

~ Richard Thompson

I started to cry, they put gin in my cup
I started to crawl, and they swaddled me up
I got up and run, they said Easy, son,
Play up, play the game

They told me to think and forget what I'd
heard
They told me to lie and they questioned my
word
They told me to fail, better sink than sail,
Just play the game

Oh, towers will tumble and locusts will visit
the land
Oh, a curse on your house and your
children and the fruit of your hand

They said You can't win. You can't win.
You sweat blood. You give in.
You can't win. You can't win.
Turn the cheek. Take it on the chin.
Don't you dare do this. Don't you dare do
that
We shoot down dreams, we stiletto in the
back
Oh the nerve of some people, the nerve of
some people,
The nerve of some people
I don't know who you think you are, who you
think you are

Oh what kind of mother would hamstring her
sons?
Throw sand in their eyes and put ice on
their tongues
Ah better to leave than stay here and grieve
And play the game

Don't waken the dead as you sleepwalk
around

If you have a dream, brother, hush, not a
sound
Just stand there and rust, die if you must
But play the game

Oh, if we can't have it, why should a wretch
like you?
Oh, it was drilled in our heads, now we drill
it into your head too.

They said You can't win. You can't win.
You sweat blood. You give in.
You can't win. You can't win.
Turn the cheek. Take it on the chin.
Don't you dare do this. Don't you dare do
that
We shoot down dreams, we stiletto in the
back
Oh, the nerve of some people, the nerve of
some people,
The nerve of some people
I don't know who you think you are

The nerve of some people, the nerve of
some people
The nerve of some people, the nerve of
some people
The nerve of some people, the nerve of
some people
The nerve of some people, the nerve of
some people

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/mCGvCnMZ8gs>

Cardboard Boxes

~ Loudon Wainwright III

I'm gonna go to the supermarket
I'm gonna go to the liquor store
I'm gonna get me some cardboard boxes
You know what them boxes are for
I'm gonna rent me a U-Haul trailer
Hook it on the back of my old car
Call up some of my stronger buddies
That's what your strong buddies are for

We're gonna move
We're gonna move, yeah, move

Give it to the Salvation Army or the Goodwill
We've got so much junk it's a joke
Wrap a knickknack in some old newspaper
I know it was a present, but the damn thing
broke
Your old shoes and my old T-shirts
My strong buddies crave ice cold beers
Don't throw that away; it's a family heirloom
I've had that ashtray for 15 years

We're gonna move
We're gonna move, yeah, move

We're gonna empty out our old place
Move into a brand new better space, baby,
move

We got the books and the records and the
tapes and the pictures
And the pots and the pans and all the
breakable glass
The living room couch and the dining room
table
The washer and the dryer; what a pain in
the ass
We've got the TV and the home
entertainment center
The box spring and the queen-size bed

We got the Christmas decorations and the
bureau and the playpen
If we had a piano, I think I'd drop dead

We're gonna move
We're gonna move, yeah, move

At the end day, the old place is empty
And the new place houses all of our stuff
Unpack all the crap in the cardboard boxes
It wasn't that bad; no, it wasn't so rough
My strong buddies look a little bit grumpy
I don't why I broke my butt
Tomorrow we'll call up the telephone
company
And get another set of house keys cut

We're gonna move
We're gonna move, yeah, move

I can tell by the look on your face
You just love our brand new better space,
baby, move

We're gonna move, we're gonna move
We're gonna move, we're gonna move
Yeah, move

Loudon Wainwright III:
<https://youtu.be/w2MdePAU8ls>

Chariots

~ John Kirkpatrick (1995)

O Shepherd O shepherd come leave off
your piping
Come listen come learn come hear what I
say
For now is the time that has long been
forespoken
For now is the time there'll be new tunes to
play
For soon there comes one who brings a
new music
Of sweetness and clarity none can compare
So open your heart for heavenly harmony
Here on this hill will be filling the air

With chariots of cherubim chanting
And seraphim singing hosanna
And a choir of archangels a-caroling come
Hallelujah Hallelu
All the angels a-trumpeting glory
In praise of the Prince of Peace

See on yon stable the starlight is
shimmering
And glimmering and glistening and glowing
with glee
In Bethlehem blest this baby of bliss will be
Born here before you as bold as can be
And you'll be the first to hear the new
symphony
Songs full of gladness and glory and light
So learn your tunes well and play your pipes
proudly
For the Prince of Paradise plays here
tonight

With chariots of cherubim chanting
And seraphim singing hosanna
And a choir of archangels a-caroling come
Hallelujah Hallelu
All the angels a-trumpeting glory
In praise of the Prince of Peace

Bring your sheep bleating to this happy
meeting
To hear how the lamb with the lion shall lie
It's mooing and braying you'll hear the song
saying
The humble and lowly will be the most high
Let the horn of the herdsman be heard up in
heaven
For the gates are flung open for all who
come near
And the simplest of souls shall sing to
infinity
Lift up and listen and you shall hear

With chariots of cherubim chanting
And seraphim singing hosanna
And a choir of archangels a-caroling come
Hallelujah Hallelu
All the angels a-trumpeting glory
In praise of the Prince of Peace

The warmonger's charger will thunder for
freedom
The gun-maker's furnace will dwindle and
die
And muskets and sabers and swords shall
be sundered
Surrendered to the sound that is sweeping
the sky
And the shoes of the mighty shall dance to
new measures
And the jackboots of generals shall jangle
no more
As sister and brother and father and mother
Agree with each other the end to all war

With chariots of cherubim chanting
And seraphim singing hosanna
And a choir of archangels a-caroling come
Hallelujah Hallelu
All the angels a-trumpeting glory
In praise of the Prince of Peace

As a candle can conquer the demons of
darkness
As a flame can keep frost from the deepest
of cold
So a song can give hope in the depths of all
danger
And a line of pure melody soar in your soul
So sing your songs well and sing your
songs sweetly
And swear that your singing it never shall
cease
So the clatter of battle and drums of disaster
Be drowned in the sound of the pipes of
peace

With chariots of cherubim chanting
And seraphim singing hosanna
And a choir of archangels a-caroling come
Hallelujah Hallelu
All the angels a-trumpeting glory
In praise of the Prince of Peace

Melrose Quartet:

<https://youtu.be/mqHskyQiool>

The Chemical Worker's Song

~ Ron Angel (c1964)

And it's go boys go
They'll time your every breath
And every day you're in this place
You're two days nearer death
But you go

Well a process man am I
And I'm tellin' you no lie
I work and breathe among the fumes
That trail across the sky
There's thunder all around me
And there's poison in the air
There's a lousy smell
That smacks of hell
And dust all in me hair

And it's go boys go
They'll time your every breath
And every day you're in this place
You're two days nearer death
But you go

Well I've worked among the spitters
And I breathe the oily smoke
I've shoveled up the gypsum
And it nigh on makes you choke
I've stood knee-deep in cyanide
Got sick with a caustic burn
Been working rough
I've seen enough
To make your stomach turn

And it's go boys go
They'll time your every breath
And every day you're in this place
You're two days nearer death
But you go

There's overtime and bonus opportunities
galore
The young men like their money

And they all come back for more
But soon you're knocking on
And you look older than you should
For every bob
Made on the job
You pay with flesh and blood

And it's go boys go
They'll time your every breath
And every day you're in this place
You're two days nearer death
But you go

Well a process man am I
And I'm telling you no lie
I work and breathe among the fumes
That trail across the sky
There's thunder all around me
And there's poison in the air
There's a lousy smell
That smacks of hell
And dust all in me hair

And it's go boys go
They'll time your every breath
And every day you're in this place
You're two days nearer death

And it's go boys go
They'll time your every breath
And every day you're in this place
You're two days nearer death
But you go

The Young'uns:

https://youtu.be/kq1TYnQI_eY

Great Big Sea:

<https://youtu.be/GzcGOgxDoEk>

Chickens In The Garden

~ James Allan Bland (1879) [Roud 2552]

When first I came down Yorkshire,
Not many years ago.
I met with a little Yorkshire lass,
And I'd have you know,
That she was so blithe, so buxom,
So beautiful and gay,
Now listen while I tell you,
What her Daddy used to say,

Oh treat me daughter decent,
Don't do her any harm.
And when I die I'll leave you both,
Me tiny little farm.
Me cow, me pigs, me sheep, me goats,
Me stock, me field and barn.
And all the little chickens in the garden.

Well first I came to court the girl,
She was awful shy.
She never said a blooming word,
When other folks was by.
But as soon as we were on our own,
She bade me to name the day,
Now listen while I tell you,
What her Daddy used to say,

Well at last I wed this Yorkshire lass,
So pleasing to me mind,
And I did prove true to her,
So she's proved true in kind.
We have three bairns, they're grown up
now.
There's a grandbairn on the way.
And when I look into their eyes,
I can hear their granddaddy say,

The Watersons:

<https://youtu.be/eNM4nWMQFXY>

Chicken on a Raft

~ Cyril Tawney

Skipper's in the wardroom drinking gin
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
I don't mind knocking but I ain't going in
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
'Jimmy's' laughing like a drain
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
Been looking at m' Comic Cuts' again
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft

Chicken on a raft on a Monday morning,
Oh what a terrible sight to see,
'Dabtoes' for'd and the Dustmen aft,
Sitting there picking at a 'chicken on a raft'.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.

They gave me the Middle and the Forenoon
too
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
And now I'm pulling in the whaler's crew
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
Seagulls wheeling overhead
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
I ought to be 'flogging' in a feather bed
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft

Chicken on a raft on a Monday morning,
Oh what a terrible sight to see,
'Dabtoes' for'd and the Dustmen aft,
Sitting there picking at a 'chicken on a raft'.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.

I had a little girl in 'Donny B',
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
And oh, she made a fool of me,
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft

Her heart was like a Pusser's shower,
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
From hot to cold in a quarter of an hour.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft

Chicken on a raft on a Monday morning,
Oh what a terrible sight to see,
'Dabtoes' for'd and the Dustmen aft,
Sitting there picking at a 'chicken on a raft'.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.

An Amazon girl lives in Dumfries,
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
She only has kids in twos and threes,
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
Her sister lives in Maryhill
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
She says she won't but I think she will
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft

Chicken on a raft on a Monday morning,
Oh what a terrible sight to see,
'Dabtoes' for'd and the Dustmen aft,
Sitting there picking at a 'chicken on a raft'.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.

We kissed goodbye on the midnight bus
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
She didn't cry, she didn't fuss
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
Am I the man that she loves best?
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft
Or am I just a cuckoo in another man's
nest?
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft

Chicken on a raft on a Monday morning,
Oh what a terrible sight to see,

'Dabtoes' for'd and the Dustmen aft,
Sitting there picking at a 'chicken on a raft'.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.
Hey -oh, chicken on a raft,
Oy -oh, chicken on a raft.

The Young Tradition:

<https://youtu.be/Gv9TwAOCMQ0>

Civilisation

~ Richard Thompson

They're not human, they're with the
Woolwich
They eat food I wouldn't give to my dog
They're hygienic, medicated
They wouldn't live next door to no wog
They're not human, where do they come
from?
I don't know what they're living here for
They don't belong here, on this planet
What are they doing in the house next
door?

Wife's tranquilized, milk's pasteurized
Kid's hypnotized by the t.v.
Dad'll beat you, dog'll eat you
They'll treat you like family

All across the nation
It's civilisation

They're not human, they've got a new car
They're going to polish it all the day long
Got a brand new rubber woman
They're going to blow her up all the night
long
They're not human, it's a double cross
They sold out for a handful of beads
They sold everything for nothing, just a
Headful of dreams and a handful of greed

Keep 'em happy, keep 'em drinking
Keep 'em laughing, no thinking
No dying, no weeping
Keep 'em hypnotized, keep 'em sleeping

All across the nation
It's civilisation

Pack you off to school, get working
Get a steady job, no shirking
Get to sixty-five, get a handshake

You're a vegetable with a heartache

All across the nation
It's civilisation

Richard & Linda Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/xjA-8mNQY4>

Cold Coast of Iceland

~ Mike Waterson

Me name is Jim Parkinson, Hull's where I'm
from

Some call me a hero, some call me a bum
But I'll sing you a song the way songs
should be sung
Of them heroes that fished off of Iceland

Talk of your soldiers, your sailors so fine
Your men in the steel work, your lads down
the mine

But there's many's the hero that's wasted
his prime
Catching cod off the cold coast of Iceland

I've three fingers missing, now ain't that a
shame
And me left leg is gammy that means that
I'm lame
It's a small price to pay to be part of the
game
Catching cod off the cold coast of Iceland

It's bye-bye St Andrews as we head for the
ground
Where the cod and the haddock and them
redfish are found
Then it's out with the gear and we work the
clock round
Catching cod off the cold coast of Iceland

Now your wage is a gamble so you earn all
you can
There's rules to be broken so you break
every one
And you stand and you freeze and kid on
you're a man
Catching cod off the cold coast of Iceland

And when the trip's over and Sinbad's
ashore

You drink a few pints and then have a few
more

And then it's home to the missus or else
visit some whore
To forget about fishing off Iceland

Then came the cod wars and we lost every
round

And the fishing was over for we'd lost the
best ground

And the cloud of despondency fell on the
town

No more fishing for cod off of Iceland

But now on the dock where the trawlers
were seen

In cold glass and concrete a brand new
museum

It's called Trawling Deep Water GB PLC
And all of me heroes are mem'ries

Mike Waterson:

<https://youtu.be/DNA8kBlyais>

Cold Haily Windy Night

[Roud 135]

Oh, my hat, it is frozen to my head
Feet, they are like a lump of lead
Oh, my shoes, they are frozen to my feet
With standing at your window
"Let me in", the soldier cried
"Cold, haily, windy night, oh"
"Let me in", the soldier cried
"For I'll not go back again, no"

My father watches down on the street
Mother, the chamber keys do keep
Oh the doors and windows, they do creak
I dare not let you in, no
"Let me in", the soldier cried
"Cold, haily, windy night, oh"
"Let me in", the soldier cried
"For I'll not go back again, no"

Oh, and she's rose up and she's let him in
She's kissed her true love cheek and chin
And she's drawn him between the sheets
again

She's opened and she's let him in, oh
Then she has blessed the rainy night
Cold, haily, windy night, oh
Oh, then she has blessed the rainy night
That she's opened and she let him in, oh

"Soldier, soldier, stay with me
Soldier, soldier, won't you marry me oh?"
"No, no, no it never can be
So fare thee well forever"
And then she has wept for the rainy night
Cold, haily, windy night, oh
Then she has wept for the rainy night
That she's opened and she's let him in, oh

Oh and he's jumped up all out of the bed
He's put his hat all on his head
Oh but she had lost her maidenhead
Her mother, she heard the din, oh

And then she has cursed the rainy night
Cold haily, windy night, oh
Then she has cursed the rainy night
That she opened and she let him in, oh

And then she has cursed the rainy night
Cold haily, windy night, oh
Then she has cursed the rainy night
That she's opened and she let him in, oh

Steeleye Span: <https://youtu.be/uKl3Q8kjfb8>

Come A Long Way

~ Anna McGarrigle

Kate and Anna McGarrigle:

https://youtu.be/_9lBrbgvrOI

We've come a long way since we last shook
hands

Still got a long way to go

We couldn't see the flowers since we last
shook hands

Couldn't see the flowers on account of the
snow

What did you do with your burden and your
cross

Did you carry it yourself or did you crack
You and I know that a burden and a cross
Can only be carried on one man's back

All my life I wanted to roam
To go to the ends of the earth
But the earth really ends where you started
to roam

You and I know what a circle is worth

Let's drink a cup to what went down
There's not much left to reveal
I think I changed my mind after what went
down

As to who in the end got the better deal

Give me your hand for the parting touch
Fare thee well and thanks a lot
I know that we promised we would keep in
touch

But you and I know that we both forgot

We've come a long way since we last shook
hands

Still got a long way to go

Couldn't see the flowers when we last
shook hands

Couldn't see the flowers on account of the
snow

Come, See the Boys Go Round

~ Paul Davenport (c2012)

Come, see the boys go round
How sweet the music flows
Bring forth the plough to break the ground
Raise up the shining Rose (x2)

When Christmastide is gone and past
When fields lie stark and bare
Then let us brave the winter's blast
Without a fear or care
Without a fear or care my boys
Let each with one accord
Now dance the round on frozen ground
With ribbons, drum and sword

Come, see the boys go round
How sweet the music flows
Bring forth the plough to break the ground
Raise up the shining Rose

Now first of all comes Besom Bess
A-sweeping with her broom
To drive out winter's cold distress
To clear and make the room
To clear and make the room my boys
That we may sport and play
With swords that clash and brightly flash
Upon this holiday

Come, see the boys go round
How sweet the music flows
Bring forth the plough to break the ground
Raise up the shining Rose

Let Lord and Lady start the game
Let Tom Fool sing the song
That wakes those heroes of great fame
Who roll the year along
Who roll the year along my boys
For only they know how
The plough becomes the shining sword
The sword becomes the plough

Come, see the boys go round
How sweet the music flows
Bring forth the plough to break the ground
Raise up the shining Rose

Now enter in those heroes bold,
Those heroes of great fame
Their forefathers in days of old
Each bore a glorious name
Each bore a glorious name my boys
Likewise a shining blade
They leap and spin, the swords go in
And thus the Rose is made!

Come, see the boys go round
How sweet the music flows
Bring forth the plough to break the ground
Raise up the shining Rose (x2)

Melrose Quartet:

<https://youtu.be/zPbSEhYheys>

Composed in August

~ Robert Burns (1783); set to a tune called
"I had a horse, I had nae mair"

Now westlin' winds and slaught'ring guns
Bring Autumn's pleasant weather;
The moorcock springs on whirring wings
Among the blooming heather:
Now waving grain, wide o'er the plain,
Delights the weary farmer;
And the moon shines bright, when I rove at
night,
To muse upon my charmer.

The partridge loves the fruitful fells,
The plover loves the mountains;
The woodcock haunts the lonely dells,
The soaring hern the fountains:
Through lofty groves the cushat* roves,
The path of man to shun it;
The hazel bush o'erhangs the thrush,
The spreading thorn the linnet.

Thus ev'ry kind their pleasure find,
The savage and the tender;
Some social join, and leagues combine,
Some solitary wander:
Avaunt, away! the cruel sway,
Tyrannic man's dominion;
The sportsman's joy, the murd'ring cry,
The flutt'ring, gory pinion!

But, Peggy dear, the ev'ning's clear,
Swift flies the skimming swallow,
The sky is blue, the fields in view,
All fading-green and yellow:
Come let us stray our gladsome way,
And view the charms of Nature;
The rustling corn, the fruited thorn,
And ev'ry happy creature.

We'll gently walk, and sweetly talk,
'Til the silent moon shine clearly;
I'll grasp thy waist, and, fondly prest,

Swear how I love thee dearly:
Not vernal show'rs to budding flow'rs,
Not Autumn to the farmer,
So dear can be as thou to me,
My fair, my lovely charmer!

Piers Cawley:

<https://youtu.be/PW5GvDFFkC0>

Cooksferry Queen

~Richard Thompson

Well there's a house in an alley
In the squats and low-rise
Of a town with no future
But that's where my future lies

It's a secret, but no secret
It's a rule, but no rule
Where you find the darkest avenue
There you'll find the brightest jewel

Now my name it is Mulvaney
And I'm known quite famously
People speak my name in whispers
What higher praise can there be

But I'd trade my fine mohair
For tied-dyes and faded jeans
If she wanted me some other way
She's my Cooksferry Queen

She gave me one pill to get bigger
She gave me one pill to get small
I saw snakes dancing all around her feet
And dead men coming through the wall

Well I'm the prince of this parish
I've been ruthless and I've been mean
But she blew my mind as she opened my
eyes
She's my Cooksferry Queen

Yeaaaaah

Well she's got every rare perfection
All her looks beyond compare
She's got dresses that seem to float in the
wind
Pre-Raphaelite curls in her hair

She could get the lame to walking
She could get the blind to see

She could make wine out of Thames river
water
She could make a believer out of me

Yes I'd trade it all tomorrow
All the wicked things I've been
She's my bright jewel of the alley
She's my Cooksferry Queen

Yes I'd trade it all tomorrow
All the wicked things I've been
She's my bright jewel of the alley
She's my Cooksferry Queen

Ooooooh

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/fGKkhUkxvc4>

Country Life

[Roud 1752 , 6297]

I like to rise when the sun she rises,
early in the morning
And I like to hear them small birds singing,
Merrily upon their laylum [layland]
And hurrah for the life of a country boy,
And to ramble in the new mown hay.

In spring we sow at the harvest mow
And that is how the seasons round they go
but of all the times choose I may
I'd be rambling through the new mowed hay

* In summer when the days are hot
We sing, and we dance, and we drink a lot
We spend all night in sport and play
And go rambling in the new mown hay

* In autumn when the oak trees turn
We gather all the wood that's fit to burn
We cut and stash and stow away
And go rambling in the new mown hay

In winter when the sky's gray
we hedge and ditch our times away,
but in summer when the sun shines gay,
We go ramblin' through the new mowed
hay.

* non-traditional verses

Morris verses:

I like to hear the Morris dancers
Clash their sticks and drink fine ale
I like to hear those bells a-ringing
As we ramble in the new mown hay

I hate big birds, I hate small birds
I hate birds of every size
And when they sing their little birdie songs,
I poke 'em in their little birdie eyes.

Crawl Back (Under My Stone)

~ Richard Thompson

This time you hurt me
You really did it this time you did
Did you count your fingers after shaking my
 hand
God forbid
Riff raff crawling from the slums
Right there in front of all your chums
I swear by the pricking of my thumbs
I'll make your day and melt away

I'll crawl back under my stone
I'll crawl back under my stone
I'll crawl back under my stone
But you won't have to stand next to me
You won't have to introduce me
You won't have to think about, talk about,
 care about, me
I'll crawl back

I've got a nerve just showing my face don't
 you think
Scruffy little likes ought to know their place
 don't you think
Old boy, sorry to intrude
Damn shame pretty bloody rude
I should be horsewhipped and sued
Then I'll go quietly my tail between my
 knees

I'll crawl back under my stone
I'll crawl back under my stone
I'll crawl back under my stone
But you won't have to stand next to me
You won't have to introduce me
You won't have to think about, talk about,
 care about, me
I'll crawl back

I want to be middle class
Floors and ceilings made of glass
I just want to be, I just want to be free

You had me in a second you had it all
 reckoned, you did
You guessed my game and my name, rank
 and number, you did
Somehow I gave myself away
Some code, some word I didn't say
I missed one line in the play
And the trap shut tight and you did me all
 right

I'll crawl back under my stone
I'll crawl back under my stone
I'll crawl back under my stone
But you won't have to stand next to me
You won't have to introduce me
You won't have to think about, talk about,
 care about
You won't have to ask about, fuss about,
 discuss about
You won't have to mind about, swear about,
 forget about, me

Crawl back
I'll crawl back
I'll crawl back
Crawl back

I'll crawl back
Crawl back
Crawl back
I'll crawl back

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/UZvA_CoSqEc

Crazy Man Michael

~ Dave Swarbrick / Richard Thompson

Within the fire and out upon the sea
Crazy man Michael was walking
He met with a raven with eyes black as
 coals
And shortly they were a-talking
Your future, your future I would tell to you
Your future you often have asked me
Your true love will die by your own right
 hand
And crazy man Michael will curs'd be

Michael he ranted and Michael he raved
And beat up the four winds with his fists o
He laughed and he cried, he shouted and
 he swore
For his mad mind had trapped him with a
 kiss o
You speak with an evil, you speak with a
 hate
You speak for the devil that haunts me
For is she not the fairest in all the broad
 land
Your sorcerer's words are to taunt me

He took out his dagger of fire and of steel
And struck down the raven through the
 heart o
The bird fluttered long and the sky it did spin
And the cold earth did wonder and startle
O where is the raven that I struck down
 dead
And here did lie on the ground o
I see that my true love with a wound so red
Where her lover's heart it did pound o

Crazy man Michael he wanders and calls
And talks to the night and the day o
But his eyes they are sane and his speech it
 is plain
And he longs to be far away o
Michael he whistles the simplest of tunes

And asks of the wild wolves their pardon
For his true love is flown into every flower
 grown
And he must be keeper of the garden

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/qGWiDwKYKwI>

Creeping Jane

[Roud 1012]

I'll sing you a song and a very pretty one
Concerning Creeping Jane o
Why she never saw a mare nor a gelding in
her life
That she valued at the worth of half a pin
Lal dee day dee o the diddle lol the day o
She never saw a mare or a gelding in her
life
That she valued at the worth of half a pin, lal
the day

When Creeping Jane to the racecourse
came
The gentlemen viewed her round o
And all they had to say concerning little
Jane
She's not able for to gallop o'er the ground
Lal dee day dee o the diddle lol the day o
And all they had to say concerning little
Jane
She's not able for to gallop o'er the ground,
lal the day

Now when they came to the first milepost
Creeping Janey was far behind o
But the rider flung his whip into the bonny
little maid
And he says, My little lassie never mind
Lal dee day dee o the diddle lol the day o
Then the rider flung his whip into the bonny
little maid
And he says, My little lassie never mind, lal
the day

Now when that they came to the third
milepost
Creeping Janey looked blithe and smart o
And then she lifted up her little lily-white
hoof
And she fleered past them all like a dart
Lal dee day dee o the diddle lol the day o

And then she lifted up her little lily-white
hoof
And she fleered past them all like a dart, lal
the day

Now Creeping Jane the race has won
And scarcely sweat one drop o
She's able for to gallop the ground all again
While the others is not able for to trot
Lal dee day dee o the diddle lol the day o
She's able for to gallop the ground all again
While the others is not able for to trot, lal the
day

Now Creeping Jane is dead and gone
And her body lies on the cold ground o
I'll go down to her master one favor for to
beg
Just to keep her little body from the hounds
Lal dee day dee o the diddle lol the day o
I'll go down to her master one favor for to
beg
Just to keep her little body from the hounds,
lal the day

Martin Carthy:

<https://youtu.be/cvZnGJWPJ9Q>

Cruel Sister

[Roud 8 ; Child 10 ; trad.]

There lived a lady by the North Sea shore
Lay the bent to the bonnie broom
Two daughters were the babes she bore
Fa, la-la-la, la, la-la, la, la-la

As one grew bright as is the sun
So coal black grew the elder one

A knight came riding to the lady's door
He'd travelled far to be their wooer

He courted one with gloves and rings
But he loved the other above all things

"Oh sister, will you go with me"
"To watch the ships sail on the sea?"

She took her sister by the hand
And led her down to the North Sea strand

And as they stood on the windy shore
The dark girl threw her sister o'er

Sometimes she sank, sometimes she swam
Crying, "Sister, reach to me your hand!"

"Oh sister, sister, let me live"
"And all that's mine I'll surely give"

"Your own true love that I'll have and more"
"But thou shalt never come ashore"

And there she floated like a swan
The salt sea bore her body on

Two minstrels walked along the strand
And saw the maiden float to land

They've made a harp of her breastbone
Whose sound would melt a heart of stone

They took three locks of her yellow hair
And with them strung the harp so rare

They went into her father's hall
To play the harp before them all

But as they laid it on a stone
The harp began to play alone

The first string sang a doleful sound
"The bride her younger sister drowned"

The second string as that they tried
"In terror sits the black-haired bride"

The third string sang beneath their bow
"And surely now her tears will flow"

Pentangle: <https://youtu.be/rtRUXEGhGH0>

See also: [The Bows of London](#)

Cry Me A River

~ Arthur Hamilton

Now you say you're lonely
You cry the long night through
Well, you can cry me a river
Cry me a river
I cried a river over you

Now you say you're sorry
For being so untrue
Well, you can cry me a river
Cry me a river
I cried a river over you

You drove me, nearly drove me, out of my
head
While you never shed a tear
Remember, I remember, all that you said?
You told me love was too plebeian
Told me you were through with me and

Now you say you love me
Well, just to prove that you do
Come on and cry me a river
Cry me a river
I cried a river over you
I cried a river over you
I cried a river...over you...

Richard Thompson & Judith Owens:

<https://youtu.be/ToiHWeGla88>

Cuckoo's Nest

[Roud 1506 , 5407]

As I was a-walking one morning in May
I met a pretty fair maid and unto her did say:
"For love I am inclined and I'll tell you my
mind
That my inclination lies in your cuckoo's
nest."

"My darling," said she, "I am innocent and
young,
And I scarcely can believe your false
deluding tongue.
Yet I see it in your eyes and it fills me with
surprise
That your inclination lies in my cuckoo's
nest."

Chorus:
Some like a girl who is pretty in the face,
And some like a girl who is slender in the
waist.
But give me a girl that will wriggle and will
twist:
At the bottom of the belly lies the cuckoo's
nest.

"Then my darling," says he, "if you see it in
my eyes,
Then think of it as fondness and do not be
surprised.
For I love you, my dear, and I'll marry you, I
swear,
If you let me clap my hand on your cuckoo's
nest."

"My darling," said she, "I can do no such
thing,
For my mother often told me it was
committing sin
My maidenhead to lose and my sense to be
abused.

So have no more to do with my cuckoo's
nest."

(Chorus)

"My darling," says he, "it is not committing
sin.
But common sense should tell you it is a
pleasing thing,
For you were brought into this world to
increase and do your best
And to help a man to heaven in your
cuckoo's nest."

"Then my darling," says she, "I cannot you
deny,
For you've surely won my heart by the
roving of your eye.
Yet I see it in your eyes that your courage is
surprised,
So gently lift your hand in my cuckoo's
nest."

(Chorus)

So this couple they got married and soon
they went to bed
And now this pretty fair maid has lost her
maidenhead.
In a small country cottage they increase and
do their best
And he often claps his hand on her cuckoo's
nest.

Morris On: <https://youtu.be/LBJ5ulH69Xo>

Daddy Take A Nap

~ Loudon Wainwright III

Eleven o'clock am
Something's wrong with daddy, what's the
matter with him?
He stands up, puts the newspaper down
Furrowed forehead, face in a frown
Goin' upstairs to hit the sack
Yeah, daddy get's grumpy - got to take a
nap

Well, daddy take a nap, take a nap, take a
nap
Daddy take nap
Whoa, whoa daddy - daddy got to go and
take a nap

Now all of us kids 'round our house
We got to keep quiet, quiet as a mouse
When daddy get's grumpy like a grizzly bear
Leave him hibernating in his lair
'Cause daddy's kind of dangerous - that's
fact
Daddy gets grumpy, he got to take nap

Yeah, daddy take a nap, take a nap, take a
nap
Daddy take nap
Whoa, whoa daddy - daddy got to go and
take a nap
All right daddy - take a nap

It's seems like daddy's sleeping all of the
time
He's grumpy it's a doggone crime
He likes to watch the news on the TV set
But halfway through he gets upset
Well mommy says it's money and his bad
back
Daddy gets grumpy, he got to take a nap

Daddy take a nap, take a nap, take a nap
Daddy take nap

Whoa, daddy - daddy got to go and take a
nap

Now sometimes mommy and daddy fight
Us kids hear them late at night
Mom tells daddy, "Go get a job!"
Then she calls him a lazy slob
But in the morning they make up - that's a
fact
And then mommy goes with daddy and they
both take a nap

Yeah, daddy take a nap, take a nap, take a
nap
Daddy take nap
Whoa, whoa daddy - daddy and mommy
take a nap
All right, it's nap time!

Loudon Wainwright III:
https://youtu.be/_yCaX5Ik3gA

Dance To Your Daddy

~ William Watson [Roud 2439]

Dance to your Daddy, my little laddie
Dance to your Daddy, my little man (x2)

Thou shalt have a fish and thou shalt have a
fin

Thou shalt have a codlin when the boat
comes in

Thou shalt have haddock baked in a pan
Dance to your Daddy, my little man

Dance to your Daddy, my little laddie
Dance to your Daddy, my little man (x2)

When thou art a young boy, you must sing
and play

Go along the shore and cast your shells
away

Build yourself a castle, watch the tide roll in
Dance to your Daddy, my little man.

Dance to your Daddy, my little laddie
Dance to your Daddy, my little man (x2)

When thou art a young man, go unto the
trades

Find yourself a skill, and wages you'll be
paid

Then with all your wages, buy yourself
some land

Dance to your Daddy, my little man

Dance to your Daddy, my little laddie
Dance to your Daddy, my little man (x2)

When thou art a man and go to take a wife
Find yourself a lass and love her all your life
She shall be your lassie, thou shalt be her
man

Dance to your Daddy, my little man

Dance to your Daddy, my little laddie

Dance to your Daddy, my little man (x2)

When thou art an old man, father to a son
Sing to him the old songs, sing of all you've
done

Pass along the old ways, let his song begin
Dance to your Daddy, my little man

Dance to your Daddy, my little laddie
Dance to your Daddy, my little man (x2)

Thou shalt have a fish and thou shalt have a
fin

Thou shalt have a codlin when the boat
comes in

Thou shalt have haddock baked in a pan
Dance to your Daddy, my little man

Dance to your Daddy, my little laddie
Dance to your Daddy, my little man (x2)

Sweeney's Men:

<https://youtu.be/mU3PSsnHzJs>

Sweeney's Men only sing the first and last
verse, with the "wife" verse in the
middle.

Dancing at Whitsun

~ Austin John Marshall / trad. "The Week
Before Easter"

Tim Hart & Maddy Prior:

<https://youtu.be/JUoXAVJkvCo>

It's fifty long springtimes since she was a
bride,
But still you may see her at each
Whitsuntide
In a dress of white linen and ribbons of
green,
As green as her memories of loving.

The feet that were nimble tread carefully
now,
As gentle a measure as age do allow,
Through groves of white blossoms, by fields
of young corn,
Where once she was pledged to her true
love.

The fields they stand empty, the hedges
grow free,
No young men to tend them, or pastures go
see.
They've gone like the forests of oak trees
before
Gone to be wasted in battle.

Down from their green farmlands and from
their loved ones
Marched husbands and brothers and
fathers and sons.
There's a fine roll of honour where the
Maypole once stood,
And the ladies go dancing at Whitsun.

There's a straight row of houses in these
latter days
All covering the Downs where the sheep
used to graze.
There's a field of red poppies, a wreath from
the Queen.
But the ladies remember at Whitsun,
And the ladies go dancing at Whitsun.

Dead Knight Behind the Hedge

~ Jon Heslop; tune: False Knight on the Road

Oh where are you going
Said the dead knight behind the hedge
We're going for our lunch
Said the two crows as still they stood

How did you know I was here
Said the dead knight behind the hedge
Well we just had a hunch
Said the two crows as still they stood

Oh where is my horse & hound
Said the dead knight behind the hedge
They're nowhere to be found
Said the two crows as still they stood

Where is my Lady fair
Said the dead knight behind the hedge
She's buggered off somewhere
Said the two crows as still they stood

And what bit will you eat first
Said the dead knight behind the hedge
We're gonna eat your tongue
Said the two crows as still they stood

Uuuuuuuuuuhhhhhhhhhhhhh
Said the dead knight behind the hedge
Well that was jolly fun
Said the two crows and flew away

Dead Skunk

~ Loudon Wainwright III

Crossin' the highway late last night
He shoulda looked left and he shoulda
looked right
He didn't see the station wagon car
The skunk got squashed and there you are!

You got yer
Dead skunk in the middle of the road
Dead skunk in the middle of the road
You got yer dead skunk in the middle of the
road
Stinkin' to high Heaven!

Take a whiff on me, that ain't no rose!
Roll up yer window and hold yer nose
You don't have to look and you don't have to
see
'Cause you can feel it in your olfactory

You got yer
Dead skunk in the middle of the road
Dead skunk in the middle of the road
You got yer dead skunk in the middle of the
road
Stinkin' to high Heaven!

Yeah you got yer dead cat and you got yer
dead dog
On a moonlight night you got yer dead toad
frog
Got yer dead rabbit and yer dead raccoon
The blood and the guts they're gonna make
you swoon!

You got yer
Dead skunk in the middle of the road
Dead skunk in the middle of the road
You got yer dead skunk in the middle of the
road
Stinkin' to high Heaven!
C'mon stink!

You got it!
It's dead, it's in the middle

Dead skunk in the middle!
Dead skunk in the middle of the road
Stinkin' to high heaven!
All over the road, technicolor man!
Oh, you got pollution
It's dead, it's in the middle
And it's stinkin' to high, high Heaven

Loudon Wainwright III:

<https://youtu.be/nssSIKOrSNk>

Death of Nelson

[Roud 18837]

On the 21st of October before the rising sun
We formed the line for action me boys at
twelve o'clock begun
Brave Nelson to his men did say "The Lord
will prosper us this day,
Give then the broadside, fire away"
On board a man of war

So broadside to broadside our cannon balls
did fly
Like hail stones their small shot around our
decks did lie
Our mast and rigging were shot away,
besides some thousands in that fray
Were killed and wounded on that day
On board a man of war

But then our brave commander in grief he
shook his head
"There is no reprieve, there is no relief,
great Nelson he is dead,
It was a fatal musket ball that caused our
Hero for to fall
But he died in peace, God bless you all"
On board a man of war

And the merchants of Yarmouth when they
did hear it so
They said "Come, brother sailors, to church
now let us go,
There we will build a noble pile, all for the
hero of the Nile,
Who gave his life for England's Isle:
On board a man of war

Now our soldiers and sailors many noble
deeds have done
While fighting in foreign, many battles they
have won
If the Nile it could witness there or the Cape
of Trafalgar declare

There is none with Nelson could compare
On board a man of war

Melrose Quartet:

<https://youtu.be/xfJbSyKcDaY>

Peter Bellamy:

<https://youtu.be/TBkrsWfJh1Y>

Devonside

~ Richard Thompson

By Devonside she was a-marching
It was a gang of no great size
And surrender was the banner that she
 carried
And hungry was the shiver in her eyes

She met a boy, his health was failing
She dropped the banner and took her prize
And the only food she had was bread and
 morphine
Ah, but he fed on the shiver in her eyes

By Devonside his love was drifting
He looked for comfort otherwise
And there never was a rope or chain about
 him
Ah, she held him with the shiver in her eyes

Ah, she said, my John, I'll be your pillow
I'll be your lover, mother, whore and wife
And he knew that he had loved and never
 seen her
When the light fell from the shiver in her
 eyes

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/mzjWB-VJUWo>

Did She Jump Or Was She Pushed?

~ Richard & Linda Thompson

She was there one minute and then she
was gone the next
Lying in a pool of herself with a twisted neck

Oh she fell from the roof to the ground
There was glass lying all around
She was broken in a hundred pieces
When her body was found

She used to live life, she used to live life
with a vengeance
And the chosen would dance, the chosen
would dance in attendance

She crossed a lot of people
Some she called friends
She thought she'd live forever
But forever always ends

Did she jump or was she pushed
Did she jump or was she pushed
Did she jump or was she pushed

Oh she used to have style, she used to
have style and she used it
And they say it turned bad when the truth
came `round and she refused it

They found some fingerprints
Right around her throat
They didn't find no killer
And they didn't find no note

Did she jump or was she pushed
Did she jump or was she pushed
Did she jump or was she pushed

Oh did she jump or was she pushed
Did she jump or was she pushed

Did she jump or was she pushed

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/KTsPJsZqkBM>

Dimming Of The Day

~ Richard Thompson

This old house is falling down around my
ears
I'm drowning in the river of my tears
When all my will is gone you hold me sway
I need you at the dimming of the day

You pulled me like the moon pulls on the
tide
You know just where I keep my better side

What days have come to keep us far apart
A broken promise or a broken heart
Now all the bonny birds have wheeled away
I need you at the dimming of the day

Come the night you're only what I want
Come the night you could be my confidant

I see you on the street in company
Why don't you come and ease your mind
with me
I'm living for the night we steal away
I need you at the dimming of the day
I need you at the dimming of the day

Richard & Linda Thompson:

https://youtu.be/62GF_YwdzS0

Dogs and Ferrets

[Roud 363]

I keep my dogs and I keep my ferrets,
I have them in my keeping
To catch those hares that run by night
While the gamekeepers lie sleeping.

My dogs and I went out on a cold night
For to view the habitation.
Up jumped a hare and away she did run
Straight into a plantation.

I keep my dogs and I keep my ferrets,
I have them in my keeping
To catch those hares that run by night
While the gamekeepers lie sleeping.

She had not gone a long way in
When something caught her running.
So loudly then I heard her cry
For she knew the dogs were coming.

I keep my dogs and I keep my ferrets,
I have them in my keeping
To catch those hares that run by night
While the gamekeepers lie sleeping.

I took my knife all in my hand,
So quickly for to paunch her.
She was one of the female kind
How glad I was I'd caught her.

I keep my dogs and I keep my ferrets,
I have them in my keeping
To catch those hares that run by night
While the gamekeepers lie sleeping.

Then I'll go down to some alehouse near
And I'll drink that hare quite mellow.
I'll spend a crown and a merry crown too
And say, "I'm a right good fellow."

I keep my dogs and I keep my ferrets,

I have them in my keeping.

Steeleye Span:

<https://youtu.be/8kcWPoHbER0>

The Dominion of the Sword

~ Martin Carthy / James Fagan [Roud
V3219]

Lay by your pleading, law lies a-bleeding
Burn all your studies down, and throw away
your reading
Small power the word has, and can afford
us
Not half so much privilege as the sword
does

It'll the foster the master, plaster disaster
This'll make a servant quickly greater than
the master
Ventures, enters, seeks and it centres
Ever the upper hand, never a dissenter

Kruger, Krugerrand-a, whither do you
wander?
Gone to the suborning of Hastings Banda
Kruger, Krugerrand-a, tear you all asunder
Beira to Luanda, Gabarone to Nyanga

Talks of small things, it sets up all things
This'll master money, though money
masters all things
It is not season to talk of reason
Never call it loyal when the sword says
treason

Balm for the worrier, the whaler, the furrier
This'll get the measure of a Rainbow
Warrior
Incognito, come and sink a Rainbow
President will never know, I should bloody
ko-ko

* Build a drone, fly it, governments will buy it
Devils in the desert sand give us a chance
to try it
Don't need their ident, propaganda strident
Blow them up remotely with a Hellfire or a
Trident.

Subtle deceiver turns calm to fever
See the pilgrim flay the unbeliever
It'll make a lay man preach and to pray man
It'll make a Lord of him that was but a
drayman

Conquers the crown too, grave and the
gown too
Set you up a province, but it'll pull it down
too
No gospel can guide it, no law decide it
In church or state, till the sword sanctified it

Take books, rent 'em, who can invent 'em?
When that the sword says there'll be no
argumentum
Blood that is spilt, sir, has gained all the
guilt, sir
Thus have you seen me run my sword up to
the hilt, sir

Martin Carthy:
<https://youtu.be/Na0SyJScrQo>

Melrose Quartet:
<https://youtu.be/pmuc24sfbG0>

New words by Martin Carthy
* verse by James Fagan

Don't Renege On Our Love

~ Richard Thompson

Remember when we were hand in hand
Remember we sealed it with a golden band
Now your eyes don't meet mine, you've got
 a pulse like fever
Do I take you for a lover or just a deceiver?
Simple is simple and plain is plain
If you leave me now you won't come back
 again
When the game is up, ah don't renege on
 our love
No, don't renege on our love
Ah no, don't renege on our love, don't
 renege on our love

Well give me just an ounce of sympathy
Give me my chains of liberty
There's a rope that binds us and I don't
 want to break it
If love is a healing why should we forsake it
Well hunger is hunger and need is need
Am I just another mouth to feed
When the game is up, well don't renege on
 our love
No, don't renege on our love
No, don't renege on our love, don't renege
 on our love

When my heart breaks it breaks like the
 weather
If you leave me now it'll thunder forever
Oh, don't give it up. Well, well, don't renege
 on our love
Ah no, don't renege on our love
No, don't renege on our love, don't renege
 on our love
Don't renege on our love

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/8NPeXfGytSM>

Don't Want To Know

~ John Martyn

And I don't want to know about evil
Only want to know about love
I don't want to know about evil
Only want to know about love.

Sometimes it gets so hard to listen
Hard for me to use my eyes
And all around the cold is glistening
Making sure it keeps me down to size.

And I don't want to know about evil
Only want to know about love
I don't want to know one thing about evil
Only want to know about love.

I'm waiting for the planes to tumble
Waiting for the towns to fall
I'm waiting for the cities to crumble
Waiting till I see you crawl.

Yes it's getting hard to listen
Hard for us to use our eyes
Cause all around that gold is glistening
Making sure it keeps us hypnotized.

And I don't want to know about evil
I only want to know about love
I don't want to know about evil
Only want to know about love.

I don't want to know anything about evil
Only want to know about love
I don't want to know about evil
Only want to know about love.

John Martyn: <https://youtu.be/q-uo92Y5EE4>

Down Where The Drunkards Roll

~ Richard Thompson

See the boys out walking
The boys, they look so fine
Dressed up in green velvet
Their silver buckles shine
Soon they'll be bleary eyed
Under a keg of wine
Down where the drunkards roll
Down where the drunkards roll

See that lover standing
Staring at the ground
He's looking for the real thing
Lies were all he found
You can get the real thing
It will only cost a pound
Down where the drunkards roll
Down where the drunkards roll

There goes a troubled woman
She dreams a troubled dream
She lives out on the highway
She keeps her money clean
Soon she'll be returning
To the place where she's the queen
Down where the drunkards roll
Down where the drunkards roll

You can be a gambler
Who never drew a hand
You can be a sailor
Who never left dry land
You can be Lord Jesus
All the world will understand
Down where the drunkards roll
Down where the drunkards roll

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/RBzRz-Hcj18>

Drive Dull Care Away

[Roud 16927]

Oh, why should we our lot complain
Or grieve at our distress?
Some think if they could riches gain
T'would be true happiness
But alas how vain is all their strife
Life's cares it will not allay
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away

Away, away, away, away
We will drive dull care away
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away.

Why should the rich despise the poor?
Why should the poor repine?
When we will all in a few short years
In equal friendship join
They're both to blame, they're all the same
We are all made of one clay,
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away

Away, away, away, away
We will drive dull care away
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away.

The only circumstance in life
Which I could ever find
To conquer care or temper strife
Was a contented mind
With this in store we have much more
Than all things else can convey
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away

Away, away, away, away
We will drive dull care away
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away.

So let us make the best of life
Not rendering it a curse
But take it as you would a wife
For better or for worse
Life at its best is but a jest
Like a dreary winter's day
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away

Away, away, away, away
We will drive dull care away
So while we're here with our friends so dear
We'll drive dull care away.

John Roberts & Debra Cowen:

<https://youtu.be/LElqdYyWwu4>

Dump The Dog

~ Loudon Wainwright III

Loudon Wainwright III:

<https://youtu.be/BsQ3r4dPQfA>

Dump the dog and feed the garbage
Mow the floor and sweep the lawn
Salt and pepper on my porridge
Some day I'll be dead and gone

Oh, my good girl loves me madly
And my bad girl is a flirt
I'll take the good with the bad gladly
And I'll treat them both like dirt

Bread and butter for my breakfast
Peanut butter for my lunch
Apple butter for my dinner
Marjorie for Sunday brunch

Baseball's fine football's rougher
Basketballers are all tall
But I like hockey, hockey's tougher
You must play without a ball

It's too much bother and too much trouble
I have stood all I can stand
I'm a son and I'm a father
I am just a middle man

When I wake up in the morning
I hop up right out of bed
Unless of course I am hung over
Then I pretend that I am dead

Dump the dog and feed the garbage
Mow the floor and sweep the lawn
Salt and pepper on my porridge
Some day I'll be dead and gone

Oh, my good girl loves me madly
And my bad girl is a flirt
I'll take the good with the bad gladly
And I'll treat them both like dirt

Easy There, Steady Now

~ Richard Thompson

Jack-knife with a precious load spills its guts
all over the road
Excuse me, I had to smile, lost my grip, too,
for a while
It's easy there, steady now, easy there,
steady now

She didn't have the decency to sweep away
what's left of me
I don't have the presence of mind to walk
along on a straight line
Easy there, steady now, easy there, steady
now

I call your name, I call it loud
I see your face in every crowd

Nosebleed down the bathroom wall leaves a
pool down in the stall
I wonder where you are tonight, red dress,
skin so white
Easy there, steady now, easy there, steady
now

3 am an empty town, Doctor Marten's echo
down
Old man heartbreak follows you,
corruption's shadow swallows you
I said easy there, steady now, easy there,
steady now

I call your name, I call it loud
I see your face in every crowd

Jack-knife with a precious load spills its guts
all over the road
Excuse me, I had to smile, lost my grip, too,
for a while
Easy there, steady now, easy there, steady
now

Easy there, steady now, easy there, steady
now

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/HJighfXaISl>

Einstein the Genius

~ Henry Jankiewicz

Einstein was a genius, unlike you or me.
He wrote equations every day. On Mondays
he wrote three.
Mondays, he wrote three.

Albert, dance around. Albert, be profound.
Albert, let your hair stick out and your socks
hang down!

I had a frame of reference. I left it on the
fence.
Along come relativity. Ain't seen the darn
thing since.
Ain't seen the darn thing since!

Albert, dance around. Albert, be profound.
Albert, let your hair stick out and your socks
hang down!

A man got in a space ship. He flew a million
miles.
Busted through the speed of light. He came
back a child.
He came back a child!

Albert, dance around. Albert, be profound.
Albert, let your hair stick out and your socks
hang down!

A man looked through a telescope 'til his
eye was red.
He looked through outer space and saw the
back of his own head,
Back of his own head!

Albert, dance around. Albert, be profound.
Albert, let your hair stick out and your socks
hang down!

A wave and a particle were walkin' side by
side.

One said to the other, "Which one of us am
I?
Which one of us am I?"

Albert, dance around. Albert, be profound.
Albert, let your hair stick out and your socks
hang down!

Newton had an apple. It hit him on the head
Doc McCoy came up to him, said "Jim, I
think he's dead.
Jim, I think he's dead!"

Albert, dance around. Albert, be profound.
Albert, let your hair stick out and your socks
hang down!

Einstein played the violin. He liked to dance
and sing.
If that ain't genius, that ain't anything!
That ain't anything!

Albert, dance around. Albert, be profound.
Albert, let your hair stick out and your socks
hang down! 2X

Robert Ruud: <https://youtu.be/fVpT0V-dQOo>

The End of the Rainbow

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/9xq8USB3Nlk>

I feel for you, you little horror
Safe at your mother's breast
No lucky break for you around the corner
'Cos your father is a bully
And he thinks that you're a pest
And your sister, she's no better than a
whore

Life seems so rosy in the cradle
But I'll be a friend, I'll tell you what's in store
There's nothing at the end of the rainbow
There's nothing to grow up for anymore

Tycoons and barrow boys will rob you
And throw you on the side
And all because they love themselves
sincerely
And the man holds a bread-knife
Up to your throat, is four feet wide
And he's anxious just to show you what it's
for

Your mother works so hard to make you
happy
But take a look outside the nursery door
There's nothing at the end of the rainbow
There's nothing to grow up for anymore

All the sad and empty faces
That pass you on the street
All running in their sleep, all in a dream
Every loving handshake
Is just another man to beat
How your heart aches just to cut him to the
core

Life seems so rosy in the cradle
But I'll be a friend, I'll tell you what's in store
There's nothing at the end of the rainbow
There's nothing to grow up for anymore

The Erie Canal

~ Thomas S. Allen (1912 & 1913)

I've got an old mule and her name is Sal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
She's a good old worker and a good old pal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
We've hauled some barges in our day,
Filled with lumber, coal and hay
And ev'ry inch of the way I know,
From Albany to Buffalo

Low bridge, ev'rybody down,
Low bridge, we must be getting near a town
You can always tell your neighbor,
You can always tell your pal
If he's ever navigated on the Erie Canal

We'd better look 'round for a job old gal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
You bet your life I wouldn't part with Sal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
Giddap there gal we've passed that lock,
We'll make Rome 'fore six o'clock
So one more trip and then we'll go,
Right straight back to Buffalo

Low bridge, ev'rybody down,
Low bridge, I've got the finest mule in town
Once a man named Mike McGinty tried to
put it over Sal
Now he's way down at the bottom of the
Erie Canal

Oh, where would I be if I lost my pal?,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
Oh, I'd like to see a mule as good as Sal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
A friend of mine once got her sore,
Now, he's got a broken jaw
'Cause she let fly with her iron toe,
And kicked him into Buffalo

Low bridge, ev'rybody down,

Low bridge, I've got the finest mule in town
If you're looking 'round for trouble, better
stay away from Sal

She's the only fighting donkey on the Erie
Canal

I don't have to call when I want my Sal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
She trots from her stall like a good old gal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
I eat my meals with Sal each day,
I eat beef and she eats hay
She ain't so slow if you want to know,
She put the "Buff" in Buffalo

Low bridge, ev'rybody down,
Low bridge, I've got the finest mule in town
Eats a bale of hay for dinner, and on top of
that, my Sal
Tries to drink up all the water in the Erie
Canal

You'll soon hear them sing all about my gal,
Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
It's a darned fool ditty 'bout my darned fool
Sal,

Fifteen years on the Erie Canal
Oh, every band will play it soon,
Darned fool words and darned fool tune
You'll hear it sung everywhere you go,
From Mexico to Buffalo

Low bridge, ev'rybody down, Low bridge,
I've got the finest mule in town
She's a perfect, perfect lady, and she
blushes like a gal
If she hears you sing about her and the Erie
Canal.

<https://daveruch.com/erie-canal-song/>

The song first appeared in print as "Low
Bridge! – Everybody Down" (subtitled
"Fifteen Years on the Erie Canal") and

was credited to composer Thomas S. Allen (1876-1919) of Natick, Massachusetts. Allen is said to have originally written it sometime between 1905-1912. Allen's song was copyrighted by F.B. Haviland Publishing Company in manuscript form in November of 1912, appearing in sheet music form early the following year.

After the song appeared in Sigmund Spaeth's 1926 folk song collection "Read 'em and Weep, The Songs You Forgot to Remember" as a public domain song (and with the refrain "Fifteen miles – rather than years – on the Erie Canal)," Thomas Allen's publishing company sued Spaeth's publishing house (Doubleday, Page and Company) for copyright infringement.

Farewell, Farewell

~ Richard Thompson

Farewell, farewell to you who'd hear
You lonely travelers all
The cold north wind will blow again
The winding road does call

And will you never return to see
Your bruised and beaten sons
Oh I would, I would if welcome I were
For they loathe me every one

And will you never cut the cloth
Or drink the light to be
And can you never swear a year
To anyone but we

No I will never cut the cloth
Or drink the light to be
But I'll swear a year to one who lies
Asleep along side of me

Farewell, farewell to you who would hear
You lonely travelers all
The cold north wind will blow again
The winding road does call

Fairport Convention:

<https://youtu.be/fPq5ijmY6wQ>

The Farmer's Boy

[Roud 408]

The sun had set behind yon hill
Across the dreary moor,
When weary and lame a boy there came
Up to the farmer's door.
Can you tell me where e're there be
One who will me employ
To plow and to sow, to reap and to mow
And be a farmer's boy,
And be a farmer's boy?

My father is dead and my mother's left,
And with her five children small;
And worse to bear for my mother dear,
I'm the eldest of them all.
Though little I be no work I fear
If you will me employ,
To plow and to sow, to reap and to mow
And be a farmer's boy,
And be a farmer's boy.

And if you can not me employ,
One favor I do ask:
Please shelter me til the break of day
From this cold winter's blast!
At break of day I'll trudge away
Elsewhere to seek employ,
To plow and to sow, to reap and to mow
And be a farmer's boy,
And be a farmer's boy.

The farmer's wife said, Try the lad;
Let him no longer seek!
Yes, father, do, the daughter cried,
As the tears rolled down her cheek,
For those that would work, it's hard to want
And wander for employ.
Don't let him go, but let him stay
And be a farmer's boy,
And be a farmer's boy.

The farmer's boy grew up a man

And the good old couple died.
They left the lad the farm they had
And their daughter for his bride.
Now the lad which was and the farm now
has
Oft thinks and smiles with joy
To bless the day he came that way
To be a farmer's boy,
To be a farmer's boy.

John Kirkpatrick:

<https://youtu.be/oksSAcihQbU>

Farmer's Toast

[Roud 1603]

Come each jolly fellow who seeks to be
mellow
Attend unto me and sit easy
For a pint when it's quiet, my lads, let us try
it
For thinking will drive a man crazy

I have lawns, I have bowers, I have fruit, I
have flowers
And the lark is my morning alarmer
So my jolly boys now here's good luck to
the plough
Long life and success to the farmer

Draw near to my table, my lads, if you're
able
Let me hear not one word of complaining
For the tinkling of glasses all music
surpasses
And I love to see bottles a-draining

I have lawns, I have bowers, I have fruit, I
have flowers
And the lark is my morning alarmer
So my jolly boys now here's good luck to
the plough
Long life and success to the farmer

For here I am king, I will dance, drink and
sing
Let no man appear as a stranger
And show me the ass who refuses a glass
And I'll treat him to hay in a manger

I have lawns, I have bowers, I have fruit, I
have flowers
And the lark is my morning alarmer
So my jolly boys now here's good luck to
the plough
Long life and success to the farmer

Let the wealthy and great roll in splendour
and state,
I envy them not, I declare it
For I eat my own ham, my own chicken and
lamb
I shear my own fleece and I wear it

I have lawns, I have bowers, I have fruit, I
have flowers
And the lark is my morning alarmer
So my jolly boys now here's good luck to
the plough
Long life and success to the farmer

By ploughing and sowing, by reaping and
mowing
King nature affords me aplenty
I've a cellar well stored and a plentiful board
And a garden affords every dainty

I have lawns, I have bowers, I have fruit, I
have flowers
And the lark is my morning alarmer
So my jolly boys now here's good luck to
the plough
Long life and success to the farmer

Jon Boden:

<http://www.afolksongaday.com/?p=68>

Field Behind The Plow

~ Stan Rogers

Watch the field behind the plow turn to
straight, dark rows
Feel the trickle in your clothes, blow the
dust cake from your nose
Hear the tractor's steady roar, Oh you can't
stop now
There's a quarter section more or less to go

And it figures that the rain keeps its own
sweet time
You can watch it come for miles, but you
guess you've got a while
So ease the throttle out a hair, every rod's a
gain
And there's victory in every quarter mile

Poor old Kuzyk down the road
The heartache, hail and hoppers brought
him down
He gave it up and went to town

And Emmett Pierce the other day
Took a heart attack and died at forty two
You could see it coming on 'cause he
worked as hard as you

In an hour, maybe more, you'll be wet clear
through
The air is cooler now, pull your hat brim
further down
And watch the field behind the plow turn to
straight dark rows
Put another season's promise in the ground

And if the harvest's any good
The money just might cover all the loans
You've mortgaged all you own

Buy the kids a winter coat
Take the wife back east for Christmas if you
can

All summer she hangs on when you're so
tied to the land

For the good times come and go, but at
least there's rain
So this won't be barren ground when
September rolls around
So watch the field behind the plow turn to
straight dark rows
Put another season's promise in the ground

Watch the field behind the plow turn to
straight dark rows
Put another season's promise in the ground

Stan Rogers: <https://youtu.be/m7y4FEhIJDk>

For Shame Of Doing Wrong

~ Richard Thompson

It seems like a lifetime since I saw you
Lover lover I've been away too long
When I see lovers holding hands and
 sighing
I hang my head for shame of doing wrong

Bus wheels spinning, song birds singing
 break my heart
Take me back to old remembered days
Remind me of the times we spent together
Times before we went our separate ways

I wish I was a fool for you again
I wish I was a fool for you again
I wish I was a fool for you again

I'm sorry for the things I've said, the things
 I've done
I'm sorry for the restless thief I've been
Please don't make me pay for my deceiving
 heart
Just turn up your lamp and let me in

I wish I was a fool for you again
I wish I was a fool for you again
I wish I was a fool for you again

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/2-V2T8u1B6U>

Four Wet Pigs

Here's a little song about four wet pigs,
Here's a little song about four wet pigs,
Two of them little, and two of them big,
They danced all night at the Pigtown jig.

The two that were little were just half grown,
The two that were big were big as a barn,
Big as a barn and tall as a tree,
Take 'em on down to the factory.

Cut 'em into bacon, slice 'em into ham,
Chop 'em into hot dogs, squeeze 'em into
spam.
Throw their little eyes out in the rain,
Pickle their feet and scramble their brains.

Here's a little song about two wet pigs,
Leaning on the lamp post smoking their
cigs,
Wishing to god they'd never get big,
They danced all night at the Pigtown jig.

The Fortress

~ Richard Thompson

One day, the ceiling falls in on you
Your more than perfect world
Has suddenly come unglued
There you are

One day, your fortress is so much dust
The friends you thought you knew
Have all betrayed your trust
There you are

Head over heels, nothing to cling to
Struck down dumb, no muses to sing to
Four winds blow you, lift you, fling you
Into the sky....

You're no John Wayne, you're no gun
slinger
You thought you had the whole world
Wrapped around your finger
You always said: "It was the song and not
the singer"
After all.....

You set your own wake
You thought that that was clever
You staked your bets on living forever
Forever, forever, forever, forever
But after all....
You were bound to fall
You were bound to fall

One day, trouble will seek you out
You can run and you can hide
But your life is up the spout
And there you are

One day, nothing makes sense at all
Your career's slow suicide
Your brain has hit the wall
There you are

Spinning around on a carousel of voices
Talking in tongues a hundred James Joyces
Screaming in your head as if you need
choices
After all....

You're no John Wayne, you're no gun
slinger
You thought you had the whole world
Wrapped around your finger
You always said: "It was the song and not
the singer"
After all.....

You set your own wake
You thought that that was clever
You staked your bets on living forever
Forever, forever, forever, forever
But after all....
You were bound to fall
You were bound to fall

Richard Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/97H7qhQi26k>

From a Lullaby Kiss

~ Peter Knight / Julie Felix

This day, this day is mine
It's mine to keep until tomorrow
If my heart is full of joy or sorrow
Whether I pay my way
Or I beg, steal and borrow
One thing I know is
This day, this day is mine.

This day, this day is mine
It's mine to live without rules to bind me
I can close every door so that no one will
find me
Or I can open my heart and say,
"Love, come and blind me"
But one thing I know is
This day, this day is mine.

As I live out my life there's some lessons
I've learned
If you jump in the fire you're bound to get
burned
I can say I was pushed in but I was to
blame,
I was drawn to the light and the dance of the
flame

I was easily led, both my heart and my
head,
And believed every word that those dream
pushers said
Because nobody told me the truth about lies
That they hide in the words but they live in
the eyes.

This life, this life is mine
From a lullaby kiss and my first awaking
It's a life I will miss when it's time for the
taking
Which is why every day
Must be mine for the making
One thing I know is, one thing I know is

This life, this life is mine.

Peter Knight: <https://youtu.be/euxflfoFTk>

From Galway To Graceland

~ Richard Thompson

Oh she dressed in the dark and she
whispered amen
She was pretty in pink like a young girl
again
Twenty years married and she never
thought twice
She sneaked out the door and walked into
the night
And silver wings carried her over the sea
From the west coast of Ireland to West
Tennessee
To be with her sweetheart, oh she left
everything
From Galway to Graceland to be with the
king

She was humming Suspicion, that's the
song she liked best
She had Elvis I Love You tattooed on her
breast
When they landed in Memphis, well her
heart beat so fast
She'd dreamed for so long, now she'd see
him at last
She was down by his graveside day after
day
Come closing time they would pull her away
Ah to be with her sweetheart, oh she'd left
everything
From Galway to Graceland to be with the
king

Ah, they came in their thousands from the
whole human race
To pay their respects at his last resting
place
But blindly she knelt there and she told him
her dreams
And she thought that he answered or that's
how it seems

Then they dragged her away it was
handcuffs this time
She said my good man are you out of your
mind.
Don't you know that we're married? See, I'm
wearing his ring.
From Galway to Graceland to be with the
king.
I come From Galway to Graceland to be
with the king.

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/2eyH6WIZQmY>

Garnet's Home-Made Beer

~ Ian Robb

Oh the year was nineteen seventy-eight,
(How I wish I'd never tried it now)
When a score of men were turned quite
 green
By the scummiest ale you've ever seen

God damn them all,
I was told this beer was worth its weight in
 gold
We'd feel no pain, shed no tears,
But it's a foolish man who shows no fear
At a glass of Garnet's homemade beer.

Old Garnet Rogers cried the town
(How I wish I'd never tried it now)
For twenty brave men all masochists who
Would taste for him his homemade brew.

God damn them all...

This motley crew was a sickening sight
(How I wish I'd never tried it now)
There was caveman Dave with his eyes in
 bags
He'd a hard-boiled liver and the staggers
 and jags.

God damn them all...

We hadn't been there but an hour or two
(How I wish I'd never tried it now)
When a voice said "Give me some
 homemade brew"
And steel-eyed Stan hove into view.

God damn them all...

Now steel-eyed Stan was a frightening man
(How I wish I'd never tried it now)
He was eight foot tall and four foot wide
Said, "pass that jug or I'll tan your hide."

God damn them all...

Stan took one sip and pitched on his side
(How I wish I'd never tried it now)
Ol' Garnet was smashed with a gut full of
 dregs
And his breath set fire to both me legs.

God damn them all...

So here I lie with me twenty-third beer
(how I wish I'd never tried it now)
It's been ten years since I felt this way
On the night before me wedding day.

God damn them all,
I was told this beer was worth its weight in
 gold
We'd feel no pain, shed no tears,
But it's a foolish man who shows no fear
At a glass of Garnet's homemade beer.

Ian Robb: <https://youtu.be/Gl8P5Fhc5yU>

Genesis Hall

~ Richard Thompson

My father he rides with your sheriffs
And I know he would never mean harm
But to see both sides of a quarrel
Is to judge without hate or love

Oh, oh, helpless and slow
And you don't have anywhere to go

You take away homes from the homeless
And leave them to die in the cold
The gypsy who begs for your presents
He will laugh in your face when you're old

Oh, oh, helpless and slow
And you don't have anywhere to go

Well one man he drinks up his whiskey
Another he drinks up his wine
And they'll drink 'till their eyes are red with
hate
For those of a different kind

Oh, oh, helpless and slow
And you don't have anywhere to go

When the rivers run thicker than trouble
I'll be there at your side in the flood
T'was all I could do to keep myself
From taking revenge on your blood

Oh, oh, helpless and slow
And you don't have anywhere to go
Oh, oh, helpless and slow
And you don't have anywhere to go

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/3NBtgMoovBE>

Gethsemane

~ Richard Thompson

Among the headstones you played as boys
Crypts and tombs like a roomful of toys
Just up the river from the smoke and the
noise

Gethsemane

And there's war-whoops and secret signs in
the trees

Estuary smells coming up on the breeze
O perfect endless days like these
O Gethsemane

Sailboat on the Cadie, pushbike on the quay
In your eyes there's fire, in your hand
destiny
'O be something, be something fine!'

Just down the river, into the noise and the
smoke
Being daring with the staring, uncaring folk
Who laugh with you, laugh at you, you'll
never get the joke

Gethsemane

And they broke your spirit there in the
marines

Flushed your head down in the latrines
Frozen in your sacrament, derailed in your
teens

Never saw the enemy

And those bosses betrayed, soon let you go
The fire in your eyes, how could they know
'O be something, be something fine!'

Now you've got your own boys, hell bent for
leather

Dead before they're 18, or bitter old men
forever

They never saw the halo moon rise over the
river

Of Gethsemane

Now there's a pain in your head puts lead in
your shoes

Better get it seen to, it's going to be bad
news

How did the perfect world get so confused
O Gethsemane

Who sucked out the freedom, days without
end

Under the weight of it all you must bend
'O be something, be something fine!'

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/ZQQFGwi9IzY>

Getting In The Cows

~ Charlie Maguire

I start my day in the sun-up dark
I'm going down the lane to bring my
milk-cows up
Got some Holsteins, some Jerserys and a
one-eyed steer
And old brown cow who jumps fences like a
deer
Dew is on the ground, and my feet are wet
Got a light in my hand, hat on my head
Down to the pasture to get my herd
Just chewing their cud, and looking at the
birds

Getting in the cows, shoo them in the barn
Put them in the stantion, turn the radio on
Milk them all dry, send them out again
Wait a month on the Dairy, for the check to
come in
A month on the dairy, for the check to come
in

"Well, get up you cows!" and I get them on
the move
Their udders are swinging like water in
balloons
I go up to the barn and they know their
place
With the lead-cow first then I close the gate
Bring the cart around, give them all some
feed
They lick their nose, flap their ears at me
I put on the machine, and it feels so good
To let down their milk like a good cow
should

Getting in the cows, shoo them in the barn
Put them in the stantion, turn the radio on
Milk them all dry, send them out again
Wait a month on the Dairy, for the check to
come in

A month on the dairy, for the check to come
in

The folks says a cow's face looks so fine
But I see their back-end most of the time
Sweat all summer to put hay in the mow
Then work all winter, to feed it to the cow
The milking is all done, I've got the weather
report
I have my day all planned for my job of work
Back to the pasture goes part of my life
Now I'm going in the house to hug my wife

Getting in the cows, shoo them in the barn
Put them in the stantion, turn the radio on
Milk them all dry, send them out again
Wait a month on the Dairy, for the check to
come in
A month on the dairy, for the check to come
in

Charlie Maguire:

<https://youtu.be/2EdqAHVNZ00>

The Ghost Of You Walks

~ Richard Thompson

If that was our goodbye kiss
Seems a habit too good to miss
Once more for the memory
Hit the heights too well that time
To leave it there would be a crime
Seems more like beginning to me
At least we tried, took the biggest bite
Least we did it right
With all our souls and all our might

Blue murder on the dance floor, French
 kisses in the rain
Blood wedding in the water till I see you
 again
Dutch courage is the game and the ghost of
 you walks
The ghost of you walks, the ghost of you
 walks

The ghost of you walks right through my
 head
Sleepwalks at the foot of my bed
Sends old shivers over my skin
Love like that, won't let go
It's got some kind of a mind of its own
I can't break out and I can't break in
At least we lived, took it all at a rush
At least we loved too much
Felt too much, cared too much

Blue murder on the dance floor, French
 kisses in the rain
Blood wedding in the water till I see you
 again
Dutch courage is the game and the ghost of
 you walks
The ghost of you walks, the ghost of you
 walks

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/eNPI5bl4wq0>

Go Cubs Go

~ Steve Goodman (1984)

Baseball season's underway
Well you better get ready for a brand new
day
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today

They're singing
Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today
Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today

They got the power, they got the speed
To be the best in the National League
Well this is the year and the Cubs are real
So come on down to Wrigley Field

We're singing now
Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today
Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today.

Baseball time is here again
You can catch it all on WGN
So stamp your feet and clap your hands
Chicago Cubs got the greatest fans

Hear 'em singing now
Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today

Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today

Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today

Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today

Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today

Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago, what do you say
The Cubs are gonna win today

Go, Cubs, go
Go, Cubs, go
Hey, Chicago

Steve Goodman:

<https://youtu.be/UxZVuBzFVyl>

God Loves A Drunk

~ Richard Thompson

Will there be any bartenders up there in
heaven?

Will the pubs never close? Will the glass
never drain?

No more DTs and no shakes and no horrors
The very next morning, you feel right as rain

'Cause God loves a drunk, lowest of men
Like the dogs in the street and the pigs in
the pen

But a drunk's only trying to get free of his
body

And soar like an eagle high up there in
heaven

His shouts and his curses they are just
hymns and praises

To kick-start his mind now and then

O God loves a drunk, come raise up your
glasses, amen

Does God really care for your life in the
suburbs?

Your dull little life full of dull little things
And bring up the babies to be just like
daddy

And maybe I'll be there when he gives out
the wings

But God loves a drunk, although he's a fool
Oh he wets in his pants and he falls off his
stool

And he can't hear the insults, and whispers
go by him

As he leans in the doorway and he sings
sally racket

He can't feel the cold rain beat down on his
body

And soak through his clothes to the skin

O God loves a drunk, come raise up your
glasses, amen

Will there be any pen-pushers up there in
heaven?

Does crawling and wage-slaving win you
God's love?

I pity you worms with your semis and
pensions

If you think that'll get you to the kingdom
above

Oh God loves a drunk, although he's a
clown

Oh you can't help but laugh as he gags and
falls down

But he don't give a curse for what people
think of him

He screams at his demons alone in the
darkness

He's staying alive for just one more pint
bottle

Won't you throw him a few pennies, friend?

Ah God loves a drunk, for ever and ever,
amen

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/VOnFaYMyZu0>

Norma Waterson:

https://youtu.be/8a_ZNyGFonc

Going Back to Weldon

I'm going back to Weldon... Weldon...
Weldon...

I'm going back to Weldon...
To get a job in the Weldon yard

Oh captain if you fire me... fire me... fire
me...

Oh captain if you fire me...
You've got to fire my buddy, too

The captain's got a luger... luger... luger...
The captain's got a luger...
And the mate's got an owl's head

I don't want no woman... woman... woman...
I don't want no woman...
Who's got a hair like a horse's mane

The house is on fire... fire... fire...
The house is on fire...
And it's almost burning down

I'm going back to Weldon... Weldon...
Weldon...

I'm going back to Weldon
To get a job in the Weldon yard

Clyde Witham from TfMM sings this.

Craig Edwards and the Northern Neck
Chantey Singers:
https://youtu.be/QRfgN4BD_F0

Going Down on Old Bum Knee

Going down on old bum knee again, me
boys

Going down on old bum knee
We're homeward bound, ace bandage
bound

Going down on old bum knee

It's a damn hard life, full of toil and strife we
Morris men undergo

We don't give a damn when the ale is done,
how hard the ground below

for we're homeward bound to the piper's
sound, and a caper taught for three

And we don't give a damn when we drink
our ale

Going down on old bum knee

Once more we're found sitting on the
ground with ice upon the sprain

Our mainspring sprung, our flailing done, we
soon will feel the pain

Even now the big black welts rise up where
our kneecaps used to be

If I ever get cured, I'll praise the Lord,
Going down on old bum knee

The Good Old Way

[Roud 23864]

Lift up your hearts, Emmanuel's friends
And taste the pleasure Jesus sends
Let nothing cause you to delay
But hasten in the good old way

For I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(For I have a sweet hope of glory)
I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(I have a sweet hope of glory)
For I know I have, and I feel I have
A sweet hope of glory in my soul

Our conflicts here, though great they be
Shall not prevent our victory
If we but strive and watch and pray
Like soldiers in the good old way

For I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(For I have a sweet hope of glory)
I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(I have a sweet hope of glory)
For I know I have, and I feel I have
A sweet hope of glory in my soul

Though Satan may his powers employ
Our happiness for to destroy
Yet never fear, we'll gain the day
By marching in the good old way

For I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(For I have a sweet hope of glory)
I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(I have a sweet hope of glory)
For I know I have, and I feel I have
A sweet hope of glory in my soul

Ye valiant souls, for heaven contend
Remember glory is at the end
Our God will wipe our tears away
When we have run the good old way

For I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(For I have a sweet hope of glory)
I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(I have a sweet hope of glory)
For I know I have, and I feel I have
A sweet hope of glory in my soul

And far beyond this mortal shore
We'll meet with those who have gone before
And shout to think we have gained the day
By marching in the good old way

For I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(For I have a sweet hope of glory)
I have a sweet hope of glory in my soul
(I have a sweet hope of glory)
For I know I have, and I feel I have
A sweet hope of glory in my soul

Eliza Carthy & The Ratcatchers:
<https://youtu.be/Xkt4xhsdZZw>

"Tráth Bha Rugadheat Críost" or "Tra Va
Ruggit Creest" is a Manx tune that was
used for the Manx Primitive Methodist
hymn, "The Good Old Way".

Goodnight Loving Trail

~ Bruce Phillips

Too old to wrangle or ride on the swing,
You beat the triangle and you curse
everything.
If dirt was a kingdom, they you'd be the
king.

On the Goodnight Trail, on the Loving Trail,
Our Old Woman's lonesome tonight.
Your French harp blows like the low bawling
calf.
It's a wonder the wind don't tear off your
skin.
Get in there and blow out the light.

With your snake oil and herbs and your
liniments, too,
You can do anything that a doctor can do,
Except find a cure for your own god damned
stew

On the Goodnight Trail, on the Loving Trail,
Our Old Woman's lonesome tonight.
Your French harp blows like the low bawling
calf.
It's a wonder the wind don't tear off your
skin.
Get in there and blow out the light.

The campfire's gone out and the coffee's all
gone,
The boys are all up and they're raising the
dawn.
You're still sitting there, lost in a song.

On the Goodnight Trail, on the Loving Trail,
Our Old Woman's lonesome tonight.
Your French harp blows like the low bawling
calf.
It's a wonder the wind don't tear off your
skin.
Get in there and blow out the light.

I know that some day I'll be just the same,
Wearing an apron instead of a name.
There's nothing can change it, there's no
one to blame

For the desert's a book writ in lizards and
sage,
Easy to look like an old torn out page,
Faded and cracked with the colors of age.

On the Goodnight Trail, on the Loving Trail,
Our Old Woman's lonesome tonight.
Your French harp blows like the low bawling
calf.
It's a wonder the wind don't tear off your
skin.
Get in there and blow out the light.

Coope, Boyes & Simpson with Finest Kind:
https://youtu.be/3_6FRy_st10

The Great Valerio

~ Richard Thompson

High up above the crowd
The great Valerio is walking
The rope seems hung from cloud to cloud
And time stands still while he is walking
His eye is steady on the target
His foot is sure upon the rope
Alone and peaceful as a mountain
And certain as the mountain slope

We falter at the sight
We stumble in the mire
Fools who think they see the light
Prepare to balance on the wire
But we learn to watch together,
And feed on what we see above
'Till our hearts turn like the seasons
And we are acrobats of love

How we wonder, how we wonder
Watching far below
We would all be that great hero
The great Valerio

Come all you upstart jugglers
Are you really ready yet?
Who will help the tightrope walker
When he tumbles to the net
So come with me to see Valerio
As he dances through the air
I'm your friend until you use me
And then be sure I won't be there

How we wonder, how we wonder
Watching far below
We would all be that great hero
The great Valerio

Richard & Linda Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/nbAq1gCILBs>

Green Gravel

[Roud 1368]

Green gravel, green gravel, the grass is so
green,
Such beautiful flowers as ever were seen.

Oh Annie, oh Annie, your sweetheart has
fled,
He's sent you a letter to turn round your
head.

Green gravel, green gravel, the grass is so
green,
The fairest young damsel that ever was
seen.

She's neither within, she's neither without,
She's up in the garret a-walking about.

Green gravel, green gravel, the grass is so
green,
The pretty young maidens are plain to be
seen.

Oh Annie, oh Annie, your sweetheart is
dead!
They sent you a letter to drop down your
head.

Green gravel, green gravel, the grass is so
green,
The dismalest damsel that ever was seen.

Oh Mother, oh Mother, do you think it is
true?
Oh yes, dear! Oh yes, dear! Then what shall
I do?

Green gravel, green gravel, the grass is so
green,
The pretty young maidens are not to be
seen.

We washed her, we dried her, we rolled her
in silk,
And we wrote down her names with a gold
pen and ink.

Green gravel, green gravel, the grass is so
green,
The flowers are all faded, there's none to be
seen.

Around the green gravel the grass is so
green,
The flowers are all faded, there's none to be
seen.

Fay Hield: https://youtu.be/RM6z-g_kfBI

Green Grow the Rushes-O

[Roud 133]

I'll sing you One, O
Green grow the rushes, O
What is your One, O?
One is One and all alone, and ever more
shall be so.

then cumulative to:

I'll sing you Twelve, O!
Green grow the rushes, O!
What is your Twelve, O?
Twelve for the Twelve Apostles
Eleven for the Eleven that went to Heaven
Ten for the Ten Commandments
Nine for the Nine Bright Shiners
Eight for the April Rainers
Seven for the Seven Stars in the Sky
Six for the Six Proud Walkers
Five for the Symbols at your Door
Four for the Gospel Makers
Three, Three, the Rivals
Two, Two, the Lily-White Boys, covered all
in green-o
One is One and all alone, and ever more
shall be so.

Nowell Sing We Clear:

<https://youtu.be/nf0XJ7vxc-s>

Grey Funnel Line

~Cyril Tawney

Don't mind the rain or the rolling sea,
The weary night never worries me.
But the hardest time in sailor's day
Is to watch the sun as it dies away.
It's one more day on the Grey Funnel Line.

The finest ship that sailed the sea
Is still a prison for the likes of me.
But give me wings like Noah's dove,
I'd fly up harbour to the girl I love.
It's one more day on the Grey Funnel Line.

There was a time my heart was free
Like a floating spar on the open sea.
But now the spar is washed ashore,
It comes to rest at my real love's door.
It's one more day on the Grey Funnel Line.

Every time I gaze behind the screws
Makes me long for old Peter's shoes.
I'd walk right down that silver lane
And take my love in my arms again.
It's one more day on the Grey Funnel Line.

Oh Lord, if dreams were only real
I'd have my hands on that wooden wheel.
And with all my heart I'd turn her round
And tell the boys that we're homeward
bound.
It's one more day on the Grey Funnel Line.

I'll pass the time like some machine
Until blue water turns to green.
Then I'll dance on down that walk ashore
And sail the Grey Funnel Line no more.
And sail the Grey Funnel Line no more.

Maddy Prior & June Tabor:

https://youtu.be/G2q_VXShg4Y

Note: they omit verses 3 & 4

Griselda

~ Ira Kaplan, Dave Schramm, Georgia Hubley

Come, won't you walk with me, Griselda
Wearin' your dress that moonlight shines
through?

I am a sad and lonely boy
Since your mother said I couldn't see you

Slippin' through the woods in the dark of the
night
Callin' to the moon out yonder
Old Lady Moon, won't you shine your silver
light
And lead me to my Griselda!

Do you recall last night, Griselda
Learnin' the lessons nature taught us?
Watchin' the fish jump in the lake
It was lovely till your mother caught us

Slippin' through the woods in the dark of the
night
Callin' to the moon out yonder
Old Lady Moon, won't you shine your silver
light
And lead me to my Griselda!

Moonflower Vine upon your window
Gives me a foothold for my climbin'
I got a rowboat on the lake;
Moon is out and all the stars are shinin'

Slippin' through the woods in the dark of the
night
Callin' to the moon out yonder
Old Lady Moon, won't you shine your silver
light
And lead me to my Griselda!

I got a jug of wine, Griselda!
Why should you waste your time in sorrow?
Hold out your hand and have no fear;

If we're caught I'll marry ya tomorrow!

Slippin' through the woods in the dark of the
night
Callin' to the moon out yonder
Old Lady Moon, won't you shine your silver
light
And lead me to my Griselda!

Yo La Tengo: <https://youtu.be/qt5GrQfVlbU>

Guns Are The Tongues

~ Richard Thompson

Carrie ran a murderous crew
Dedicated through and through
And the chance to prove
They never squandered
And they liked to kill so clean
Save the innocent, kill the mean
But from time to time,
A bullet wandered

Carrie kept her souvenirs
Kept her scrapbook down the years
Of her brave boys,
How she cried to read it
And a few fell by the way
Or lost the stomach for the fray
So young blood
Was always needed

Carrie noticed him right away
The way his whole body would sway
Like a trawler boy
Finding his legs ashore
They said he was just nineteen
A head case but his record was clean
Just the kind
They were looking for

Carrie watched him through the crack
As they teased him behind his back
They called him Little Joe
'Cos he scraped the ceiling
And when he was the worse for wear
She took him up the stair
And soon he fell
For her brand of healing

She said, I'll lie like a rose on your pillow
Let me twine the laurel in your hair
I want to smell my love on your fingers

If you want to be mine, Little Joe

You must harden your mind, Little Joe
We've got to fight for what is ours
Bring peace to the grave of my brother
Bring peace to the grave of my father
Dry the old eyes of my mother
Little Joe

There's a roadblock down the way
Thick with soldiers night and day
They'll hear the noise
All the way to Glengarry
If you show you've got the stuff
That you're sworn and brave enough
Then you'll stand tall
In the eyes of your Carrie

And I will lie like a rose on your pillow
And I'll twine the laurel in your hair
I want to smell revenge on your fingers

Guns are the Tongues, Little Joe
The only words we know
The only sound that'll reach their ears
Bring peace to the grave of my brother
Bring peace to the grave of my father
Dry the old eyes of my mother
Little Joe

Now Little Joe would've jumped clear
But for the awful fear
Of scraping his knees
Down there on the gravel
The car was a rolling bomb
Blew all to Kingdom Come
They marvelled how far
His boots had travelled

Another hero snatched from my pillow
I used to twine the laurel in his hair
I want to smell sacrifice on my fingers

Guns are the Tongues, Little Joe
The only words we know
The only sound that'll reach their ears

Bring peace to the grave of my brother
Bring peace to the grave of my father
Dry the old eyes of my mother
Little Joe

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/2fXBPClt0tA>

Hail! Hail! The First of May

~ Dave Webber

Winter time has gone and past-o,
Summer time has come at last-o.
We shall sing and dance the day
And follow the 'obby 'orse that brings the
May.

Hail! Hail! The First of May-o!
For it is the first summer's day-o!
Cast you cares and fears away,
Drink to the old horse on the First of May!

Blue bells they have started to ring-o,
And true love, it is the thing-o.
Love on any other day
Is never quite the same as on the First of
May!

Hail! Hail! The First of May-o!
For it is the first summer's day-o!
Cast you cares and fears away,
Drink to the old horse on the First of May!

Never let it come to pass-o
We should fail to raise a glass-o!
Unto those now gone away
And left us the 'obby 'orse that brings the
May!

Hail! Hail! The First of May-o!
For it is the first summer's day-o!
Cast you cares and fears away,
Drink to the old horse on the First of May!

Winter time has gone and past-o,
Summer time has come at last-o.
We shall sing and dance the day
And follow the 'obby 'orse that brings the
May.

Hail! Hail! The First of May-o!
For it is the first summer's day-o!

Cast you cares and fears away,
Drink to the old horse on the First of May!

Jon Boden:

<http://www.afolksongaday.com/?p=2817>

Jackie Oates: <https://youtu.be/VQbv4IxoHr8>

Magpie Lane: <https://youtu.be/pcdV-vAiMnc>

Halsway Carol

~ Nigel Eaton & Iain Frisk

Lo for the tiding of the Long Night Moon
Let the sunrise call about the morning soon
Short is the biding of the fading light
Sing for the coming of the longest night

North wind tell us what we need to know
When the stars are shining on the midnight
snow
All of the branches will be turned to white
Sing for the coming of the longest night

A winter day, the summer grass turned hay
Frost in the field 'til the dawn of May
A summer's light never shone as great or as
bright
So dance in the shadows of a winter's night

Lo for the tiding of the Long Night Moon
May the harvest last until the springtime
bloom
Home is our comfort at the winter's height
Sing for the coming of the longest night

All of the colours of the sunrise sky
Shine a light upon us, as the day goes by
Sunsetting shadows fading out of sight
Sing for the coming of the longest night

A winter day, the summer grass turned hay
Frost in the field 'til the dawn of May
A summer's light never shone as great or as
bright
So dance in the shadows of a winter's night

Jackie Oates:

<https://youtu.be/i5XQA23npDU>

Hand Me Down

~ Nancy Kerr

Hand me down some changing rhyme
Some embraces never bind
Oh hand me down your dancing line
Then I'll know I'm home
Then I'll know I'm home

When I arrived in this old town
Hand me down oh hand me down
When I arrived in this old town
Some forty voices they gathered round
And I was coming home
I was coming home

Hand me down some changing rhyme
Some embraces never bind
Oh hand me down your dancing line
Then I'll know I'm home
Then I'll know I'm home

Some go ahead, some stay behind
Hand me down oh hand me down
Some go ahead, some stay behind
We navigate by the souls we find
And I am coming home
I am coming home

Hand me down some changing rhyme
Some embraces never bind
Oh hand me down your dancing line
Then I'll know I'm home
Then I'll know I'm home

I'm navigating by one more star
Hand me down oh hand me down
I'm navigating by one more star
It's shining bright to show I've come this far
And I am coming home
I am coming home

Hand me down some changing rhyme
Some embraces never bind

Oh hand me down your dancing line
Then I'll know I'm home
Then I'll know I'm home

Melrose Quartet:

<https://youtu.be/DtR-MeH1Odo>

The Hand Of Kindness

~ Richard Thompson

Well I wove the rope and I picked the spot
Well I struck out my neck and I tightened
the knot
O stranger, stranger, I'm near out of time
You stretch out your hand, I stretched out
mine

O maybe just the hand of kindness
Maybe just the hand of kindness
Maybe just a hand, stranger will you reach
me in time
In time

Well I scuppered the ship and I bent the rail
Well, I cut the brakes and I ripped the sail
And they called me a Jonah, it's a sin I
survived
Well, you stretched out your hand, I
stretched out mine

Maybe just the hand of kindness
Well, maybe just the hand of kindness
O maybe just a hand, stranger will you
reach me in time
In time

O shoot that old horse and break in the new
O the hung are many and the living are few
I see your intention, here's my neck on the
line
You stretch out your hand I stretched out
mine

Well, maybe just the hand of kindness
O maybe just the hand of kindness
Well, maybe just a hand, stranger will you
reach me in time
In time

O maybe just the hand of kindness
Well, maybe just the hand of kindness

Well, maybe just a hand, stranger will you
reach me in time
In time

Richard Thompson:
https://youtu.be/OAfw8ztS_co

Hard Luck Stories

~ Richard Thompson

They say running into you is like running
into trouble
You bend my ear and I see double
You're everybody's idea of a waste of time
You still come around 'cos I used to listen
But I run a steamship I don't run a mission
Don't be mistaken in thinking you're a friend
of mine

Those hard luck stories
It's all I ever get from you
Hard luck stories
You're going to drive me out of my mind
Hard luck stories
It's all I ever get from you
Hard luck stories
You're going to drive me out of my mind

Well the boss won't give you change of a
penny
Everybody's got money but you haven't any
If I cared about you I'd say it was a crying
shame
Your wife ran away, she left you on Sunday
She cried when she left you, she was
laughing on Monday
She should have known better and never
gone and changed her name

Those hard luck stories
It's all I ever get from you
Hard luck stories
You're going to drive me out of my mind
Hard luck stories
It's all I ever get from you
Hard luck stories
You're going to drive me out of my mind

Why don't you grow up, why don't you settle
down

Why don't you get a job, why don't you
leave town
Even a chicken has to do what it has to do.
You don't like one thing, you don't like
another
You don't like anything that looks like bother
Everyone don't like something, and we all
don't like you

Those hard luck stories
It's all I ever get from you
Hard luck stories
You're going to drive me out of my mind
Hard luck stories
It's all I ever get from you
Hard luck stories
You're going to drive me out of my mind

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/39-wM-hmn5g>

Hard On Me

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/2LYEZeUcpY>

Hard on me, hard on me
Why do you grind me small
Hard on me, hard on me
At every fence I fall

I bite my rage
I stop my breath
I shake my cage
I swim with emptiness

Hard on me, hard on me
Like they were hard on you
Hard on me, hard on me
So I can stumble too

My circuits seize
My senses jam
I don't know who to please
Trapped inside the Wicker Man

You're so hard on me
You're so hard on me
You're so hard on me

Hard on me, hard on me
Why do you grind me small
Hard on me, hard on me
At every fence I fall

Unzip my heart
Unbraid my veins
Unstitch my wantonness
And loosen up my reins
Before I dare
Go on that hill
In dumb despair
Unfreeze my will

You're so hard on me
You're so hard on me
You're so hard on me

Have A Nice Day

~ Mark Graham (c1985)

Come all you good Americans, the loyal,
brave and true
Let's wrap ourselves completely in the old
red, white and blue
For Jesus and free enterprise we must
prepare the way,
And anyone who does not heed must be
prepared to pay.

Have a nice day, have a nice day.
Don't heed those words of wickedness that
might lead you astray
See, hear and speak no evil, just work real
hard and pray
God loves you and he hopes you have a
nice day.

We can't abide with welfare or believe in
poverty
Because this nation is the land of
opportunity.
If you're lazy, weak or stupid then you might
not make the grade.
But why should we support you with the
money we have made?

Have a nice day, have a nice day.
Don't heed those words of wickedness that
might lead you astray
See, hear and speak no evil, just work real
hard and pray
God loves you and he hopes you have a
nice day.

We believe in conservation and will do all
that we can
To manage our resources for the benefit of
man.
And we believe that Judgment Day is
coming with all haste

And anything that we don't use will then
have gone to waste.

Have a nice day, have a nice day.
Don't heed those words of wickedness that
might lead you astray
See, hear and speak no evil, just work real
hard and pray
God loves you and he hopes you have a
nice day.

We believe in the creation, evolution is a
sham,
And for you awful humanists we do not give
a damn,
'Cause we believe in science when the word
of God agrees,
And we believe in science that destroys our
enemies.

Have a nice day, have a nice day.
Don't heed those words of wickedness that
might lead you astray
See, hear and speak no evil, just work real
hard and pray
God loves you and he hopes you have a
nice day.

A Heart Needs A Home

~ Richard Thompson

I know the way
That I feel about you
I'm never going to run away
I'm never going to run away
Never knew the way
When I lived without you
I'm never going to run away
I'm never going to run away

I came to you when
No one could hear me
I'm sick and weary
Of being alone
Empty streets and
Hungry faces
The world's no place when
You're on your own
A heart needs a home

Some people say
That I should forget you
I'm never going to be a fool
I'm never going to be a fool
A better life, they say
If I'd never met you
I'm never going to be a fool
I'm never going to be a fool

Tongues talk fire and
Eyes cry rivers
Indian givers
Hearts of stone
Paper ships and
Painted faces
The world's no place when
You're on your own
A heart needs a home

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/vgK3Z1Qq2r4>

Heavenly Aeroplane

~ Bob Nolan [Roud 7384]

Oh, one of these days around twelve o'clock
The whole wide world will reel and rock
The sinner will tremble and cry for pain
And the Lord will come in his aeroplane

Oh, you thirsty of every tribe
Get your ticket for an aeroplane ride
Jesus our Saviour is coming to reign
And take you to glory in his aeroplane

Oh, talk of rides in automobiles
Talk of fast times in motor wheels
We'll break all records as we upwards fly
For an aeroplane joy ride in the sky

Oh, you thirsty of every tribe
Get your ticket for an aeroplane ride
Jesus our Saviour is coming to reign
And take you to glory in his aeroplane

You must get ready if you take this ride
Leave all your sins and humble your pride
Furnish a lamp both bright and clean
And a vessel of oil to run the machine

Oh, you thirsty of every tribe
Get your ticket for an aeroplane ride
Jesus our Saviour is coming to reign
And take you to glory in his aeroplane

When our journey's over and we all sit down
At the marriage supper with a robe and
crown
We'll blend our voices with a heavenly
throng
And praise our Saviour as the years roll on

Oh, you thirsty of every tribe
Get your ticket for an aeroplane ride
Jesus our Saviour is coming to reign
And take you to glory in his aeroplane

The Watersons:

<https://youtu.be/ZIB9i8bU1No>

Early Sons Of The Pioneers (1937):

<https://youtu.be/roTvgPsoatQ>

- features Leonard Slye aka Roy Rogers

Herring Song

[Roud 128]

Refrain (after each line):

Sing aber o vane, sing aber o linn

There once was a man who came from
Kinsale

And he had a herring, a herring for sale
Sing man of Kinsale, sing herring for sale
And indeed I have more of my herring to
sing

So what do you think they made of his head
The finest oven that ever baked bread
Sing herring, sing head, sing oven, sing
bread
And indeed I have more of my herring to
sing

So what do you think they made of his back
A nice little man and his name it was Jack
Sing herring, sing back, sing man, sing Jack
And indeed I have more of my herring to
sing

So what do you think they made of his eyes
The finest dishes that ever held pies
Sing herring, sing eyes, sing dishes, sing
pies
And indeed I have more of my herring to
sing

So what do you think they made of his
scales
The finest ships that ever set sail
Sing herring, sing scales, sing ships, sing
sails
And indeed I have more of my herring to
sing

So what do you think they made of his fins
The finest cases for needles and pins

Sing herring, sing fins, sing needles and
pins
And indeed I have more of my herring to
sing

So what do you think they made of his hair
The finest rope (rug?) for the seat of a chair
Sing herring, sing hair, sing rope, sing chair
And indeed I've no more of my herring to
sing

Eliza Carthy & Saul Rose:

<https://youtu.be/ZgzWpGDLV6c>

High Wide & Handsome

~ Loudon Wainwright III

High wide and handsome - that's how I like
livin'

High wide and handsome - that's how life
should be

Low skinny and ugly - that's for other people

High wide and handsome suits me to a tee

Song, wine, and women - they're my three
favorites

Beer, gin, and whiskey - that's five, six, and
four

Saturday night I like eatin' and dancin'

And I sleep all day Sunday so's I'm ready
for more

High wide and handsome - you can't take it
with you

High wide and handsome - that's one way
to go

Let's live it up - might as well, we're all dying

High wide and handsome - let's put on a
show

Can't quit what will kill me, so why even
bother'

I love this hard livin', so why even try'

I'll be high wide and handsome when I kick
the bucket

I'll be high wide and handsome on the day
that I die

High wide and handsome - you can call it
my motto

High wide and handsome - call it my creed

Money's just paper, liquor's thicker than
water

High wide and handsome in thought, word,
and deed

Have high wide and handsome carved on
my head stone

With the date I was born plus the date that I
died

Then take one from the other - all that's left
is a number

Just remember I laughed twice as hard as I
cried

High wide and handsome - that's how I like
livin'

High wide and handsome - that's how life
should be

Low skinny and ugly - that's for other people

High wide and handsome suits me to a tee

Loudon Wainwright III:

<https://youtu.be/GqHrbGiXIMs>

Hokey Pokey (The Ice Cream Song)

~ Richard Thompson

Little boy running and the little girl too
Got the money tucked up in their hands
Over the wall and down into the street
Give your money to the hollering man
Give your money to the hollering man

Everybody runs for Hokey Pokey
Hear the ringing on the ice-cream bell
He's got the stuff that'll cool you right down
It's the best that they ever did sell
It's the best that they ever did sell

Girl on the corner with the tight dress on
You know she don't know nothing so fine
Feels so good when you put it in your mouth
Sends a shiver all down your spine
Sends a shiver all down your spine

Cat got your tongue, says Frankie to Annie,
girl
You haven't said a word all night
Well, Annie she smiled and she took
another bite
Hokey Pokey made her feel all right, all right
Hokey Pokey made her feel all right

Well, some like it round, and some like it flat
And some like a poke or two
But everybody runs for Hokey Pokey
It's the natural thing to do
It's the natural thing to do

Down in prison number 999
Working like a bee in a hive
He's still dreaming of Hokey Pokey
Helps to keep that boy alive
Helps to keep that boy alive

Boss man he says to the choir-boy Rocky

Don't you sing to the boys in blue
Or you won't get no more Hokey Pokey
By the time we're through with you
By the time we're through with you

Fellas in the alley all look like girls
With the lipstick and the high-heeled shoes
Feel so pretty and the boys all say
That they know just what to do
That they know just what to do

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/HtUdr8YVFnk>

Home (When Shadows Fall)

~ Harry Clarkson, Geoffrey Clarkson, Peter
van Steeden (1931)

Evening brings the close of day,
Skies of blue begin to grey,
Crimson hues are fading in the west.
Evening ever brings to me
Dreams of days that used to be,
Memories of those I love the best.

When shadows fall
And trees whisper, "Day is ending",
My thoughts are ever wending home.
When crickets call,
My heart is forever yearning
Once more to be returning home.

When the hills conceal the setting sun,
Stars begin a-peeping, one by one.
Night covers all,
And though fortune may forsake me,
Sweet dreams will ever take me home.

Robert Crumb & the Cheap Suit
Serenaders:
<https://youtu.be/9iquF8NM3C8>

Homeless Wassail

~ Ian Robb

Wassail, wassail all over the town,
Our cup is white and our ale is brown;
But huddled on this iron grate
We poor and hungry curse our fate.

No Wassail bowl for such as these,
No turkey scraps, no ale, no cheese;
This Christmas Eve our heart's desire
Is a bottle of gin and a trash can fire.

Good Christian mind as home you go,
With dreams of holly and mistletoe,
That the holly bears a dreadful thorn
For those who wake to a frozen dawn

No Wassail bowl for such as these,
No turkey scraps, no ale, no cheese;
This Christmas Eve our heart's desire
Is a bottle of gin and a trash can fire.

Oh, where is he that holy child
Once born of Mary, meek and mild?
And wither peace, good will to men
Now and forevermore, amen?

No Wassail bowl for such as these,
No turkey scraps, no ale, no cheese;
This Christmas Eve our heart's desire
Is a bottle of gin and a trash can fire.

All ye who dine with face aglow
In reginensi atrio
Pray, pause awhile at pleasure's door
And sup some sorrow with the poor.

No Wassail bowl for such as these,
No turkey scraps, no ale, no cheese;
This Christmas Eve our heart's desire
Is a bottle of gin and a trash can fire.

[Last time, no chorus]

Wassail, wassail all over the town
Our cup is white and our ale is brown;
This cold and hunger pain and care,
Sweet Jesus Christ, it's hard to bear!

Finest Kind: <https://youtu.be/yFI1x3vc264>

The Hop Pickers

~ E. L. Blanchard (circa 1878) / Lynn
Feingold (2020)

Voices are merry, as swiftly the berry
Flies from the poles brought in dozens
 along,
Light is the labor when talk to a neighbour
Cheerily blends with the hum of a song.
Bright skies above us - around those who
 love us,
Weaving a garland as gaily we sing;
Off comes a cluster of hops, with a lustre,
Shaming the gold it will afterwards bring.

Creeping and curling, and twisting and
 twirling,
Still working on 'til it reaches the top,
Never despairing and finally bearing,
A lesson of Life may be learn'd from the
 Hop.

Glimpses of scenery caught thro' the
 green'ry,
Such as no art ever framed for us yet;
Soft winds caressing, with health as their
 blessing,
Peers could not purchase what freely we
 get.
Brim the broad basket, if any should ask it
Where lies the secret the berry imparts,
No answer fitter than "work is the bitter,
Keeping all holidays fresh in our hearts."

Creeping and curling, and twisting and
 twirling,
Still working on 'til it reaches the top,
Never despairing and finally bearing,
A lesson of Life may be learn'd from the
 Hop.

Lynn Feingold:

<https://youtu.be/t5PeLM9ABKM>

Horsham Tipteerers' Song

Sussex Mummers Carol

When righteous Joseph wedded was
Unto a virgin maid
A glorious angel from Heaven came
Unto that virgin maid.
Unto that virgin maid.

As joyful shepherds brought their gifts
To Christ, the savior dear
And so we come upon this night
With blessings and good cheer.
With blessings and good cheer.

God bless the mistress of this house
With gold all round her breast;
Where e'er her body sleeps or wakes,
Lord, send her soul to rest.
Lord, send her soul to rest.

God bless the master of this house
With happiness beside;
Where e'er his body rides or walks
Lord Jesus be his guide.
Lord Jesus be his guide.

God bless your house, your children too,
Your cattle and your store;
The Lord increase you day by day,
And send you more and more.
And send you more and more.

Revels Chorus:

<https://youtu.be/F6-3hvONfNg>

Hot Meat

~ Nick Robertshaw (c1998)

Hot meat, hot meat, it's the only thing to eat,
The meal to satisfy you from your head
 down to your feet.
The carrot and the cucumber they simply
 can't compete
With nature's finest pleasure, Hot Meat, Hot
Meat.

Miss Wilkie had an appetite that could not
 be denied,
For vegetables and fruits had left her quite
 unsatisfied,
A yearning empty space that needed filling
 up inside
With something warm and firm and thick, so
 this is what she tried:

Hot meat, hot meat, it's the only thing to eat,
The meal to satisfy you from your head
 down to your feet.
The carrot and the cucumber they simply
 can't compete
With nature's finest pleasure, Hot Meat, Hot
Meat.

So she went to see the Butcher, a man of
 great renown.
His meat was recommended by the
 hungriest girls in town.
It was so plump and juicy it was famous
 through the land,
So she thrilled with great excitement when
 he put it in her hand.

Hot meat, hot meat, it's the only thing to eat,
The meal to satisfy you from your head
 down to your feet.
The carrot and the cucumber they simply
 can't compete
With nature's finest pleasure, Hot Meat, Hot
Meat.

He said, "For very best results, don't boil it
 in a pot,
But lard it very carefully and handle it a lot,
And you must preheat your oven, and when
 it's good and hot,
Just pop it in and baste it well with all the
 juice you've got."

Hot meat, hot meat, it's the only thing to eat,
The meal to satisfy you from your head
 down to your feet.
The carrot and the cucumber they simply
 can't compete
With nature's finest pleasure, Hot Meat, Hot
Meat.

Well, she followed all the recipe and cooked
 it half the night,
And the meal so satisfied her that she cried
 out in delight,
But when she took it from her oven, she
 observed with great surprise
That she must have overdone it for it had
 shrunk to half its size.

Hot meat, hot meat, it's the only thing to eat,
The meal to satisfy you from your head
 down to your feet.
The carrot and the cucumber they simply
 can't compete
With nature's finest pleasure, Hot Meat, Hot
Meat.

So to every girl and woman, spinster,
 widow, bride, and wife,
If you want the finest pleasures from this
 fleeting earthly life,
A lovely snoozly feeling, a smug and happy
 grin,
A misty light within your eyes and gravy on
 your chin!

Hot meat, hot meat, it's the only thing to eat,

The meal to satisfy you from your head
down to your feet.

The carrot and the cucumber they simply
can't compete

With nature's finest pleasure, Hot Meat, Hot
Meat.

Nick Robertshaw:

<https://youtu.be/AbahVkz0h0Y>

The Hots For The Smarts

~ Richard Thompson

I like a girl in satin
Who talks dirty in Latin
A girl who's flirty
When she quotes Krishnamurti
If she likes to be goosed
While reciting from Proust
I'll know she's my kind of creature
Among her delectables
Her intellectables
Must be her sexiest feature

CHORUS

I've got The Hots For The Smarts
The Hots For The Smarts
IQ off the charts
Give me brains over hearts
I've got The Hots For The Smarts

I like a girl from Mensa
With a furrowed brow
When the tenses get denser
She gets it - and how!
I need a polymath
Called Cindy or Cath
Who likes her Plato not too platonic
An autodidact
Who can add and subtract
While sipping her Tolstoy and tonic

I need a girl with a feel
For Faraday's wheel
A girl who'll drool
For Fleming's Left Hand Rule
Now you may like pin-ups
Of girls who do chin-ups
Like Xena the Warrior Princess
But I'll take to dinner
My Nobel Prize winner
With plutonium stains down her dress

I like a girl who knows loadsa

Kierkegaard and Spinoza
Who likes to play chess
Humming Porgy and Bess
She must be able
From her logarithmic table
To find all those decimal places
And what do I care
That she's nothing to wear
And her teeth are imprisoned in braces

I want a girl with a brain
The size of Siberia
With a haughty disdain
Of all things inferior
I don't want a learner
With a Bunsen burner
She must be the finished article
Who sees our attraction
As chemical reaction
And charm as merely a particle

I want a PHD
Who reads Linear B
Who applies her lotion
With a Brownian motion
Now some men may favour
A girl who's a raver
A tease or a saucy young minx
But I'll get undressed with
The girl I'm impressed with
Who's tunnelling under the Sphinx

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/b-DV15r1Q9Q>

Housewife's Lament

Come and listen and I'll tell you of my
darling Andy
He's tall and fair and slightly bandy
At drinking porter he is quite handy
And he loves me like a devil on Sunday

O roy-o and a diddle-lum dandy
I want a man who will tickle my fancy
Bring me flowers and cherry brandy
And loves me night and morning

Monday night his head is achin'
It's down to the pub for a cure he's makin'
Doesn't he know that my heart is breakin'
We never make love on a Monday

O roy-o and a diddle-lum dandy
I want a man who will tickle my fancy
Bring me flowers and cherry brandy
And loves me night and morning

Tuesday night and he gets no bolder
There's pains in his back and his neck and
his shoulder
The weather's wet and it's getting colder
What an awful day is Tuesday

O roy-o and a diddle-lum dandy
I want a man who will tickle my fancy
Bring me flowers and cherry brandy
And loves me night and morning

Wednesday passes, it is quite dreary
Thursday night and he's feelin' weary
Friday night though I am quite cheery
Two more days till Sunday!

O roy-o and a diddle-lum dandy
I want a man who will tickle my fancy
Bring me flowers and cherry brandy
And loves me night and morning

Saturday night and he's struts and prances
It's down to the pub like a madman dances
12 o'clock and I've lost my chances
He's sleepin' in the parlor

O roy-o and a diddle-lum dandy
I want a man who will tickle my fancy
Bring me flowers and cherry brandy
And loves me night and morning

Sunday night and I'm feeling rosy
A man and his wife by the fireside cozy
That's the lot, though, you're far too nosy!
What a wonderful night is Sunday!

O roy-o and a diddle-lum dandy
I want a man who will tickle my fancy
Bring me flowers and cherry brandy
And loves me night and morning

Sung to the Irish air Óró Sé do Bheatha
Abhaile (Óró Welcome Home). From the
singing of Debbie McClatchy, although I
actually learned it from Wilma Lawrence,
when she was still on Thornden.

How I Wanted To

~ Richard Thompson

When we parted just like friends
We never tied loose ends
I could never say the words that would
 make amends

Oh how I wanted to
Oh how I wanted to
To say I loved you
To say I loved you
Oh how I wanted to

From my blue room did you creep
A love too rare to keep
Well I heard your step and I turned my head
 to weep

Oh how I wanted to
Oh how I wanted to
Say I loved you
Say I loved you
Oh how I wanted to

Oh how I wanted to
Oh how I wanted to
Say I loved you
Just say I loved you
Oh how I wanted to

Now hearts do what hearts will
And my nights are sleepless still
Well I never was the one to speak my fill

Oh how I wanted to
Oh how I wanted to
Just say I loved you
Ah just say I loved you
Oh how I wanted to

Oh how I wanted to
Oh how I wanted to
Say I loved you

Just say I loved you
Oh how I wanted to

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/B_VagxHaE7c

How Will I Ever Be Simple Again

~ Richard Thompson

Oh she danced in the street with the guns
all around her
All torn like a rag doll, barefoot in the rain
And she sang like a child, toora-day
toora-daddy
Oh how will I ever be simple again

She sat by the banks of the dirty grey river
And tried for a fish with a worm on a pin
There was nothing but fever and ghosts in
the water
Oh how will I ever be simple again

War was my love and my friend and
companion
And what did I care for the pretty and plain
But her smile was so clear and my heart
was so troubled
Oh how will I ever be simple again

In her poor burned-out house I sat at her
table
The smell of her hair was like cornfields in
May
And I wanted to weep and my eyes ached
from trying
Oh how will I ever be simple again

So graceful she moved through the dust
and the ruin
And happy she was in her dances and
games
Oh teach me to see with your innocent
eyes, love
Oh how will I ever be simple again
Oh how will I ever be simple again

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/KFIZj525bo8>

I Am Christmas

~ Bill Meek, John Conolly

I will sew a braid of gold
On gray December's ragged sleeve,
Teach the crabbed and jaded soul
How to give, how to receive;
For rooms are thick with magic now,
The tree its soft light throwing;
The mistletoe, the holly bough
My age-old spell bestowing.

I am warmth and I am light
And I am kith and kin,
A candle in your longest night.
I am Christmas. Let me in.
I am Christmas. Let me in.

I bring stories by the hearth,
Delight in half-forgotten names,
Apple logs on fragrant fires
With flick'ring faces in the flames.
As the year draws in its days
And tired leaves are falling,
I will brighten darkened ways
Where dusk is early calling.

I am warmth and I am light
And I am kith and kin,
A candle in your longest night.
I am Christmas. Let me in.
I am Christmas. Let me in.

I can take the weary miles
And weave a carpet to your door,
Guide the dusty wand'ers home
Safely to your side once more.
I can cheer the bitter days
With tunes to set you singing.
My standard in your heart I'll raise,
Joy and comfort bringing.

I am warmth and I am light
And I am kith and kin,

A candle in your longest night.
I am Christmas. Let me in.
I am Christmas. Let me in.

I bring churches all aglow
And carols on the midnight air,
Colored windows streaked with snow
That gild the congregations there;
For young and old shall join and sing
To mark the longest turning.
From one glad candle that I bring,
Ten thousand more are burning.

I am warmth and I am light
And I am kith and kin,
A candle in your longest night.
I am Christmas. Let me in.
I am Christmas. Let me in.

Kate Rusby: <https://youtu.be/3fVXLtESgBU>

I Can Hew

~ David Dodds

I can hew, boys, I can hack it out;
I can hew the coal, I can dance and shout.
I can hew, boys, coal that's black and fine;
I'm a collier lad workin' down the mine.

On St. Monday's day it's well I do admire
To be sittin' at home by me own coal fire.
Then it's down to the pub for a glass or two,
For to work on a Monday, that would never
do.

I can hew, boys, I can hack it out;
I can hew the coal, I can dance and shout.
I can hew, boys, coal that's black and fine;
I'm a collier lad workin' down the mine.

Well, I likes my whiskey and I likes my beer;
I'll drink fourteen pints and I'll not feel queer.
I can hold my liquor good as any man,
And I'll dance and sing as long as I can.

I can hew, boys, I can hack it out;
I can hew the coal, I can dance and shout.
I can hew, boys, coal that's black and fine;
I'm a collier lad workin' down the mine.

Well, my boy's he's fourteen, he's a strappin'
lad,
And he'll go to the pit soon, just like his dad.
And when Friday comes, we'll pick up our
pay,
And we'll drink together, to round out the
day.

I can hew, boys, I can hack it out;
I can hew the coal, I can dance and shout.
I can hew, boys, coal that's black and fine;
I'm a collier lad workin' down the mine.

And it's when I'm dead, oh, I know full well,
I'll not go to Heaven, I am bound for Hell

And my pick and shovel old Nick, he will
admire
And he'll set me to hewin' coal for his old
hell fire.

I can hew, boys, I can hack it out;
I can hew the coal, I can dance and shout.
I can hew, boys, coal that's black and fine;
I'm a collier lad workin' down the mine.

Daniel Kelly: <https://youtu.be/zauCjs5qmLA>

Parody verses:

Ike and Hugh, boys, they're a couple guys.
Ike and Hugh, boys, they wear floral ties.
Ike and Hugh, boys, they both sell used
cars,
And they drink lite beer, at the singles bars.

I am Hugh, boys, I am not the Borg.
I am Hugh, boys, and I like LeForge.

I Can't Wake Up To Save My Life

~ Richard Thompson

In my nightmare everything's wrong
I'm waiting for love, but you come along
You smile, you wave, you kiss me, Ciao
But you seem too happy to see me
somehow

Then the sky falls in on my head
Your nails grow long, your eyes turn red
You say "Forever, dear, and a day"
You swear that you're never going to go
away
And my feet won't move to run the other
way

And I can't wake up to save my life
Oh I can't wake up to save my life

In my nightmare you forgive me
The cruellest gift you could ever give me
You say that you understand me now
But your eyes say "Brother, I'll get you
somehow"
And then the lightning streaks across the
room
You smell like something fresh from the
tomb
You squeeze too hard, you insist on kissing
When it seems like half your face is missing
And you hair's turned into reptiles hissing

And I can't wake up to save my life
Oh I can't wake up to save my life

Things I done make my dreams go bad
Like Borstal boys coming home to dad
What you reap so shall you sow
Now feets don't fail me, go man go

'Cause I can't wake up to save my life
Oh I can't wake up to save my life
No I can't wake up
No I can't wake up

Oh I can't

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/CP5tXtpdQXY>

I Hate The White Man
~ Roy Harper

Far across the ocean in the land of look and
see

There once was a time for you and me
Where the winds blow sweetly and the easy
seas flow still

And where the barefoot dream of life can
laugh and cry its fill

Where slot machine confusion and the
plastic universe

Are objects of amusement in the fiction of
their curse

And where the crazy white man and his
tear-gas happiness

Lies dead and long since buried by his own
fantastic mess

For I hate the white man and his plastic
excuse

Oh I hate the white man and the man who
turned him loose

And the reins of coloured thunder of the
stallion of the dawn

Ride the coal fire morning on the beach
where all is borne

Where the emperor of meaning is burning
up his fort

And sits to warm his toes around a fire
made up of useless thought

And when the children tempt him with the
riddles of their trance

He flings the flames of solstice casting
laughs into their dance

And where the crazy white man in the
desert of his bones

Lies as bleached as the paradise he likes to
think he owns

And I hate the white man in his evergreen
excuse

Oh I hate the white man and the man who
turned him loose

And far across the reaches of the drifting
yellow sands

The living carpet wilderness forever joins its
hands

With Heaven's Hell's attainment in a surging
crest of fire

Where more than all is thrown upon the
everlasting pyre

And through the countless canticles of
Jason's charcoal fleece

Are sung the songs of nothing in the
timeless masterpiece

And there stood in the middle – guess who?
– it's the everlasting bust

Built by God's very own white man as he
tries to rule the dust

And I hate the white man in his doctrinaire
refuse

Oh I hate the white man and the man who
turned you all loose

And the bowels of his city have been locked
into a safe

Where the spew-stains on the sidewalks are
defenders of his faith

While back inside his kitchen the
bowler-hatted, long-haired saint

Cleans with soap and water but it's really
just white paint

While his gorgon-headed scandal sheet
presents its daily bite

To give the righteous news-believers drugs
to keep them white

While outside in the whitewash where the
guns are always, always right

The shooting star has summoned death's
dark angel from his night

And I hate the white man in his evergreen
excuse

Oh I hate the white man and the man who
turned you all loose

And the man who turned him loose

And the man who turned me loose

Roy Harper: https://youtu.be/_K6aWEsfv2s

I Live In Trafalgar Square

~ C.W. Murphy

Today I've been busy removing
And I'm all of a fidgety-fidge
My last digs were on the Embankment
The third seat from Waterloo Bridge
But the cooking and, oh! The attendance
Didn't happen to suit me so well
So I ordered my man to pack up, and
Look out for another hotel
He did, and the new place is 'extra', I vow
Just wait till I tell you where I'm staying now

I live in Trafalgar Square
With four lions to guard me
Fountains and statues all over the place
And the 'Metropole' staring me right in the
face
I'll admit it's a trifle draughty
But I look at it this way you see
If it's good enough for Nelson
It's quite good enough for me

The beds ain't so soft as they might be
Still the temperature's never too high
And it's nice to see swells who are passing
Look on you with envious eye
And when you wake in the morning
Just fancy how nice it must be
To have a good walk for your breakfast
And the same for your dinner and tea
There's many a swell up in Park Lane
tonight
Who'd be glad if he only had my appetite

I live in Trafalgar Square
With four lions to guard me
Fountains and statues all over the place
And the 'Metropole' staring me right in the
face
I'll admit it's a trifle draughty
But I look at it this way you see
If it's good enough for Nelson

It's quite good enough for me

When I think of those unlucky bounders
The Morgans and Clarence de Clares
Who are forced to put up at the 'Cecil'
My tenderest sympathy's theirs
And to show I'm not selfish or greedy
I just tell each aristocrat
That I don't mind exchanging apartments
Now, I can't say fairer than that
But the softheaded sillies won't hear what I
say
They still go on suffering, while I'm all O.K.

I live in Trafalgar Square
With four lions to guard me
Fountains and statues all over the place
And the 'Metropole' staring me right in the
face
I'll admit it's a trifle draughty
But I look at it this way you see
If it's good enough for Nelson
It's quite good enough for me

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/ZZpjPrYiHUK>

I Live Not Where I Love

[Roud 593]

Come all ye maids that live at a distance
Many miles from off your swain
Come and assist me this very moment
For to pass away some time
Singing sweetly and completely
Songs of pleasure and of love
For my heart is with him all together
Though I live not where I love

When I sleep I dream about you
When I wake I find no rest
For every moment thinking of you
My heart e'er fixed in your breast
Although far distance may be assistance
From my mind his love to remove
Yet my heart is with him all together
Though I live not where I love

All the world shall be one religion
Living things shall cease to die
Before that I prove false to my jewel
Or any way my love deny
The world shall change and be most
strange
If ever I my mind remove
For my heart is with him all together
Though I live not where I love

So farewell lads and farewell lasses
Now I think I've got my choice
I will away to yonder mountain
Where I think I hear his voice
And if he calls then I will follow
Through the world though it is so wide
For my heart is with him all together
Though I live not where I love

Come all ye maids that live at a distance
Many miles from off your swain
Come and assist me this very moment
For to pass away some time

Singing sweetly and completely
Songs of pleasure and of love
For my heart is with him all together
Though I live not where I love

Maddy Prior & Tim Hart:

<https://youtu.be/1qV6Ov4N1vc>

I Misunderstood

~ Richard Thompson

She said "Darling I'm in love with your mind.
The way you care for me, it's so kind.
Love to see you again, I wish I had more
time".

She was laughing as she brushed my cheek
"Why don't you call me, angel, maybe next
week
Promise now, cross your heart and hope to
die".

But I misunderstood, but I misunderstood,
but I misunderstood
I thought she was saying good luck, she
was saying good bye
But I misunderstood, but I misunderstood,
but I misunderstood
I thought she was saying good luck, she
was saying good bye

Things I tried to put shine in her eyes
Wire wheels and shimmering things
Wild nights when the whole world seemed
to fly

She said "The thing that's so unique
When we're together we don't have to
speak.
We'll always be such good friends, you and
I"

Oh but I misunderstood, but I
misunderstood, but I misunderstood
I thought she was saying good luck, she
was saying good bye
But I misunderstood, but I misunderstood,
but I misunderstood
I thought she was saying good luck, she
was saying good
I thought she was saying good luck, she
was saying good

I thought she was saying good luck, she
was saying goodbye

Oh, she was saying goodbye, oh, she was
saying goodbye

Oh, she was saying, saying, saying, saying

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/S9mOpJjV-3Q>

I Ride In Your Slipstream

~ Richard Thompson

I ride in your slipstream. I wear your
reflection

I echo your heartbeat in the wind

You might say that we're lovers. You might
say that we're strangers

You think you don't know me, but you're
wearing my ring

Good dream. Bad dream. Just don't mean a
thing

Good road. Bad road. Just don't mean a
thing

But down in the whine of the wheels you'll
hear me sing

I'm like a TV eye in the sky, but I'm right
behind you

I'm like your signed confession, but I'm right
behind you

I'm like the child you never were, but I'm
right behind you

Let's ride

I ride in your slipstream. Don't try to touch
me

Just trust me to love you. I love you

I ride in your slipstream.

I ride in your slipstream.

I ride in your slipstream.

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/IBNlcS4ii68>

I Still Dream

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/BDriWMwNzuY>

It was cruel of you to stand at my door and
take my hand
Like a drowning man I clung to my defenses
And ten years is a time but your looks, love,
it's a crime
And I lost my tongue in the tangle of my
senses
And I never was to know that I'd come to
miss you so
But time winds down and I turned my back
long ago

But I still dream, oh darling I still dream
Oh I still dream, oh Lord knows I still dream

On the killing floor I stand with a stun gun in
my hand
Like a cowboy shooting badmen on the
range
And nothing satisfies and the soul inside me
dies
As I duck each punch and never risk the
change
And now you look at me with that same old
used-to-be
Oh but time winds down and I turned my
back long ago

But I still dream, oh darling I still dream

Ah but now you look at me with that same
old used-to-be
But time winds down and I turned my back
long ago

But I still dream, oh darling, darling I still
dream
I still dream, oh Lord knows, Lord knows I
still dream
Oh I still dream, oh darling, darling, darling I
still dream

I Want To See The Bright Lights Tonight

~ Richard Thompson

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/8NoVJo0dlZ0>

I'm so tired of working every day,
Now the weekend's come I'm gonna throw
my troubles away
If you've got the cab fare, mister you'll do all
right
I want to see the bright lights tonight

Meet me at the station don't be late
I need to spend some money and it just
won't wait
Take me to the dance and hold me tight
I want to see the bright lights tonight

There's crazy people running all over town
There's a silver band just marching up and
down
And the big boys are all spoiling for a fight
I want to see the bright lights tonight

Meet me at the station don't be late
I need to spend some money and it just
won't wait
Take me to the dance and hold me tight
I want to see the bright lights tonight

A couple of drunken nights rolling on the
floor
Is just the kind of mess I'm looking for
I'm gonna dream 'till Monday comes in sight
I want to see the bright lights tonight

Meet me at the station don't be late
I need to spend some money and it just
won't wait
Take me to the dance and hold me tight
I want to see the bright lights tonight

Take me to the dance and hold me tight
I want to see the bright lights tonight

If I Could Live My Life Again

~ Richard Thompson

Well, you know, I can't do nothing for you
And you know, I say my piece and then
I pound the pavement always wishing
Whether I would live my life again

Will I raise some Cain and sink some
whiskey
Or ramble like I'm anything
There's arms I've held and hearts I've
broken
Oh if I could live my life again

Oh I hate the four walls of this prison
Those cowards let me take the blame
Next time I'll run with better company
Oh if I could live my life again

And you know, true love slipped through my
fingers
Somehow, I never could explain
Next time, I'll say just what I'm thinking
Oh if I could live my life again

I wish my sins could be forgiven
And that's why I sing this sad refrain
Just one more chance is all I'm asking
Oh if I could live my life again
Oh if I could live my life again

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/3dmiUILO5Ps>

If I Had a Boat

~ Lyle Lovett

If I had a boat
I'd go out on the ocean
And if I had a pony
I'd ride him on my boat
And we could all together
Go out on the ocean
Me upon my pony on my boat

If I were Roy Rogers
I'd sure enough be single
I couldn't bring myself to marrying old Dale
It'd just be me and Trigger
We'd go riding through them movies
Then we'd buy a boat and on the sea we'd
sail

And if I had a boat
I'd go out on the ocean
And if I had a pony
I'd ride him on my boat
And we could all together
Go out on the ocean
Me upon my pony on my boat

The mystery masked man was smart
He got himself a Tonto
'Cause Tonto did the dirty work for free
But Tonto he was smarter
And one day said, "Kemo Sabe
Kiss my ass, I bought a boat, I'm going out
to sea"

And if I had a boat
I'd go out on the ocean
And if I had a pony
I'd ride him on my boat
And we could all together
Go out on the ocean
Me upon my pony on my boat

And if I were like lightning

I wouldn't need no sneakers
I'd come and go wherever I would please
And I'd scare 'em by the shade tree
And I'd scare 'em by the light pole
But I would not scare my pony on my boat
out on the sea

And if I had a boat
I'd go out on the ocean
And if I had a pony
I'd ride him on my boat
And we could all together
Go out on the ocean
Me upon my pony on my boat

Lyle Lovett: <https://youtu.be/hpM8FjO4Vko>

If Love Whispers Your Name

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/a5x_kj0KtZY

Next time I promise
I will be ready
Ready to move when the clouds roll apart
Next time I promise
I'll do it better
When the sun shines on me and pierces my
heart

If Love Whispers Your Name
Breathes in your ear
Sighs in the rain
Love is worth every fall
Even to beg
Even to crawl

I won't act so cool
Won't be a fool
Next time
I won't quote the law
Won't be so sure
Next time

I once had it all and
I once lost it all and
I won't miss again
If the chance should come my way again
If love should look my way again

If Love Whispers Your Name
Breathes in your ear
Sighs in the rain
Love is worth every fall
Even to beg
Even to crawl

Love is worth every wound
Each lonely day,
Each sleepless night
Love is worth every wound
The price that you pay
To live in the light

I'll Keep It With Mine

~ Bob Dylan

You may search at any cost
But how long can you search for what's not
lost?

Everybody will help you
Some people are very kind
But if I can save you any time

Come on, give it to me
I'll keep it with mine

I can't help it, if you might think I'm odd
If I say I'm loving you, not for what you are,
but for what you're not
Everybody will help you
Discover what you set out to find
But if I can save you any time

Come on, give it to me
I'll keep it with mine

The train leaves at half past ten
But I'll be back tomorrow at the same time
again
The conductor, he's weary
He's still stuck on the line
But if I can save you any time

Come on, give it to me
I'll keep it with mine

Richard & Linda Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/6Q6Y-R-p7J4>

I'll Never Give It Up

~ Richard Thompson

I can't eat, I can't sleep
Knowing that you're on
your midnight creep
I can't jump. I can't jive
Knowing that you want me
dead or alive
There's no half way with you
You see red, white and blue
What holds your head on
could use another screw

Come on, do your worst, boy
That's the way, that's the way
Hit me where it hurts, boy,
That's the way, that's the way
Puff until you burst, boy
That's the way, that's the way
But I'll never give it up
I'll never give it up

I'll put you in my loser file
I don't need your reptile smile
You look better out of range
Stare at somebody else for a change
When the sky fell in, you cried
And blackness welled inside
And how your little brain
got twisted and fried

Come on, do your worst, boy
That's the way, that's the way
Hit me where it hurts, boy,
That's the way, that's the way
Puff until you burst, boy
That's the way, that's the way
But I'll never give it up
I'll never give it up

You're someone I can't help betray
You know you built me up that way

I don't run, I don't care
Some day we're going to
meet somewhere
You and me will rock and roll
When you crawl out of
your dank little hole
So give me what you got
Put your money in the pot
Let's see what you are and
what you're not

Come on, do your worst, boy
That's the way, that's the way
Hit me where it hurts, boy,
That's the way, that's the way
Puff until you burst, boy
That's the way, that's the way
But I'll never give it up
I'll never give it up

But I'll never give it up
I'll never give it up

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/1cYZb_Lyqzs

I'll Regret It All In The Morning

~ Richard Thompson

Whisky helps to clear my head
Bring it with you into bed
If I beat you nearly dead
I'll regret it all in the morning

I'm so drunk I couldn't care
If that's a wig or your own hair
Here's my ticket, take me there
I'll regret it all in the morning

I'll regret it all in the morning
When I see your smiling face
I'd rather be in any place but here

The years have left their mark
Your skin feels smooth as bark
As we shiver in the dark
I'll regret it in the morning

As you gaze around in fright
With your knuckles turning white
You're a lonely, lonely sight
To wake up to in the morning

This is no way to exist
With some girl who keeps a list
Naming all the boys she's missed
And she's longed for in the morning

I'll regret it all in the morning
When I see your smiling face
I'd rather be in any place but here

Now the room is spinning fast
And it fades away at last
When this empty night is passed
I'll regret it all in the morning

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/aJRprDFWKyQ>

I'm Alright

~ Loudon Wainwright III

I woke up this morning, I didn't feel that bad
Last night was definitely not one of the
 worst I've ever had
Ate a nice dinner, drank a few drinks
I didn't miss you baby no matter what you
 think
Went back to my hotelroom I went straight
 to bed
Didn't moan and didn't cry and I did not wish
 I was dead

I'm alright, I'm alright
Yeah, I'm alright baby
Yes, I'm alright without you

I woke up this morning, I didn't have the
 blues
So I pull on my tubesocks, I laced up my
 running shoes
Went down to the reservoir to jog a mile or
 two
I didn't take about our love and I wasn't
 missing you
Went back to my hotelroom I took a few
 phone calls
Clean sheets on a made up bed and
 artwork on the walls

I'm fine, thank you very much
Yes, I'm alright baby
Yes, I'm alright without you

I woke up this afternoon and I sat up in the
 bed
There was a gnawin' in my gut and a
 poundin' in my head
So I went into the bathroom, to the
 medicine-chest
There was razorblades and sleepin' pills
 and all the rest
But I was in control baby I was so relaxed

I found myself my dental floss, my favourite
 kind - unwaxed

Hey, I'm all right, I got the floss, baby
Yes, I'm alright baby
Yes, I'm alright without you

Loudon Wainwright III:
<https://youtu.be/CYRyr8I5zzE>

In Praise of Alcohol

~ Robert Service

Of vintage wine I am a lover;
To drink deep would be my delight;
If 'twere not for the bleak hangover
I'd get me loaded every night;
I's whoop it up with song and laughter
If 'twere not for the morning after

For though to soberness I'm given
It is a thought I've often thunk:
The nearest that is Earth to Heaven
Is to get sublimely drunk;
Is to achieve divine elation
By means of generous libation.

Alas, the wine-ups claim their payment
And as the price if often pain,
if we could sense what morning grey meant
We never would get soused again;
Rather than buy a hob-nailed liver
I'm sure that we'd abstain for ever.

Yet how I love the glow of liquor,
As joyfully I drink it up!
hoping that unto life's last flicker
With praise I'll raise the ruby cup;
And let me like a jolly monk
Proceed to get sublimely drunk.

David Parry:

<https://youtu.be/RTpsOc0gMpM>

It Suits Me Well

~ Sandy Denny

My name is Jan the gypsy
I travel the land.
There are no chains about me
I am me own man.
I can tell a fair old story
Which I'm sure ain't no surprise
Of the places I have been, oh,
And they ain't no lies.

I've never had a proper home,
Not one like yours is.
I've nearly always had a caravan
With horses.
And I know you won't believe me
Though it is the truth to tell
That the living it is hard, oh,
But it suits me well.

I am I traveler of the seas,
I am a sailor.
The ocean has been good to me,
She ain't no jailer.
I can tell a fair old story
Which I'm sure ain't no surprise
Of the places I have sailed, oh,
And they ain't no lies.

I've never had a garden,
Or a place with windows.
I stand upon the salty deck,
And feel the wind blow.
And I know you won't believe me
Though it is the truth to tell
That the living it is hard, oh,
But it suits me well.

My mother was a fire-eater,
'Fore she desert us.
So when I was only seven years old
I joined the circus.
And I can tell a fair old story

Which I'm sure ain't no surprise
Of the places we have played, oh,
And it ain't no lies.

I've never had no money,
And no hope to get none.
I can always get a penny,
When there is good reason.
And I know you won't believe me
Though it is the truth to tell
That the living it is hard, oh,
But it suits me well.

Sandy Denny:

<https://youtu.be/thiYAEUYzws>

It's Not Yet Day

(Joke and Push About the Pitcher)

The silver moon that shines so bright
I swear with reason as my teacher,
And, if my midnight glass runs right,
There's time to drink another pitcher.

Chorus:

It's not yet day. It's not yet day.
Why should we forsake good liquor?
Until the sunbeams round us play
Let's joke and push about the pitcher.

I dearly love a hearty man —
No sniggering milk-sop Jimmy Twitcher —
That loves a lass, and loves a glass,
And loudly calls for another pitcher.

They say that we must work all day,
And sleep at night to wake much richer;
But what is all the world does say
Compared to mirth, my friend, and pitcher.

Though one may boast a handsome wife,
Yet strange vagaries may bewitch her;
Unvexed I'll lead a cheerful life,
And boldly call for t'other pitcher

Jack O'Diamonds

~ Bob Dylan / Ben Carruthers

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/F9hFAtjMU1k>

Jack O'Diamonds, on the move
Jack O'Diamonds, one-eyed knave
On the move, hits the street
Bumps his head, on the ground
Well, he's a scout, you're born to lose
Shouldn't stay
Jack O'Diamonds is a hard card to play

Jack O'Diamonds, yeah Jack O'Diamonds
This one-eyed prince, wears a single glove
Oh sure, he's not that lovely
Jack O'Diamonds broke my hand
Left me here to stand
Jack O'Diamonds is a hard card to land

Jack O'Diamonds is a hard card
Jack O'Diamonds is a high card
Jack O'Diamonds is a hard card
But it ain't hard enough
Jack O'Diamonds can open for riches
Jack O'Diamonds but then it switches
Colour by picture but it's only a ten

Jack O'Diamonds, yeah Jack O'Diamonds
Jack O'Diamonds is a hard card to play
Jack O'Diamonds, yeah Jack O'Diamonds
This one-eyed prince, wears a single glove
Oh sure, he's not that lovely
Jack O'Diamonds broke my hand
Left me here to stand
Jack O'Diamonds is a hard card to play

Jack O'Diamonds is a hard card
Jack O'Diamonds is a high card
Jack O'Diamonds is a hard card
But it ain't hard enough
Jack O'Diamonds can open for riches
Jack O'Diamonds but then it switches
Colour by picture but it's only a ten
Jack O'Diamonds

January Man

~ Dave Goulder

Martin Carthy:

<https://youtu.be/hbDZQsEH3n8>

Oh, the January man, he walks the road in
woollen coat and boots of leather.

The February man still shakes the snow
from off his hair and blows his hands.

Oh, the man of March he sees the Spring
and wonders what the year will bring
And hopes for better weather.

Through April rain the man goes down to
watch the birds come in to share the
summer.

The man of May stands very still watching
the children dance away the day.

In June the man inside the man is young
and wants to lend a hand
And grins at each newcomer.

And in July the man in cotton shirt, he sits
and thinks on being idle.

The August man in thousands takes the
road to watch the sea and find the sun.

September man is standing near to saddle
up and lead the year
And Autumn is his bridle.

And the man of new October takes the reins
and early frost is on his shoulder.

The poor November man sees fire and rain
and snow and mist and Winter gale.

December man looks through the snow to
let eleven brothers know
They're all a little older.

And the January man comes round again in
woollen coat and boots of leather

To take another turn and walk along the icy
road he knows so well.

The January man is here for starting each
and every year

Along the road for ever.

Jerusalem On The Jukebox

~ Richard Thompson

Jerusalem on the jukebox they talk in
tongues on Coronation Street
Heaven help the pharisee whose halo has
slipped down to his feet
A thousand satellite comedians have died
for your sins
Jerusalem on the jukebox, little angels beat
your wings

At poolside picnics they chant for Ferraris
and furs
Their muscle tone sharpens but their hold
on reality blurs
You can have your cake and eat it and
never have to puke up a thing
Jerusalem on the jukebox, little angels beat
your wings

In the bathroom mirror they try the Joan of
Arc look again
Two parts Ingrid Bergman to one part
Shirley MacLaine
And the wounds of time kill you but the
surgeon's knife only stings
Jerusalem on the jukebox, little angels beat
your wings

In video suburbia the blue light flickers and
flames
Ecstasy and holy blackmail are the favourite
games
And God has the sharpest suits and the
cleanest chin
Jerusalem on the jukebox, little angels beat
your wings

Ah the bride checks her hair and makeup,
and here comes the groom
What one-eyed monster comes slouching
into your front room

Rudolph Valentino or the curse of all
two-legged things
Jerusalem on the jukebox, little angels beat
you wings
Little angels beat your wings

Richard Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/0CUI1kQC2Fc>

Jet Plane In A Rocking Chair

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/QprpaMvOuyQ>

Jet plane in a rocking chair
Roller coaster roll nowhere
Deaf and dumb old dancing bear
I'll change this heart of mine
This time, this time

Sea cruise in a diving bell
Run a mile in a wishing well
Soft soap and nothing to sell
I'll change this heart of mine
This time, this time

Here comes the real thing
I've been waiting, for so long
For so long
I've been looking for a love like you.

Crossed-line on the telephone
Crossed eyes and a canny moan
Cross fingers and head for home
I'll change this heart of mine
This time, this time

Play sick in a feather bed
Act cool when you're stony dead
I'm a fool with a size one head
I'll change this heart of mine
This time, this time

Here comes the real thing
I've been waiting, for so long
For so long
I've been looking for a love like you

Jet plane in a rocking chair
Roller coaster roll nowhere
Deaf and dumb old dancing bear
I'll change this heart of mine
This time, this time
This time, this time
This time, this time

Johnny Jump Up

~ Tadgh Jordan

I'll tell you a story that happened to me
One day as I went out to Youghal by the
Sea.

The sun it was bright, and the day it was
warm.

Says I, "An auld pint wouldn't do me no
harm."

I went in and I called for a bottle of stout.
Says the barman, "I'm sorry the beer is sold
out.

Try whiskey or Paddy, ten years in the
wood."

Says I "I'll try cider I've heard that it's good."

Oh never, oh never, oh never again,
If I live to a hundred or a hundred and ten,
For I fell to the ground and I couldn't get up,
After drinking a pint of the Johnny Jump Up!

After lowering the third, I headed straight for
the yard,
Where I bumped into Brophy, the big civic
guard.

"Come here to me boy, don't you know I'm
the law?"

Well I up with my fist and I shattered his
jaw!

He fell to the ground with his knees doubled
up,

But it wasn't I hit him, t'was the Johnny
Jump Up.

The next thing I met down in Youghal by the
Sea,

Was a cripple on crutches, and says he to
me:

"I'm afraid of me life, I'll be hit by a car.
Would you help me across to the
Railwayman's Bar?"

And after three pints of the cider so sweet,
He threw down his crutches, and he danced
on his feet.

Oh never, oh never, oh never again,
If I live to a hundred or a hundred and ten,
For I fell to the ground and I couldn't get up,
After drinking a pint of the Johnny Jump Up!

Now I went up the Lee Road, a friend for to
see

They call it the Madhouse in Cork by the
Lee.

But when I got up there, the truth I do to tell;
They had the poor bugger locked up in his
cell!

Says the guard testing him, say these words
if you can:

"Around the rugged rocks the ragged rascal
ran."

"Tell them I'm not crazy, tell them I'm not
mad;

T'was only six pints of that cider I had!"

Oh never, oh never, oh never again,
If I live to a hundred or a hundred and ten,
For I fell to the ground and I couldn't get up,
After drinking a pint of the Johnny Jump Up!

Now a man died in the Union by the name
of McNabb.

They washed him and placed him outside
on a slab.

And after the coroner his measurements did
take,

His wife took him home to a bloody fine
wake!

'Twas about twelve o'clock and the beer it
was high,

The corpse he sat up, and he says with a
sigh:

"I can't get to heaven, they won't let me up,
'Til I bring them a pint of the Johnny Jump
Up!"

Oh never, oh never, oh never again,
If I live to a hundred or a hundred and ten,

For I fell to the ground and I couldn't get up,
After drinking a pint of the Johnny Jump Up!

Version compiled from Christy Moore and
Gaelic Storm

Gaelic Storm: <https://youtu.be/2JeBsLrdBzs>

Christy Moore:

<https://youtu.be/TqYh4N-WruU>

Johnny's Far Away

~ Richard Thompson

Johnny's joined a ceilidh band,
They're known quite well throughout the
land, The Drones
The Drones are signed up on a cruise
While Tracey's laying in the booze back
home
She's got herself another man, a smoothie
While the kids are in the front room
watching movies
She's got him in a head lock, in an side
lock, in a jam
She says, I can't express myself with my old
man

While Johnny's Far away on the Rolling,
Rolling
Johnny's Far Away On The Rolling Sea

Johnny's cruising out to sea
And he believes in chastity - for some
The wealthy widows bill and coo
He fends off one or two, and then succumbs
As they're turning hard-a-port in the
Bahamas
He's turning her right out of her pyjamas
He's turned her every which way to the
rhythm of the sea
He says, I can't express myself with my old
lady

While Johnny's Far away on the Rolling,
Rolling
Johnny's Far Away On The Rolling Sea

Johnny's home, he opens up his door
While someone's sneaking out the back
And Tracey says, you look so poorly
Sores and all, you ought to see the quack
She wipes the snot from off the kiddies'
noses
He charms her with eleven battered roses

And by and by they get down to the job of
man and wife
Back to the old comforts of the missionary
life

While Johnny's Far away on the Rolling,
Rolling
Johnny's Far Away On The Rolling Sea

Richard Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/efbjJ4wxHOA>

Just The Motion

~ Richard Thompson

When you're rocked on the ocean, rocked
up and down, don't worry
When you're spinning and turning round
and around, don't worry
You're just feeling sea-sick, you're just
feeling weak
Your mind is confused and you can't seem
to speak
It's just the motion, it's just the motion

When the landlord is knocking and your job
is losing, don't worry
And the baby needs rocking and your
friends are confusing, don't worry
You're just feeling sea-sick, you're just
feeling weak
Your mind is confused and you can't seem
to speak
Oh, it's just the motion, it's just the motion

Blown by a hundred winds, knocked down a
hundred times
Rescued and carried along. Beaten and
half-dead and gone
And it's only the pain that's keeping you
sane
And gives you a mind to travel on

Oh the motion won't leave you, won't let you
remain, don't worry
It's a restless wind and a sleepless rain,
don't worry
'Cause under the ocean at the bottom of the
sea
You can't hear the storm, it's as peaceful as
can be
It's just the motion, it's just the motion

Blown by a hundred winds, knocked down a
hundred times

Rescued and carried along. Beaten and
half-dead and gone
And it's only the pain that's keeping you
sane
And gives you a mind to travel on

Oh the motion won't leave you, won't let you
remain, don't worry
It's a restless wind and a sleepless rain,
don't worry
'Cause under the ocean at the bottom of the
sea
You can't hear the storm, it's as peaceful as
can be
It's just the motion, it's just the motion
It's just the motion, it's just the motion

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/p0JI73rKKPI>

Justice

~ Alan Price

We all want justice but you got to have the
money to buy it
You'd have to be a fool to close your eyes
and deny it
There's a lot of poor people who are walking
the streets of my town
Too blind to see that justice is used to do
them right down

All life from beginning to end
You pay your monthly installments
Next to health is wealth
And only wealth will buy you justice

There'll always be a fool who insists on
taking his chances
And that is the man who believes in true
love romances
He will trust and rely on the goodness of
human nature
Now a judge will tell you that's a pathetic
creature

All life from beginning to end
You pay your monthly installments
Next to health is wealth
And only wealth will buy you justice

Money, justice
Money and justice
Money, justice

Alan Price: <https://youtu.be/QTkt8M9Tg6o>

Justice In the Streets

~ Richard Thompson

There's sickness in this land
Hearts have turned to sand
Crushed with an iron hand
There's justice in the streets

They fooled you for so long
You can't tell right from wrong
They are weak and you are strong
There's justice in the streets

Sometimes it seems a man can't hold his
head up
To be just what he is he feels ashamed
They take away his dignity and freedom
But they can never take away the flame

Tired of living in shame
Tired of a ball and chain
Run them down like a train
There's justice in the streets

They've got you chained to a wheel
'Til you don't know how to feel
'Til you can't tell what's real
There's justice in the streets

How can you fight a man without a shadow
How can you fight a face you've never seen
A drop of rain will run into a river
O see the river wash the valley clean

Katie Catch

[Roud 12967]

Down in yonder meadow where the green
grass grows,
Little Katie Catch goes a-washing of her
clothes,
She sang, and she sang, and she sang so
sweet,
Come over, Johnny Walker, come over the
street.

Katie Catch come draw the latch
And sit by the fire and sing,
Take up a cup and fill it up
And let the neighbours in.

Little Katie Catch she made a pudding nice
and sweet,
Young Johnny Walker took a spoon for to
eat.
Taste love, taste love, don't say no,
Tomorrow we'll be married, to the church we
will go.

Katie Catch come draw the latch
And sit by the fire and sing,
Take up a cup and fill it up
And let the neighbours in.

Bedding sheets and pillow slips and
blankets and all,
A little baby on your knee and that's the
best of all.
A guinea, a guinea, a guinea gold ring,
Come take me to the church and hear the
little choir boys sing.

Katie Catch come draw the latch
And sit by the fire and sing,
Take up a cup and fill it up
And let the neighbours in.

A guinea gold ring and a peacock hat,

A penny for the church and a feather for his
cap.

She paints her cheek and he curls his hair,
She kisses Johnny Walker at the foot of the
stair.

Katie Catch come draw the latch
And sit by the fire and sing,
Take up a cup and fill it up
And let the neighbours in.

Fay Hield: <https://youtu.be/nLqyg5TQ9zo>

Keep Your Distance

~ Richard Thompson

If I cross your path again, who knows
where, who knows when
On some morning without number, on some
highway without end
Don't grasp my hand and say "Fate has
brought you here today"
Oh fate is only fooling with us, friend

Keep your distance, oh keep your distance
When I feel you close to me what can I do
but fall
Keep your distance, keep your distance
Ah with us it must be all or none at all

It's a desperate game we play, throw our
souls, our lives, away
Wounds that can't be mended and debts
that can't be paid
O I played and I got stung now I'm biting
back my tongue
I'm sweeping out the footprints where I
strayed

Keep your distance, keep your distance
When I feel you close to me what can I do
but fall
Keep your distance, oh keep your distance
With us it must be all or none at all

Keep your distance, oh keep your distance
When I feel you close to me what can I do
but fall
Keep your distance, oh keep your distance
With us it must be all or none at all
With us it must be all or none at all
With us it must be all or none at all

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/hlKNMBfYle8>

Killerman Gold Posse

~ Richard Thompson

I ride with the Killerman Gold Posse
And we rob from the rich and we give to the
poor
And the poor are we, and the poor are we
And we are so poor, and we want some
more
And it's just another, just another, just
another, just another,
Just another, just another, just another, just
another day

We steal your watches and we steal your
rings
And we steal your money and we steal your
gold
And we ride on a train like old Jesse James
In the days of old, in the days of old
And it's just another, just another, just
another, just another,
Just another, just another, just another, just
another day

We are children, please don't take our
freedom away
We are children, please don't take our
freedom away
We are children, please don't take our
freedom away
And it's just another, just another, just
another

I ride with the Killerman Gold Posse
And we rob from the rich and we give to the
poor
And I got a knife and he's got a knife
And it's trouble and strife and it's run for
your life
And it's just another, just another, just
another, just another,
Just another, just another, just another, just
another,

Just another, just another, just another, just
another,
Just another, just another, just another, just
another day

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/bVBSEfWeej4>

Kitchen Door Blues

~ Tennessee Williams / Geoff Muldaur

An old lady died of a common cold.
She smoked cigars and was ninety years
old.

She was thin as paper with the ribs of a kite,
And she flew out the kitchen door one night.

Well, I'm not much younger than the old
lady was,
When she lost gravitation, and I smoke
cigars.
Well, I look kinda peaked, an' I feel kinda
poor,
So for God's sake, lock that kitchen door!

Geoff Muldaur:

https://youtu.be/6SP_3f6Gcfl

The Lads In Their Hundreds

~ A E Housman / John Mayberry

XXIII

The lads in their hundreds to Ludlow come
in for the fair,
There's men from the barn and the forge
and the mill and the fold,
The lads for the girls and the lads for the
liquor are there,
And there with the rest are the lads that will
never be old.

There's chaps from the town and the field
and the till and the cart,
And many to count are the stalwart, and
many the brave,
And many the handsome of face and the
handsome of heart,
And few that will carry their looks or their
truth to the grave.

I wish one could know them, I wish there
were tokens to tell
The fortunate fellows that now you can
never discern;
And then one could talk with them friendly
and wish them farewell
And watch them depart on the way that they
will not return.

But now you may stare as you like and
there's nothing to scan;
And brushing your elbow unguessed-at and
not to be told
They carry back bright to the coiner the
mintage of man,
The lads that will die in their glory and never
be old.

From A Shropshire Lad (1896), "XXIII"
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/5720/5720-h/5720-h.htm>

The Last Trip Home

~ Davey Steele / John McCusker

I have worked on farms and from the the
start the muckle horses won my heart,
With big broad backs they proudly stand,
the uncrowned kings of all the land,
And yet for all their power and strength,
they're as gentle as a summer's wind.

So steady, boys; walk on; our work is nearly
done,
No more we'll till or plough the fields; the
horses' day is gone,
And this will be our last trip home, so
steady, boys; walk on.

Now you'll hear men sing their songs of
praise, of Arab stallions in a race,
Or hunters that fly with the hounds, to chase
the fox and run them down,
But none of them compare I vow, to a
workin' pair that pulls a plough.

So steady, boys; walk on; our work is nearly
done,
No more we'll till or plough the fields; the
horses' day is gone,
And this will be our last trip home, so
steady, boys; walk on.

And all the years I've plied my trade, and all
the fields we've ploughed and laid,
I never thought I'd see the time when a
Clydesdale's work would ever end,
But progress runs its driven course and
tractors have replaced the horse.

So steady, boys; walk on; our work is nearly
done,
No more we'll till or plough the fields; the
horses' day is gone,
And this will be our last trip home, so
steady, boys; walk on.

As we head back our friends have lined the
road to be there one last time,
For none of them would want to miss, the
chance to see us pass like this,
They'll say they saw in years to come, the
muckle horses' last trip home.

So steady, boys; walk on; our work is nearly
done,
No more we'll till or plough the fields; the
horses' day is gone,
And this will be our last trip home, so
steady, boys; walk on.

* muckle = heavy / big

Battlefield Band:

https://youtu.be/bV_9kSUfd_U

Laundroloverette

~ John Kirkpatrick

Round go the clothes in the
washing-machine
The water all bubbles, the air filled with
steam
I've come here today to get my clothes
clean
But my heart is as black as the coal

Just one week ago a girl came in here
The loveliest creature, her beauty shone
clear
I was lost in a moment, oh I loved her so
dear
As she emptied her big plastic bag

Blue were her Levi's and brown was her
hair
And red was the blush as she noticed my
stare
And white was the hanky that flew through
the air
As she flung all her stuff in the tub

I boldly stepped up to her and this I did say
Do you have you got any change for I've got
none today
The gas-meter's taken all my ten p's away
And I've only got fifties and fives

So she gave me some silver, said she'd
plenty to spare
And the touch of her hand it was too much
to bear
And my reason went from me, flew up in the
air
And out through the roof with the steam

D'you fancy a drink, love, there's a pub
down the road
It's a bit more exciting than watching your
load

And she smiled so sweetly I thought I'd
explode
And we both trundled off down the pub

The washing was finished by the time we
came in
We both shared one dryer, we got
everything in
And to see our clothes mingle, oh, it made
my heart spin
I thought I had found me a bride

So I said, My fair maiden, shall I see you
again
I live just round the corner, it's the house on
the bend
And I'm always here Thursdays around
about ten
And I held up her big plastic bag

Oh no, she replied, I'm afraid that can't be
I'm just off to the college, there's a lad there
for me
I'll be with him tomorrow, and so happy we'll
be
Thanks for the drink, I must go

Never again will I see one so fair
Ten minutes or longer I only could spare
On the floor a white hanky to show she'd
been there
My love had all tumbled dry

Round go the clothes in the
washing-machine
The water all bubbles, the air filled with
steam
I've come here today to get my clothes
clean
But my heart is as black as the coal

John Kirkpatrick :
https://youtu.be/oj3_YJaAg-s

Let the Bulgine Run

[Roud 810]

Oh The smartest packet you can find
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
Is the old Wildcat of the Swallowtail Line
So clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

With a Hey Rig-a-jig, in a jaunting car
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
With Liza Lee all on my knee
Oh, clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

Now the old Wildcat of the Swallowtail Line
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
She's never a day behind her time.
So clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

With a Hey Rig-a-jig, in a jaunting car
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
With Liza Lee all on my knee
Oh, clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

We're outward bound for New York Town
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
Them Bowery gals we'll waltz around.
So clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

With a Hey Rig-a-jig, in a jaunting car
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
With Liza Lee all on my knee
Oh, clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

And when we dock at the South Street Pier
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
We'll all go ashore and have some beer.
So clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

With a Hey Rig-a-jig, in a jaunting car
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
With Liza Lee all on my knee
Oh, clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

When we get back to Liverpool town
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
I'll stand you whiskies all around.
So clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

With a Hey Rig-a-jig, in a jaunting car
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
With Liza Lee all on my knee
Oh, clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

When I get home across the sea
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
Eliza will you marry me?
So clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

With a Hey Rig-a-jig, in a jaunting car
Ah Hee! Ah Ho! Are you most done
With Liza Lee all on my knee
Oh, clear away the track and let the bulgine
run.

John Roberts:

https://youtu.be/y6ia_ob-OSM

Let Union Be in All Our Hearts

[Roud 1238]

Come on, lads, and let's be jolly
Drive away all melancholy,
For, to grieve it would be folly,
While we are together.

Let union be in all our hearts,
Let all our hearts be joined as one.
We'll end the day as we begun,
We'll end it all in pleasure.
Right-folla-rolla-rye, too-ra-lie-doe (3x)
While we are together.

Old King Solomon, in all his glory,
Told each wife a different story,
Of the things that we delight in,
While we are together.

Eating and drinking are quite charming,
Smoking and piping there's no harm in.
These are things we take delight in,
While we are together.

Grab the bottle as it passes,
Do not fail to fill your glasses.
Water drinkers are dull asses,
While we are together.

Cease your quarreling and fighting,
Evil thinking and backbiting.
All these things take no delight in,
While we are together.

Folly Bridge: <https://youtu.be/T5k0WYPjRA>

The Little Beggar Girl

~ Richard Thompson

I'm just a little beggar girl and Sally is my
name
You can call me a skiver and I'll call you the
same
You can show me you're sorry if you think
it's a shame
That I'm only a poor little beggar girl
Yes I'm only a poor little beggar girl
You can show me you're sorry if you think
it's a shame
That I'm only a poor little beggar girl

I'll dance with my peg leg a-wiggling at the
knee
I'll play on the accordion my father gave to
me
For it's well worth it all to please a gent such
as thee
For I'm only a poor little beggar girl
Yes I'm only a poor little beggar girl
And it's well worth it all to please a gent
such as thee
For I'm only a poor little beggar girl

I've been down to London, I've been up to
Crewe
I travel far and wide to do the work that I do
'Cause I love taking money off a snob like
you
For I'm only a poor little beggar girl
Yes I'm only a poor little beggar girl
And I love taking money off a snob like you
For I'm only a poor little beggar girl

Oh the poor they will be rich, and the rich
they will be poor
That's according to Saul when he wrote
down the law
And I'd much rather be rich after than before
For I'm only a poor little beggar girl
Yes I'm only a poor little beggar girl

And I'd much rather be rich, after than
before
For I'm only a poor little beggar girl

If the words of my song do your conscience
alarm
Just remember generosity is like a lucky
charm
If you give me your money it'll do you no
harm
For I'm only a poor little beggar girl
Yes I'm only a poor little beggar girl
If you give me your money it'll do you no
harm
For I'm only a poor little beggar girl

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/jDXoPsu9hsg>

Little Blue Number

~ Richard Thompson

My oh my, but you do look the killer
Never mind the duds just look at that hat
All that green chartreuse on the waistcoat
How do you come by something like that?

Where did you get that little blue number?
How do you make those rhinestones shine?
Do you go on the prowl while other folks
slumber?
Did you steal those things right off of the
line?
Hold your horses, that's something of mine
That little blue number, little blue number
Little blue number, little blue number

Ice blue jacket, vent down the middle
Shark-skin trimmings and all that jazz
Real rabbit's foot on a two-tone tie pin
Lots of good luck and razzamatazz

Where did you get that little blue number?
How do you squeeze into something like
that?
Is that the same one I was wearing last
summer?
I wish I was glad for you, but I'm sorry
Did the whole thing fall off the back of a
lorry?
That little blue number, little blue number
Little blue number, little blue number

Tartan shirt with the button-down collar
Velvet hat-band, crocodile shoes
Diamond bracelets, houndstooth pockets
Everybody saying "Here comes good news"

Where did you get that little blue number?
Rings a bell in the back of my mind
You better come clean if you don't want to
lumber

I told you three times, you don't seem to get
it

That's my idea, you're taking the credit
That little blue number, little blue number
Little blue number, little blue number

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/8bABb1EQcfc>

The Lofty Tall Ship

[Roud 104]

As we were gone sailing five cold frosty
nights,
Five cold frosty nights and four days,
Before we did spy there a lofty tall ship,
She come bearing down on us, brave boys.

“Oh where are you going, you lofty tall ship?
What makes you to venture so nigh?
For I have turned robbing all on the salt sea
To maintain my two brothers and I.”

“Then heave on your courses and let go
your main sheets
And bring yourself under my lee.
And I will take from you your rich merchant's
goods, merchant's goods,
And I'll point your bow guns to the sea.”

“No, not heave up my courses nor let go my
main sheets
Nor let her come under your lee.
Nor you will take from me my rich
merchant's goods, merchant's goods,
Nor you'll point my bow guns to the sea.”

Now broadside and broadside these vessels
they went,
They were fighting four hours or more.
Till Henry Martin gave to her a broadside
And she sank and she never rose more.

Sad news, Henry Martin, sad news I've to
tell,
Sad news it is going around.
Of a lofty tall ship and she's cast away
And the whole of her merry men drowned.

Waterson:Carthy:

https://youtu.be/Uc4wbZyQQ_U

Lonely Hearts

~ Richard Thompson

We may never meet in the light of day
If we passed on the street, would we look
the other way
So I search for you where we can't be seen
And I know we'll meet on the page of this
magazine

Two lonely hearts in an ocean of loneliness
Two lonely hearts in a shipwreck of pain
We call to each other as we drown in the
city

O why
Do we have to remain
The outcasts in love and the losers in gain?

It's a mean old town, can't show your heart
If you stand up and say what you mean they
tear you apart
And they call it love, sell it by the pound
But the lovers are gone or they're living
down underground

Two lonely hearts in an ocean of loneliness
Two lonely hearts in a shipwreck of pain
Call to each other as we drown in the city
O why
Do we have to remain
The outcasts in love and the losers in gain?

No-one needs a friend, no-one cares no
more
They'll look hard at you but they won't take
the chain off the door
O they work and slave, keep their
conscience clean
They come home at night and they talk to
an empty screen

Two lonely hearts in an ocean of loneliness
Two lonely hearts in a shipwreck of pain
Call to each other as we drown in the city

O why
Do we have to remain
The outcasts in love and the losers in gain?

Two lonely hearts, two lonely hearts
Two lonely hearts, two lonely hearts
Call to each other as we drown in the city
O why
Do we have to remain
The outcasts in love and the losers in gain?
The outcasts in love and the losers in gain?

Richard & Linda Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/86t2jXehdHk>

Long Lankin

[Roud 6 ; Master title: Lamkin]

Says mylord to mylady as he mounted his
horse,
“Beware of Long Lankin that lives in the
moss.”

Says mylord to mylady as he went on his
way,
“Beware of Long Lankin that lives in the
hay.”

“See the doors are all bolted, see the
windows all pinned,
And leave not a crack for a mouse to creep
in.”

Oh, the doors were all bolted, oh, the
windows were pinned,
But at a small peep in the window Long
Lankin crept in.

“Where's the lord of this household?” cries
Long Lankin.
“He's away up to London,” says the false
nurse to him.

“Where's the lady of the household?” cries
Long Lankin.
“She's asleep in her chamber,” says the
false nurse to him.

“Where's the heir of the household?” cries
Long Lankin.
“He's asleep in his cradle,” says the false
nurse to him.

“We'll pinch him and we'll prick him all over
with a pin.
And that'll make mylady to come down to
him.”

So they pinched him and they pricked him
all over with a pin.
And the false nurse held the basin for the
blood to drip in.

“Oh nurse how you slumber, oh nurse how
you sleep,
You leave my little son to cry and to weep.”

“Oh nurse how you slumber, oh nurse how
you snore,
You leave me little baby to cry and to roar.”

“Oh, I tried him with the milk and I've tried
him with the pap.
Come down, my pretty lady, and rock him in
your lap.”

“Oh, I've tried him with the rattle and I've
tried him with the bell.
Come down, my pretty lady, and rock him
yourself.”

“How dare I come down in the dead of the
night
When there's no candles burning nor no
fires alight?”

“You have three silver gowns all bright as
the sun.
Come down, my pretty lady, all by the light
of one.”

Oh, the lady came downstairs, she was
thinking no harm.
Long Lankin he stood ready for to catch her
in his arm.

There's blood in the kitchen, there's blood in
the hall,
There's blood in the parlour where mylady
did fall.

Her handmaid stood out at the window so
high
And she saw her lord and master come
a-riding close by.

“Oh master, oh master, don't lay no blame
on me.
'Twas the false nurse and Lankin that killed
your lady.”

“Oh master, oh master, don't lay no blame
on me.
It was the false nurse and Lankin that killed
your baby.”

Long Lankin shall be hanged on the gallows
so high.
And the false nurse shall be burned in the
fire close by.

Martin Carthy:
<https://youtu.be/MTSXR4wsVAk>

Lord Franklin

[Roud 487]

It was homeward bound one night on the
deep,
Swinging in my hammock I fell asleep.
I dreamed a dream and I thought it true
Concerning Franklin and his gallant crew.

With a hundred seamen he sailed away
To the frozen ocean in the month of May
To seek that passage around the Pole
Where we poor sailors do sometimes go.

Through cruel hardships these men did go
His ship on mountains of ice was drove,
Where the Eskimo in his skin canoe
Was the only one who ever come through.

In Baffin Bay where the whale fish blow
The fate of Franklin no man may know.
The fate of Franklin no tongue can tell,
Lord Franklin along with his sailors do dwell.

And now my burden it gives me pain,
For my long lost Franklin I'd cross the main.
Ten thousand pounds would I freely give
To know on earth that my Franklin do live.

Martin Carthy:

https://youtu.be/cBi-C_kFmpg

A Love You Can't Survive

~ Richard Thompson

Now I remember the promise I gave you
The night I shipped out as a peace
volunteer
As we sat holding hands in the Lamb and
Flag tavern
I swore I'd be back for you same time next
year

But I killed a man in a Brazzaville street fight
I tried to hold back, but he taunted me so
5 years till they freed me from that
Brazzaville prison
Out of boredom or pity, I never will know

Now I bear the stain
The scar on my name
I never can go back again

There's a love you can't survive
And it burns you up inside

I sailed my boat into New Orleans harbour
Tied up at the jetty, as bold as you please
With a half-ton of charlie built in to the
bulkhead
Right under the noses of all them police

Now here I sit in my house on the mountain
King of the clouds and all I survey
There's women who are willing, and the law
can't touch me
Yours is the one face that won't go away

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/ub4FfejiN-s>

Lovely Joan

[Roud 592]

A fine young man it was indeed,
Mounted on his milk-white steed.
He rode, he rode, and he rode all alone
Until he came to lovely Joan.

"Good morning to you, my pretty maid."
And "Twice good morning, sir," she said.
He tipped her the wink, and she rolled her
dark eye.
Says he to himself, "I'll be there by and by."

"Oh, don't you think these pooks of hay
A pretty place for us to play?
So come with me, me sweet young thing,
And I'll give you my golden ring."

So he took off his ring of gold,
Says, "Me pretty fair miss, do this behold.
Freely I'll give it for your maidenhead."
And her cheeks they blushed like the roses
red.

"Come give that ring into my hand
And I will neither stay nor stand.
For your ring is worth much more to me
Than twenty maidenheads," said she.

And as he made for the pooks of hay,
She leapt on his horse and tore away.
He called, he called, but he called in vain,
For Joan she ne'er looked back again.

Nor did she she think herself quite safe
Until she came to her true love's gate.
She'd robbed him of his horse and ring
And she left him to rage in the meadows
green.

Martin Carthy:

<https://youtu.be/MLGbAq5cNDk>

Lovely on the Water

[Roud 1539]

As I walked out one morning
In the springtime of the year
I overheard a sailor boy
Likewise a lady fair

They sang a song together
Made the valleys for to ring
While the birds on the spray in the
 meadows gay
Proclaimed the lovely spring

Said Willy unto Nancy
Oh we soon must sail away
For its lovely on the water
To hear the music play

For our Queen she do want seamen
So I will not stay on shore
I will brave the wars for my country
Where the blund'ring cannons roar

Poor Nancy fell and fainted
But soon he brought her to
For it's there they kissed and there
 embraced
And took a fond adieu

Come change your ring with me my love
For we may meet once more
But there's one above that will guard you
 love
Where the blund'ring cannons roar

For pounds it is our bounty
And that must do for thee
But to help the aged parents
While I am on the sea

For Tower Hill is crowded
With mother's weeping sore
For their sons are gone to face the war

Where the blundering cannons roar

Steeleye Span:

<https://youtu.be/n01T7ejqKWk>

Lovers and Friends

~ Seán Mone (Keady, Armagh)

Battles and wars leave deep wounds and
scars.

Deep wounds are long in the mending.
While reflecting upon all that has gone,
Life rushes on to its ending.

Though sorrow and pain in our memories
remain,

And by memories lifetimes are measured,
Still the times that we spend among lovers
and friends

Are times we'll remember with pleasure.

So fill up your glass that future and past
In harmony be determined,
For there's more friendship poured out in
one bottle of stout
Than you'll find in statute or sermon.

I've heard all the old songs, all the rights, all
the wrongs,

Heard prophets of doom and destruction,
Street corner messiahs and moral pariahs,
Dealers in bribes and corruption.

From the holy and wise, denials and lies,
When innocent youth was forsaken,
Yet I've watched the night end among lovers
and friends,
And been sorry to see the dawn breaking.

So fill up your glass that future and past
In harmony be determined, ...

And there are those who are certain that
drinking and courtin'
Are the sure way to hell and damnation,
But if that is to be, it would seem clear to me
That their god has no sense of occasion.

To help his great plan, both woman and
man
Bring forth each new generation,

And a wee drop of stout and the odd bit of a
holt * (sex)
Can greatly assist procreation.

So fill up your glass, throw your arm round
your lass.
In harmony be determined,
For there's more friendship poured out in
one bottle of stout
Than you'll find in statute or sermon.

To the brashest and proudest and those
who shout loudest,
It would seem that power has been given
To berate us, deride us, separate and divide
us

In the hope of their version of heaven;
But mountains and rivers will by far outlive
us,

And when our bones into dust they have
withered,

There'll be lovers and friends who will still
comprehend
The true reason we're all here together.

So fill up your glass that future and past
In harmony be determined, ...

I first heard at a pub sing at The Gardeners
Rest in Sheffield on 23 July 2018 sung
by Pete Smith.

Seán Mone (2014):

<https://youtu.be/SLrEUzDsXEc>

Battlefield Band:

<https://youtu.be/lbA36aqBi9c>

Lydia the Tattooed Lady

~ Harold Arlen & Yip Harburg (c1939)

Lydia, oh Lydia, say, have you met Lydia?
Lydia the tattooed lady
She has eyes that men adore so
And a torso even more so
Lydia, oh Lydia, that encyclopedia
Lydia, the queen of tattoo
On her back is the Battle of Waterloo
Beside it the Wreck of the Hesperus, too
And proudly above waves the red, white
and blue
You can learn a lot from Lydia

(la la la la la la)
(la la la la la la)

When her robe is unfurled, she will show
you the world
If you step up and tell her where
For a dime you can see Kankakee or Paree
Or Washington crossing the Delaware

(la la la la la la)
(la la la la la la)

Lydia, oh Lydia, say, have you met Lydia?
Lydia the tattooed lady
When her muscles start relaxin'
Up the hill comes Andrew Jackson
Lydia, oh Lydia, that encyclopedia
Lydia, the queen of tattoo
For two bits she will do a mazurka in jazz
With a view of Niagara that nobody has
And on a clear day, you can see Alcatraz
You can learn a lot from Lydia

(la la la la la la)
(la la la la la la)

Come along and see Buffalo Bill with his
lasso
Just a little classic by Mendel Picasso

Here's Captain Spaulding exploring the
Amazon
Here's Godiva but with her pajamas on

(la la la la la la)
(la la la la la la)

Here is Grover Whalen unveilin' the Tylon
Over on the West Coast we have Treasure
Island
Here's Najinsky a-doin' the rhumba
Here's her social security numba

(la la la la la la)
(la la la la la la)

Lydia, oh Lydia, that encyclopedia
Lydia, the queen of them all
She once swept an admiral clear off his feet
The ships on her hips made his heart skip a
beat
And now the old boy's in command of the
fleet
For he went and married Lydia

I said Lydia
He said Lydia
I said Lydia
He said Lydia
Ole!

Marx Brothers "At the Circus":
https://youtu.be/n4zRe_wvJw8

A Man In Need

~ Richard Thompson

I packed my rags, went down the hill
Left my dependents a-lying still
Just as the dawn was rising up
I was making good speed
I left a letter lying on the bed
From a man in need, it read

You know it's so hard, It's so hard to find
Well, well, well. Who's going to cure the
heart of a man in need?

All of my friends don't comprehend me
Their kind of style it just offends me
I want to take 'em, I want to shake 'em
'Till they pay me some heed
Oh, you've got to ride in one direction
Until you find the right connection

You know it's so hard, so, so, so, so
Well, well. Who's going to cure the heart of
a man in need?

Who's going to give you real happiness?
Who's going to give you contentedness?
Who's going to lead you? Who's going to
feed you?
And cut you free?
Well I've sailed every ship in the sea
But I travelled this world in misery

You know it's so hard, so hard, so hard
Well, well. Who's going to cure the heart of
a man in need?

Well who's going to shoe your feet?
Ah who's going to pay your rent?
And who's going to stand by you?
Well, well, well, well
Who's going to cure the heart of a man in
need?
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh

Of a man in need

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/hI7ChoZdNd4>

Man in the Moon

[Roud 21397]

When a bumper is filled, it is vexing, no
doubt,
To find when you rise that the wine has run
out;
And sure it's an equally unpleasant thing
To be asked for a song when you've naught
left to sing.
I could sing something old, if an old one
would do,
But the world it is craving to have something
new.
But what to select for the words or the tune?
I, in fact, know no more than the Man in the
Moon.

The Man in the Moon a new light on us
throws,
He's a man we all talk of but nobody knows.
And though a high subject, I'm getting in
tune,
I'll just sing a song for the Man in the Moon.

'Tis said that some people are moonstruck,
we find,
But the Man in the Moon must be out of his
mind.
But it can't be for love for he's quite on his
own,
No ladies to meet him by moonlight alone.
It can't be ambition, for rivals he's none,
At least he is only eclipsed by the sun,
But when drinking, I say, he is seldom
surpassed,
For he always looks best when he's seen
through a glass.

The Man in the Moon a new light on us
throws,
He's a man we all talk of but nobody knows.
And though a high subject, I'm getting in
tune,

I'll just sing a song for the Man in the Moon.

The Man in the Moon he must lead a queer
life,
With no one around him, not even a wife,
No friends to console him, no children to
kiss,
No chance of his joining a party like this.
But he's used to high life, for each all circles
agree,
That none move in such a high circle as he,
And though nobles go up in their royal
balloon,
They're not introduced to the Man in the
Moon.

The Man in the Moon a new light on us
throws,
He's a man we all talk of but nobody knows.
And though a high subject, I'm getting in
tune,
I'll just sing a song for the Man in the Moon.

The Full English:

<https://youtu.be/nfGzzhZfVs0>

The Man that Waters the Workers' Beer

~ Paddy Ryan (c1938)

I am the man, the very fat man
That waters the workers' beer
I am the man, the very fat man
That waters the workers' beer
And what do I care if it makes them ill
If it makes them terribly queer
I've a car, a yacht, and an aeroplane,
And I waters the workers' beer.

Now when I waters the workers' beer
I puts in strychnine
Some methylated spirits
And a can of kerosene
Ah, but such a brew so terribly strong
It would make them terribly queer
So I reaches my hand for the watering-can
And I waters the workers' beer:

I am the man, the very fat man
That waters the workers' beer
I am the man, the very fat man
That waters the workers' beer
And what do I care if it makes them ill
If it makes them terribly queer
I've a car, a yacht, and an aeroplane,
And I waters the workers' beer.

Now a drop of good beer is good for a man
When he's tired, thirsty and hot
And I sometimes have a drop myself
From a very special pot
For a strong and healthy working class
Is the thing that I most fear
So I reaches my hand for the watering-can
And I waters the workers' beer:

I am the man, the very fat man
That waters the workers' beer
I am the man, the very fat man

That waters the workers' beer
And what do I care if it makes them ill
If it makes them terribly queer
I've a car, a yacht, and an aeroplane,
And I waters the workers' beer.

Now ladies fair, beyond compare
Be you maiden or wife
Spare a thought for such a man
Who leads such a lonely life
For the water rates are frightfully high,
And the meths is terribly dear
And there ain't the profit there used to be
In watering the workers' beer:

I am the man, the very fat man
That waters the workers' beer
I am the man, the very fat man
That waters the workers' beer
And what do I care if it makes them ill
If it makes them terribly queer
I've a car, a yacht, and an aeroplane,
And I waters the workers' beer.

The Man That Waters the Workers' Beer is from the pen of "Paddy Ryan" (Dr. R. E. W. Fisher) written in 1938 when he was a medical student. He recorded the song a year later, with The International, as the first releast of the nascent Topic Records.

Paddy Ryan (1939):

<https://youtu.be/SybZrbeBQ3I>

John Roberts & Tony Barrand:

<https://youtu.be/x2nkID15zGA>

Marching Inland

~ Tom Lewis

Lord Nelson knew the perfect way to cure
your 'mal-de-mer',
So if you pay attention, his secret I will
share,
To any sea-sick sailor he'd give this advice
for free:
"If you're feeling sea-sick, sit underneath a
tree!"

I'm marching inland from the shore, over m'
shoulder I'm carrying an oar,
When someone asks me: "What - is that
funny thing you've got?"
Then I know I'll never go to sea no more, no
more,
Then I know I'll never go to sea no more!

Columbus he set-sail to find out if the world
was round,
He kept on sailing to the West until he ran
aground,
He thought he'd found The Indies but he'd
found the U.S.A.,
I know some navigators who can still do that
today.

I'm marching inland from the shore, over m'
shoulder I'm carrying an oar,
When someone asks me: "What - is that
funny thing you've got?"
Then I know I'll never go to sea no more, no
more,
Then I know I'll never go to sea no more!

Drake he's in his hammock and a thousand
miles away,
Grenville's REVENGE is at the bottom of
the bay,
Many's the famous sailor never came home
from the sea,

Just take my advice, Jack, come and follow
me.

I'm marching inland from the shore, over m'
shoulder I'm carrying an oar,
When someone asks me: "What - is that
funny thing you've got?"
Then I know I'll never go to sea no more, no
more,
Then I know I'll never go to sea no more!

Sailors take a warning from these men of
high renown,
When you leave the ocean and it's time to
settle down,
Never cast your anchor less than ninety
miles from shore,
There'd always be temptation to be off to
sea once more.

I'm marching inland from the shore, over m'
shoulder I'm carrying an oar,
When someone asks me: "What - is that
funny thing you've got?"
Then I know I'll never go to sea no more, no
more,
Then I know I'll never go to sea no more!

Tom Lewis: <https://youtu.be/2klfR0R42eQ>

Mary And Joseph

~ Richard Thompson

Mary and Joseph were watching the border
Lovers with a different pose
Like the worm that loves the rose
Mary is in stitches
She's tied down on the bed
While Joseph plays the ukelele
Standing on his head

Sad is the hour that saw them divided
People with a common blood
Parted in the name of good
The father and the mother
Of the royal king on earth
He'll only come when hearts are joined
And peace rings in his birth.

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/bBTbfBRgSmg>

Mascara Tears

~ Richard Thompson

When I said those things I was out of my
mind
I was trying to be mean and cruel and
unkind
Don't take it to heart
There's another man inside me wants to
break us apart

You were chic, off the peg, bang up to the
minute
I had to put my big foot in it
Don't shout it all about
There's another man inside me and he
wants to get out

Oh mascara tears, bitter and black
Spent bullet drilled a hole in my back
Salt for the memory, black for the years
Black is forever, mascara tears

There's hell and hoodoo in your kitchen
You've got to scratch the place you're
itching
How long will it take
There's another girl inside you and she
never got a break

Oh mascara tears, bitter and black
A spent bullet drilled a hole in my back
Salt for the memory, black for the years
Black is forever, mascara tears

You just moan and weep and moan and
weep
And moan and weep and moan and weep
Dirty rivers running down your face
Tears all down your party lace

Oh mascara tears, bitter and black
Spent bullet drilled a hole in my back
Salt for the memory, black for the years

Black is forever, mascara tears

Oh mascara tears

Salt for the memory, black for the years
Black is forever, mascara tears

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/hK9ng1xoXKs>

The May Day Psalter

~ Richard Thompson

Give me simple for my pleasure
Charity for my success
Give me wisdom and misfortune
Heart's ease for my distress

When men boast or make me tremble
When men mock or make me weak
Give me veils to cover over
Secrets that my heart may keep

Sharpen up my axe to shatter
King, tyrant, fool, or fake
Let me love to overflowing
Flooding 'till my banks do break

Wash me like a rock in a river
Cover up my tracks with rain
Move me like a wave on the ocean
Risen once never rise again

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/Axdo3nydPSc>

May You Never

~ John Martyn

And may you never lay your head down
Without a hand to hold
May you never make your bed out in the
cold

You're just like a great strong brother of
mine
You know that I love you true
And you never talk dirty behind my back
And I know that there's those that do

Oh please won't you, please won't you
Bear it in mind
Love is a lesson to learn in our time
Now please won't you, please won't you
Bear it in mind for me

And may you never lay your head down
Without a hand to hold
May you never make your bed out in the
cold

Well you're just like a good close sister to
me
You know that I love you true
And you hold no blade to stab me in the
back
And I know that there's some that do

Oh please won't you, please won't you
Bear it in mind
Love is a lesson to learn in our time
And please won't you, please won't you
Bear it in mind for me

May you never lay your head down
Without a hand to hold
May you never make your bed out in the
cold

You're just like a great strong brother of
mine

And you know that I love you true
And you never talk dirty behind my back
And I know that there's those that do

Oh please won't you, please won't you
Bear it in mind
Love is a lesson to learn in our time
And please won't you, please won't you
Bear it in mind for me

May you never lose your temper
If you get in a bar room fight
May you never lose your woman overnight

May you never lay your head down
Without a hand to hold
May you never make your bed out in the
cold

May you never lose your temper
If you get in a bar room fight
May you never lose your woman over night
May you never lose your woman over night
May you never lose your woman over night

John Martyn: https://youtu.be/8UGSckr_vho

Meet On The Ledge

~ Richard Thompson

Fairport Convention:

<https://youtu.be/K3uBISnp-TI>

We used to say "There'd come the day we'd
all be making songs
Or finding better words" These ideas never
lasted long

The way is up along the road, the air is
growing thin
Too many friends who tried, blown off this
mountain with the wind

Meet on the ledge, we're going to meet on
the ledge
When my time is up, I'm going to see all my
friends
Meet on the ledge, we're going to meet on
the ledge
If you really mean it, it all comes around
again

Yet now I see, I'm all alone, but that's the
only way to be
You'll have your chance again, then you can
do the work for me

Meet on the ledge, we're going to meet on
the ledge
When my time is up, I'm going to see all my
friends
Meet on the ledge, we're going to meet on
the ledge
If you really mean it, it all comes around
again

Meet on the ledge, we're going to meet on
the ledge
When my time is up, I'm going to see all my
friends
Meet on the ledge, we're going to meet on
the ledge
If you really mean it, it all comes around
again

Men

~ Loudon Wainwright III

When a ship is sinking and they lower the
lifeboats
And hand out the lifejackets, the men keep
on their coats
The women and the children are the ones
who must go first
And the men who try to save their skins are
cowards and are cursed

Every man's a captain, men know how to
drown
Man the lifeboats if there's room, otherwise
go down

And it's the same when there's a war on; it's
the men who go to fight
Women and children are civilians, when
they're killed it's not right
Men kill men in uniform; it's the way war
goes
When they run they're cowards, when they
stay they are heroes

Every man's a general, men go off to war
The battlefield's a man's world; cannon
fodder's what they're for

It's the men who have the power; it's the
men who have the might
And the world's a place of horror; because
each man think he's right
A man's home is his castle, so the family let
him in
But what's important in that kingdom, is the
women and children

A husband and a father, every man's a king
But he's really just a drone, gathers no
honey has no sting

Have pity on the general, the king and the
captain
They know they're expendable, after all
they're men

Loudon Wainwright III:
<https://youtu.be/Yg6Zu1L6gSA>

MGB-GT

~ Richard Thompson

Oh I've got a little car and she might go far
She's the mistress of my heart now
She's a '65 with an overdrive
And I fixed her in every part now
Two in the front and two in the back
110 on the old Hog's Back

My MGB-GT, she's a runner now
MGB-GT
Oh my MGB-GT, she's a runner now

Oh I welded the sills and the old floor pan
Cut the rust with the torch and the hacksaw
Took the Rostyles off, put the spoked
wheels on
Got a brand new Salisbury axle
When I come to town the girls all smile
They say "Here's the man with the retro
style"

My MGB-GT, she's a runner now
MGB-GT
Oh my MGB-GT, she's a runner now

Lockheed discs and twin SUs
Original chrome on the grille now
She looks like a dream in her racing green
Competition's standing still now
I sprayed up her body, I strengthened the
frame
I stripped her right down and I built her up
again

My MGB-GT, she's a runner now
MGB-GT
Oh my MGB-GT, she's a runner now

Now an Alpine's fine if you've got the time
And a Healey'll set you back some
And a TR4 costs a little bit more
But it don't have the same attraction

Hard top handy, in case of the weather
I don't care if it rains forever

In my MGB-GT, she's a runner now
MGB-GT
In my MGB-GT, she's a runner now
MGB-GT
In my MGB-GT, she's a runner now

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/H7Tqbd5sjWI>

Mingulay Boat Song

~ Hugh S. Robertson

Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys
Heave her head round into the weather
Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys,
Sailing homeward to Mingulay

What care we though white the Minch is
What care we, boys, for windy weather
When we know that every inch is
Closer homeward to Mingulay

Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys
Heave her head round into the weather
Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys,
Sailing homeward to Mingulay

Wives are waiting at the pierhead
Gazing seaward from the heather
Heave her head round and we'll anchor
Ere the sun sets on Mingulay

Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys
Heave her head round into the weather
Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys,
Sailing homeward to Mingulay

Longer, longer shall I tarry
Where our hearts are both blithe and merry,
Turn her 'round boys, and she'll carry
Hearts to hearth, home, and Mingulay

Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys
Heave her head round into the weather
Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys,
Sailing homeward to Mingulay

When the wind is wild with shouting
And the waves mount ever higher
Anxious eyes turn ever seaward
See us home, boys, to Mingulay

Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys

Heave her head round into the weather
Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys,
Sailing homeward to Mingulay

Ships return now, heavy laden
Mothers holdin' bairns a-cryin'
They'll return, though, when the sun sets
They'll return, boys, to Mingulay

Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys
Heave her head round into the weather
Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys,
Sailing homeward to Mingulay

Lights are shining on the harbor
Lights are shining to guide us home
Heel her home, boys, and we'll anchor
Safe and sound in Mingulay

Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys
Heave her head round into the weather
Heel ya ho, boys, let her go, boys,
Sailing homeward to Mingulay

Additional verses

* verse 3: Lew Toulmin (c2003)

* verses 4-5: Derek Byrne (?)

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/U_5H0xMCPsM

Mingus Eyes

~ Richard Thompson

What a fool I was. What a thin disguise.
Brando mumble, Mingus eyes

Was a time she fell, but then she got wise
Brando mumble, Mingus eyes

I never had the squint of James Dean, or
the Stanislavsky tears
Or the rebel hunch that kills, or the smile
that slowly disappears

What a fool I was. What a thin disguise.
Brando mumble, Mingus eyes
Brando mumble, Mingus eyes

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/M9fmhKfyTs0>

Mr. Sellack

~ Terre Roche

O Mr Sellack

Can I have my job back?

I've run out of money again.

Last time I saw ya

I was singing Hallelujah

I'm so glad to be leavin' this restaurant.

Now the only thing I want

Is to have my old job back again.

I'll clean the tables;

I'll do the creams;

I'll get down on my knees and scrub
behind the steam table.

O Mr. Sellack

I didn't think I'd be back.

I worked here last year

Remember?

I came when Annie

Was going on vacation

And I stayed on almost till December.

Now the only thing I want

Is to have my old job back again.

I won't be nasty to customers no more.

When they send their burger back I'll tell
them that

I'm sorry.

Waiting tables ain't that bad.

Since I've seen you last, I've waited

for some things that you would not believe

To come true.

Give me a broom and I'll sweep my way to
heaven.

Give me a job;

You name it.

Let the other forty-million three-hundred and
seven

People who want to get famous.

Now the only thing I want

Is to have that old job back again.

I'll clean the tables;

I'll do the creams;

I'll get down on my knees and scrub
behind the steam table.

The Roches:

<https://youtu.be/mQMwU3TrVE0>

Mrs. Rita

~ Richard Thompson

God keep and preserve you, we'll love you
always

Oh kind Mrs. Rita I never will tell
The way that you keep us poor girls here in
hell
And I never will sneak to the News of the
World

Oh kind Mrs. Rita
Sincere Mrs. Rita
A friend to a stranger, a ma to a girl

With the chalking and cutting and stitching
and such
We earn what we earn and it isn't too much
Enough to keep half a step higher than
trash

Oh kind Mrs. Rita
Sincere Mrs. Rita
So loose with the purse strings, so free with
the cash

Some guardian angel take pity and sweep
me away
Seems I work every hour God sends in a
day
To line the pockets of Rita O'Connor
To line the pockets of Rita O'Connor

Oh you can't call it stealing, more helping
yourself
If the odd pair of nylons should fall off the
shelf
And fall into somebody's handbag let's say

Oh kind Mrs. Rita
Sincere Mrs. Rita
It sort of makes up for the pitiful pay

Oh kind Mrs. Rita
Sincere Mrs. Rita

The Mother's Lament

A mother was washing her baby one night;
The youngest of ten and a delicate mite.
The mother was poor and the baby was
thin;
'Twas naught but a skeleton covered with
skin.

The mother turned 'round for a soap off the
rack.
She was only a moment but when she got
back
Her baby had gone, and in anguish she
cried,
"Oh, where has my baby gone?" The angels
replied

Oh, your baby has gone down the plug hole.
Oh, your baby has gone down the plug.
The poor little thing was so skinny and thin,
He should have been washed in a jug, in a
jug.

Your baby is perfectly happy;
He won't need a bath anymore.
He's a-muckin' about with the angels above,
Not lost but gone before.

Cream: <https://youtu.be/zCrPZEJUlus>

My Husband's Got No Courage In Him

[Roud 870]

As I went out one May morning
To view the fields and leaves a-springing
I saw two maidens standing by
And one of them her hands was wringing

Oh dear-o ! oh dear-o !
My husband's got no courage in him.
Oh dear-o !

Me husband's admired wherever he goes
And everyone looks well upon him
With his handsome features and
 well-shaped leg
But still he's got no courage in him

Me husband can dance and caper and sing
And do anything that's fitting for him
But he cannot do the thing I want
Because he's got no courage in him

All sorts of vittles I did provide
A sorts of meats that's fitting for him
With oyster pie and rhubarb too
But still he's got no courage in him

Every night when I goes to bed
I lie and throw me leg right o'er him
And me hand I clamp between his thighs
But I can't put any courage in him

Seven long years I've made his bed
And every night I've lain beside him
But this morning I rose with me maidenhead
For still he's got no courage in him

I wish me husband he was dead
And in his grave I'd quickly lay him
And then I'd find another one
That had a little courage in him

So all ye maids come listen to me
Don't marry a man before you've tried him
Or else you'll sing this song like me
Me husband's got no courage in him

June Tabor and Maddy Prior:

<https://youtu.be/WgEp2MGx30M>

My Husband's Got No Porridge In Him

~ Les Barker

As I walked out one May morning
To view the fields and the leaves a-springing
I saw three bears come sailing in
And mother bear her hands was wringing;

Oh dear oh.
Oh dear oh.
My husband's got no porridge in him.
Oh dear oh.

His Quaker Oats I did supply;
I put three plates upon the table
But someone else was in the house
And ate as much as they was able.
Oh dear oh....

One plate hot and one plate cold
And one plate somewhere in between 'em.
Someone had the bloomin' lot;
I didn't even have to clean 'em.
Oh dear oh...

Three empty plates, and never think
To save a little for the needy;
No; the hot stuff has gone down the sink;
The cold has blocked the soddin' bidet.
Oh dear oh...

My husband sits in his armchair
And gazes out at the infinite-,
But when he came back home today
Someone had been sitting in it.
Oh dear oh;...

There was no tea left in the pot;
Someone had been in and drank it;
Then I went into his room
And found a blonde beneath the blanket.
Oh dear oh;...

I went and I confronted him;
He played the innocent; what's more, he
Said she must have broken in;
Well, what a bloody fairy story.
Oh dear oh;...

I'm going home to mother's house
And as for him, I'll not be fretting;
He'll get his own tea now, the louse;
That's all the oats that he'll be getting.
Oh dear oh;...

Norma Waterson:

<https://youtu.be/adv0timzjbY>

My Images Come

~ Don Cooper (c1983)

My images come
From the people that do the work
From the people that sing the song
From the people that live the life
And the people what get along
And a bottle of rum
From the demon that always lurk
From the demon that do me wrong
From the fury that is me wife
And the struggle what is me song

Oh, it get me down sometime
It get me down but only
A little look around and I find
That I am not so lonely
We in the same boat brother
We in the same boat brother.

My images come
From the pleasure I had before
From the pleasure I am to know
From the pleasure my dreams provide
And the pleasure I can bestow
And a bottle of rum
From the trouble that's at my door
From the trouble where're I go
From the misfortune I abide
And the courage I am trying to show

Oh, it get me down sometime
It get me down but only
A little look around and I find
That I am not so lonely
We in the same boat brother
We in the same boat brother.

My images come
From the woman that's on my knee
From the woman that's in my head
From the woman out in the sun
And the woman what shares my bed

And a bottle of rum
From a broken heart's misery
From a love that has grown so dead
From a love spent so foolishly
And illusions that I've been fed

Oh, it get me down sometime
It get me down but only
A little look around and I find
That I am not so lonely
We in the same boat brother
We in the same boat brother.

And my images come
From the world in which I live
From the world I love so well
From the world of change and light
And the Lord of which I tell
And a bottle of rum
From the feelings I cannot give
From the feelings my fears impel
From the screams of a fraught-filled night
And the time what is spent in hell

Oh, it get me down sometime
It get me down but only
A little look around and I find
That I am not so lonely
We in the same boat brother
We in the same boat brother
We in the same boat brother
We in the same boat brother
And my images come.

Bok, Muir, & Trickett:
<https://youtu.be/IQQyS-Afpro>

Navigator

~ Phil Gaston

The canals and the bridges, the
embankments and cuts,
They blasted and dug with their sweat and
their guts
They never drank water but whiskey by
pints
And the shanty towns rang with their songs
and their fights.

Navigator, Navigator rise up and be strong
The morning is here and there's work to be
done.
Take your pick and your shovel and the bold
dynamite
For to shift a few tons of this earthly delight
Yes to shift a few tons of this earthly delight.

They died in their hundreds with no sign to
mark where
Save the brass in the pocket of the
entrepreneur.
By landslide and rockblast they got buried
so deep
That in death if not life they'll have peace
while they sleep.

Navigator, Navigator rise up and be strong
The morning is here and there's work to be
done.
Take your pick and your shovel and the bold
dynamite
For to shift a few tons of this earthly delight
Yes to shift a few tons of this earthly delight.

Their mark on this land is still seen and still
laid
The way for a commerce where vast
fortunes were made
The supply of an Empire where the sun
never set

Which is now deep in darkness, but the
railway's there yet.

Navigator, Navigator rise up and be strong
The morning is here and there's work to be
done.
Take your pick and your shovel and the bold
dynamite
For to shift a few tons of this earthly delight
Yes to shift a few tons of this earthly delight.

The Pogues:

https://youtu.be/Fh0F41AvO_Q

Nearly In Love

~ Richard Thompson

Love makes people so blind
That's why I can't make up my mind
If you stop me dead in my tracks
Or you just paper over the cracks

You're the one I've wanted so long
But then again I might be wrong
Now you look just right in the pale moonlight
But let me turn the headlights on

'Cause I'm nearly in love
I'm nearly in love
I'm almost aware of walking on air
Yes, I'm nearly in love

I'm nearly in love
I'm nearly in love
I wish I was really, I'd love to dearly
But I'm nearly in love

I don't want to cause you doubt
But I'm really checking you out
You're the closest to my heart bar none
Except for my wallet and my gun

I never felt like this before
That's why I want to make quite sure
That it's not just a dose of the 'flu
That gives me the chills for you

I'm nearly in love
I'm nearly in love
I'm almost aware of walking on air
Yes I'm nearly in love

I'm nearly in love
I'm nearly in love
I wish I was really, I'd love to dearly
But I'm nearly in love

I reserve the right to love you

After all I'm the first in line
I'm not one for shout and screaming
Mine, all mine, all mine, all mine, all mine

I'm nearly in love
I'm nearly in love
I'm almost aware of walking on air
Yes I'm nearly in love

I'm nearly in love
I'm nearly in love
I wish I was really, I'd love to dearly
But I'm nearly in love

Richard Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/m8PaeLQneCI>

Never Again

~ Richard Thompson

O who will remember, O who will be sure
And still feel the silence as close as before
And was there a season without any rain,
And never, O never, O never again?

The time for dividing and no-one will speak
Of the sadness of hiding, and the softness
of sleep
O will there be nothing of peace 'till the end,
Or never, O never, O never again?

Old man how you tarry, old man how you
weep
The trinkets you carry and the garlands you
keep
For the salt tears of lovers and the whispers
of friends
Come never, O never, O never again

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/FrZzBhPRC80>

Never Ever Lay Them Down

~ Nancy Kerr

Cast down in stony gardens,
Sweet visitor we heard you say,
There grows no grass,
And none shall pass,
'Til some great day of judgement.

Oh, are we bound for glory,
Born on a little fortune's way,
Or are we bound,
For some dark town,
And some great northern story?

And it's cold, cold, the winter's hold,
She shall not think of stalling,
She's proud, proud,
Of every cloud,
And will never ever lay them down.

Love, Love, the winds above,
Do blow towards your calling,
Behold in dreams,
Your true love's schemes,
And never ever lay them down.

Oh, once I played the lover,
To follow on a swallow's tail,
And what I'd give
For to relive,
My days of being a rover.

But wrapped in love's embraces,
Like summer in a silken gown,
How could I pawn,
What we have sworn,
Lay down your gold and silver.

And it's cold, cold, the winter's hold,
She shall not think of stalling,
She's proud, proud,
Of every cloud,
And will never ever lay them down.

Love, Love, the winds above,
Do blow towards your calling,
Behold in dreams,
Your true love's schemes,
And never ever lay them down.

Do you see black peaks a-gleaming,
Did you ever see a magpie's wing,
My love did rob,
Those greedy gods,
To fill our hearts with singing.

Cast down by steel cathedrals,
My lover is a fallen star,
Whose spark shall stoke,
This heart that broke,
Held in his hand a-beating.

And it's cold, cold, the winter's hold,
She shall not think of stalling,
She's proud, proud,
Of every cloud,
And will never ever lay them down.

Love, Love, the winds above,
Do blow towards your calling,
Behold in dreams,
Your true love's schemes,
And never ever lay them down.

Kind eyes in trepidation,
Whatever do you here behold,
Bold labour's done,
And nothing won,
Grey stone around your children.

But freedom's eyes are golden,
And glitter like a silver crown,
And none shall fear,
While love is here,
Cast down in stony gardens.

And it's cold, cold, the winter's hold,

She shall not think of stalling,
She's proud, proud,
Of every cloud,
And will never ever lay them down.

Love, Love, the winds above,
Do blow towards your calling,
Behold in dreams,
Your true love's schemes,
And never ever lay them down.

Nancy Kerr & James Fagan:

https://youtu.be/H3cLv_gQ7XM

The New Mistress

~ A. E. Housman / Ian Robb

I will go where I am wanted, to a lady born
and bred
Who will dress me free for nothing in a
uniform of red;
She will not be sick to see me if I only keep
it clean:
I will go where I am wanted for a soldier of
the Queen.

Oh, sick I am to see you, will you never let
me be?
You may be good for something, but you are
not good for me.
Oh, go where you are wanted, for you are
not wanted here.
And that was all the fond farewell when I
parted from my dear.

I will go where I am wanted, to a lady born
and bred
Who will dress me free for nothing in a
uniform of red;
She will not be sick to see me if I only keep
it clean:
I will go where I am wanted for a soldier of
the Queen.

I will go where I am wanted, for the sergeant
does not mind;
He may be sick to see me but he treats me
very kind:
He gives me beer and breakfast and a
ribbon for my cap,
And I never knew a sweetheart spend her
money on a chap.

I will go where I am wanted, to a lady born
and bred
Who will dress me free for nothing in a
uniform of red;

She will not be sick to see me if I only keep
it clean:
I will go where I am wanted for a soldier of
the Queen.

I will go where I am wanted, where there's
room for one or two,
And the men are none too many for the
work there is to do;
Where the standing line wears thinner and
the dropping dead lie thick;
And the enemies of England they shall see
me and be sick.

I will go where I am wanted, to a lady born
and bred
Who will dress me free for nothing in a
uniform of red;
She will not be sick to see me if I only keep
it clean:
I will go where I am wanted for a soldier of
the Queen.

The New St. George

~ Richard Thompson

The time has come for action
Leave your satisfaction
Can't you hear St. George's tune
St. George's tune is calling on you
Freedom was your mother
Fight for one another
Leave the factory, leave the forge
Dance to the new St. George

Don't believe pretenders
Who say they would defend us
While they flash their teeth and wave
The other hand is being paid
They choke the air and bleed us
These noble men who lead us
Leave the factory, leave the forge
Dance to the new St. George

The fish and fowl are ailing
The farmer's life is failing
Where are all the backroom boys
The backroom boys can't save us now
We're poisoned by the greedy
Who plunder on the needy
Leave the factory, leave the forge
Dance to the new St. George

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/PD5DTQnujxc>

Night Comes In

~ Richard Thompson

Night comes in
Like some cool river
How can there be
Be another day
Take my hand
O real companion
And we'll dance
We'll dance 'till we fade away

O the songs
Pour down like silver
They can only
Only break my heart
Drink the wine
The wine of lovers
Lovers tired of being apart

Dancing 'till my feet don't touch the ground
I lose my mind and dance forever
Lose my mind and dance forever
Turn my world around
Turn my world around

O this night
Is like no other
And this room
Is ringing in my ears
And these friends
Will never leave me
And these tears
Are like no other tears

Dancing 'till my feet don't touch the ground
I lose my mind and dance forever
Lose my mind and dance forever
Turn my world around
Turn my world around

Well I may find
That street tomorrow
Leave the shadow

Of my lonely room
See my one
My one and only
Heart and soul
I'm coming soon

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/KCUZTOloaMY>

No More Fish, No Fisherman

~ I. Sheldon Posen

Out along the harbour reach
Boats stand dried up on the beach
Ghost-like in the early dawn
Empty, now the fish are gone.

What will become of people now?
Try to build a life somehow
Hard, hard times are back again
No more fish, no fishermen.

No more shoppers in the stores
Since the fish plant closed its doors
Men who walked a trawler's decks
Now line up for welfare cheques.

There's big "For Sale" signs everywhere
Pockets empty, cupboards bare
See it on the news at ten
No more fish, no fishermen.

Once from Ship Cove to Cape Race
Port aux Basques to Harbour Grace
Newfoundlanders fished for cod
Owing merchants, trusting God.

They filled their dories twice a day
They fished their poor sweet lives away
They could not imagine then
No more fish, no fishermen.

Back before the Second War
We could catch our fish inshore
Boats were small and gear was rough
We caught fish, but left enough.

And now there's no more fish because
The trawler fleets took all there was
We could see it coming then
No more fish, no fishermen.

Farewell now to stage and flake

Get out for the children's sake
Leave all friends and kin behind
Take whatever job you find.

There's some that say things aren't so black
They say the fish will all come back
Who'll be here to catch them then?
No more fish, no fishermen.

The melody is by John Goss, Victorian composer. The melody is best known as a common setting for "See Amid the Winter Snow", but has also been used for the great Australian union song "Bring Out the Banners" by John Warner and for Kay Sutcliffe's "Coal not Dole", which inspired Shelley to write these words.

Finest Kind: <https://youtu.be/NX6dJgmof0E>

David Coffin: <https://youtu.be/UKh9AjGSiVg>

Nobody's Wedding

~ Richard Thompson

Everybody came to nobody's wedding
Everybody knew it was bound to be a hoot
What can you do when nothing else is
 cooking
Make your own amusement, bring a pile of
 loot

There was Alice the butcher, Tidy and Gunn
Who couldn't see where they were heading
It was sixteen days and sixteen nights,
And it weren't even nobody's wedding

What a great reception, all the people cried
Who stole the groom and who stole the
 bride
How did the countess slide underneath the
 door
Why is the wild boy chopping up the floor?

There was Alice the butcher, Tidy and Gunn
Who couldn't see where they were heading
It was sixteen days and sixteen nights,
And it weren't even nobody's wedding

I didn't hear the sound of the tin cans rattle
I didn't hear a teardrop, I didn't hear a
 prattle
Didn't hear the words of the bible being read
When it's nobody's wedding, nobody's wed

There was Alice the butcher, Tidy and Gunn
Who couldn't see where they were heading
It was sixteen days and sixteen nights,
And it weren't even nobody's wedding

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/LimB1Ei-QF0>

Northwest Passage

~ Stan Rogers

Ah, for just one time I would take the
Northwest Passage
To find the hand of Franklin reaching for the
Beaufort Sea
Tracing one warm line through a land so
wild and savage
And make a Northwest Passage to the sea

Westward from the Davis Strait 'tis there
'twas said to lie
The sea route to the Orient for which so
many died
Seeking gold and glory, leaving weathered,
broken bones
And a long-forgotten lonely cairn of stones

Ah, for just one time I would take the
Northwest Passage
To find the hand of Franklin reaching for the
Beaufort Sea
Tracing one warm line through a land so
wild and savage
And make a Northwest Passage to the sea

Three centuries thereafter, I take passage
overland
In the footsteps of brave Kelso, where his
"sea of flowers" began
Watching cities rise before me, then behind
me sink again
This tardiest explorer, driving hard across
the plain

Ah, for just one time I would take the
Northwest Passage
To find the hand of Franklin reaching for the
Beaufort Sea
Tracing one warm line through a land so
wild and savage
And make a Northwest Passage to the sea

And through the night, behind the wheel, the
mileage clicking west
I think upon Mackenzie, David Thompson
and the rest
Who cracked the mountain ramparts and
did show a path for me
To race the roaring Fraser to the sea

Ah, for just one time I would take the
Northwest Passage
To find the hand of Franklin reaching for the
Beaufort Sea
Tracing one warm line through a land so
wild and savage
And make a Northwest Passage to the sea

How then am I so different from the first
men through this way?
Like them, I left a settled life, I threw it all
away
To seek a Northwest Passage at the call of
many men
To find there but the road back home again

Ah, for just one time I would take the
Northwest Passage
To find the hand of Franklin reaching for the
Beaufort Sea
Tracing one warm line through a land so
wild and savage
And make a Northwest Passage to the sea

Stan Rogers:

<https://youtu.be/xMRpYtAhGAo>

Now Be Thankful

~ Dave Swarbrick / Richard Thompson

When the stone is grown too cold to kneel
In crystal waters I'll be bound
Cold as stone, weary to the sounds upon
the wheel

Now be thankful for good things below
Now be thankful to your maker
For the rose, the red rose blooms for all to
know

When the fire is grown too fierce to breathe
In burning irons I'll be bound
Fierce as fire, weary to the sounds upon the
wheel

Now be thankful for good things below
Now be thankful to your maker
For the rose, the red rose blooms for all to
know

When the stone is grown too cold to kneel
In crystal waters I'll be bound
Cold as stone, weary to the sounds upon
the wheel

Now be thankful for good things below
Now be thankful to your maker
For the rose, the red rose blooms for all to
know

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/aNntosG4oIA>

Now Is the Cool of the Day

~ Jean Ritchie

My Lord, He said unto me
Do you like my garden so fair
You may live in this garden, if you keep the
grasses green
And I'll return in the cool of the day

Now is the cool of the day
Now is the cool of the day
Oh this earth it is a garden, the garden of
my Lord
And he walks in his garden
In the cool of the day

And my Lord, He said unto me
Do you like my pastures so green
You may live in this garden if you will feed
my lambs
And I'll return in the cool of the day

Now is the cool of the day
Now is the cool of the day
Oh this earth it is a garden, the garden of
my Lord
And he walks in his garden
In the cool of the day

And my Lord, He said unto me
Do you like my garden so pure
You may live in this garden, if you keep the
waters clean
And I'll return in the cool of the day

Now is the cool of the day
Now is the cool of the day
Oh this earth it is a garden, the garden of
my Lord
And he walks in his garden
In the cool of the day

And my Lord, He said unto me
Do you like my garden so free

You may live in this garden if you keep the
people free
And I'll return in the cool of the day

Now is the cool of the day
Now is the cool of the day
Oh, this earth is a garden, the garden of my
Lord
And he walks in his garden
In the cool of the day
Yes he walks in His garden
In the cool of the day

Jean Ritchie:

<https://youtu.be/vv46mxx0OS0>

Oak, Ash and Thorn

[words Rudyard Kipling, music Peter Bellamy]

Of all the trees that grow so fair,
Old Engerland to adorn,
Greater are none beneath the Sun,
Than Oak and Ash and Thorn.
Sing Oak and Ash and Thorn, good Sirs
(All of a Midsummer's morn)!
Surely we sing of no little thing,
In Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Oak of the Clay lived many a day,
Or ever Aeneas began;
Ash of the Loam was a lady at home,
When Brut was an outlaw man;
Thorn of the Down saw New Troy Town
(From which was London born);
Witness hereby the ancients
Of Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Sing Oak and Ash and Thorn, good Sirs
(All of a Midsummer's morn)!
Surely we sing of no little thing,
In Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Yew that is old in churchyard mould,
He breedeth a mighty bow;
Alder for shoes do wise men choose,
And beech for cups also.
But when ye have killed, and your bowl is
spilled,
Your shoes are clean outworn,
Back ye must speed for all that ye need,
To Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Sing Oak and Ash and Thorn, good Sirs
(All of a Midsummer's morn)!
Surely we sing of no little thing,
In Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Ellum she hateth mankind, and waiteth
Till every gust be laid,

To drop a limb on the head of him
That anyway trusts her shade:
But whether a lad be sober or sad,
Or mellow with ale from the horn,
He'll take no wrong when he lieth along
'Neath Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Sing Oak and Ash and Thorn, good Sirs
(All of a Midsummer's morn)!
Surely we sing of no little thing,
In Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Oh, do not tell the Priest our plight,
Or he would call it a sin;
But—we have been out in the woods all
night,
A-conjuring Summer in!
And we bring you news by word of mouth—
Good news for cattle and corn—
Now is the Sun come up from the South,
With Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Sing Oak and Ash and Thorn, good Sirs
(All of a Midsummer's morn)!
Surely we sing of no little thing,
In Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Sing Oak and Ash and Thorn, good Sirs
(All of a Midsummer's morn)!
England shall bide till Judgement Tide,
By Oak and Ash and Thorn!

Fay Hield: <https://youtu.be/UgluNuQIZJ4>

The Old Changing Way

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/fRCzvMNIZqg>

I'm Darby the tinker, and my brother is Tam
We go where the work is, me boys, and we
work where we can
With the mending and fixing, it's together we
stay
Intending our fortunes to try on the Old
Changing Way

We come to your cities and we call on your
wives
We'll fix up your kettles, please dear missus,
we'll sharpen your knives
And we always agreed that together we'd
stay
Intending our fortunes to try on the Old
Changing Way

Now times they grow scanty and the money
grew thin
We worked for a song but the money it
didn't come in
Now brothers are kindred but hard times
betray
And so we stumbled apart on the Old
Changing Way

We never agreed to divide our tin
And when you're out of love with your
brother your hard times begin
For the spikes and the brothels, they are
shameful to see
But don't you travel alone, boys, this
warning you take from me

You must share with your nearest 'till the
end of your days
Or else it's forever you'll roam the Old
Changing Way.

The Old Churchyard

[Roud 3386]

Come, come with me out to the old
churchyard,
I so well know those paths 'neath the soft
green sward.
Friends slumber in there that we want to
regard;
We will trace out their names in the old
churchyard.

Mourn not for them, their trials are o'er,
And why weep for those who will weep no
more?
For sweet is their sleep, though cold and
hard
Their pillows may be in the old churchyard.

I know that it's vain when our friends depart
To breathe kind words to a broken heart;
And I know that the joy of life is marred
When we follow lost friends to the old
churchyard.

But were I at rest 'neath yonder tree,
Oh, why would you weep, my friends, for
me?
I'm so weary, so wayworn, why would you
retard
The peace I seek in the old churchyard?

Why weep for me, for I'm anxious to go
To that haven of rest where no tears ever
flow;
And I fear not to enter that dark lonely tomb
Where our saviour has lain and conquered
the gloom.

I rest in the hope that one bright day
Sunshine will burst to these chambers* of
clay,
And old Gabriel's trumpet and voice of the
Lord

Will wake up the dead in the old churchyard.

* originally: "prisons"

Almeda Riddle from Heber Springs,
Arkansas, sang The Old Churchyard in
1972 on her Rounder album Ballads and
Hymns from the Ozarks.

Waterson:Carthy sang The Old Churchyard
in 2002 on their fourth album, A Dark
Light.

Olivia Chaney sang The Old Churchyard in
2017 on Offa Rex's CD The Queen of
Hearts.

Offa Rex: <https://youtu.be/XLodKmSoTU0>

The Old Red Duster

~ John Archbold

Now it's many's the day since I first sailed
away

With my new cap and jacket so clean
No bacon and eggs 'til I got my sea legs
'Twas my first trip, O Lord I was green.

Oh that Old Red Duster on a tramp or a
liner
There'll be no 'Pusser Navy' for me
You can keep your salutes and your spit
polished boots,
It's the Old Red Duster for me.

Now in many's the ship I've made many's
the trip
'Cross oceans and seas calm and wild
And in ports near and far I've been flung
from the bar
And it's many's the young girl beguiled.

I was pulled from the pool, I was nobody's
fool
'Twas the jaunt to Murmansk for me.
But The Union said, No, as a fourth he can't
go'
It's The Union forever for me.

Oh that Old Red Duster on a tramp or a
liner
There'll be no 'Pusser Navy' for me
You can keep your salutes and your spit
polished boots,
It's the Old Red Duster for me.

Now you know this old tramp's got a foc'sle
that's damp
Her plates are half sprung and they leak
The food's always bad and the skipper's
gone mad
And those bastards the owners are cheap.

Well I've sweated and slaved at that engine
I've raved
Nursing this cripple along
Her glands they're a-weeping and her
pumps they're a creakin'
And at six knots she's racing along.

Oh that Old Red Duster on a tramp or a
liner
There'll be no 'Pusser Navy' for me
You can keep your salutes and your spit
polished boots,
It's the Old Red Duster for me.

I've been down in the hole in the dust and
the coal
All day and all night as well.
And when my end's near I'll go without fear
For I know it's been hotter than Hell!

So now you all know why the true sailors go
Merchant seamen to be
And if you want any more like what's come
before
You can bloody well sing it to me.

Oh that Old Red Duster on a tramp or a
liner
There'll be no 'Pusser Navy' for me
You can keep your salutes and your spit
polished boots,
It's the Old Red Duster for me.

Bob Walser: https://youtu.be/fl_72Fwm4OQ

The Old Rose & Crown

~ Ian Robb

Good friends, gather round and I'll tell you a tale.

It's a story well known to all lovers of ale.

The old English pub, once a man's second home

Has been decked out by brewers in plastic and foam.

What have they done to the old Rose and Crown?

The Ship, the King's Arms, and the World Upside Down.

For oak, brass, and leather, and a pint of the best

Fade away like the sun as it sinks in the west.

And the old oaken bar where the pumps filled your glass

Gives way to Formica and tanks full of gas.

And the landlord behind, once a man of good cheer

Just mumbles the price as he hands you your beer.

What have they done to the old Rose and Crown?

The Ship, the King's Arms, and the World Upside Down.

For oak, brass, and leather, and a pint of the best

Fade away like the sun as it sinks in the west.

And where are the friends who would meet for a jar,

Or a good game of darts in the old public bar?

The dartboard is gone, in its place is a thing
Where you pull on the handle and lose all your tin.

What have they done to the old Rose and Crown?

The Ship, the King's Arms, and the World Upside Down.

For oak, brass, and leather, and a pint of the best

Fade away like the sun as it sinks in the west.

But the worst of it all's what they've done to the beer.

For their shandies and lagers that will make you feel queer.

For an arm and a leg, they will fill up your glass

With a half and half mixture of ullage and gas.

What have they done to the old Rose and Crown?

The Ship, the King's Arms, and the World Upside Down.

For oak, brass, and leather, and a pint of the best

Fade away like the sun as it sinks in the west.

So come all you good people who like to sup ale

Here's hope to a happier end to my tale
For there's nothing can fill a man's heart with more cheer

Than to sit in a pub with a pint of good beer.

What have they done to the old Rose and Crown?

The Ship, the King's Arms, and the World Upside Down.

For oak, brass, and leather, and a pint of the best

Fade away like the sun as it sinks in the west.

Ian Robb: <https://youtu.be/7KsM5nQv--4>

The Old Tradition

~ Pete Smith

He was born to sing in harmony
And sang of oceans blue.
Of storms and whales and sailor's tales
And Foundlands old and new.
Of roving blades and busty maids
Who in Yarmouth Town roamed free
But the capstan stopped when the anchor
dropped
Far away from his home and sea

And still he sings in harmony
As he did when on the land
For the old tradition still lives on
In the songs of everyman

He always sang in harmony
As he crept on through the night
Like old daddy fox on a hunting trip
Listening out for the farmer's wife
But the fox is sly and cunning
And wise to the hunter's game
But like an innocent hare in the poachers
snare
He was trapped by his early fame

And still he sings in harmony
As he did when on the land
For the old tradition still lives on
In the songs of everyman

He wrote and sang the harmony
For kippling's khaki lads
Of Tommy's and Jim's and Ghunga Dins
And nights in the Kyber Pass
But the soldier fights for money
When his Queen and generals call
But the jewel in the crown will quickly
Fade when the empire starts to fall

And still he sings in harmony
As he did when on the land

For the old tradition still lives on
In the songs of everyman

He even sang in harmony
On his way to Van Diemen's land
Of cabin boys and sailor's joys
And the tales of the old deck hand
Of shackles and chains and poachers
names
And those in Newgate Gaol
Though he found his way into Botany Bay
He'd searched for the Holy Grail

And still he sings in harmony
As he did when on the land
For the old tradition still lives on
In the songs of everyman

And still he sings in harmony
As he did when in his teens
Amongst the whores and poaching boys
Beneath the barley' oats and beans
And still they sing with gusto
As they did when on the land
For the old tradition still lives on,
In the songs of everyman

And still he sings in harmony
As he did when on the land
For the old tradition still lives on
In the songs of everyman

And he always sang in harmony
And sang about us all
Of poachers, sailors, little tailors,
Soldiers on the brawl
And still he sings with gusto
As he did when on the land
For the old tradition still lives on,
In the songs of everyman

Pete Smith:

[https://petesmith1.bandcamp.com/track/
the-old-tradition](https://petesmith1.bandcamp.com/track/the-old-tradition)

One Door Opens

~ Richard Thompson

One door opens, another shuts behind
One sun sets and another sun she rises
Love comes to you in old familiar ways
Love comes to you in shadows and
disguises

She may quit you, she may forsake you
Drift away like a phantom in a fever
Who walks in to your heart of solitude
Who walks into the lair of the deceiver

They say it was my turn
They say I had it coming
They say that's what you earn
For living through a lie
If I could have my way
I'd leave it all tomorrow
There's sorrow if I stay
I've other fish to fry

When love breaks like a precious string of
pearls
A thousand memories, they roll away and
scatter
Make believe that there's ice runs through
my veins
Shrug my shoulders, as if it doesn't matter

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/Axhek6qwU38>

One Meatball

~ Josh White

A little man walked up and down,
He found an eating place in town,
He read the menu through and through,
To see what fifteen cents could do.

One meat ball, one meat ball,
He could afford but one meat ball.

He told the waiter near at hand,
The simple dinner he had planned.
The guests were startled, one and all,
To hear that waiter loudly call,

“One meat ball, one meat ball?
Hey, this here gent wants one meat ball.”

The little man felt ill at ease,
Said, “Some bread, sir, if you please.”
The waiter hollered down the hall,
“You gets no bread with one meat ball.

“One meat ball, one meat ball,
Well, you gets no bread with one meat ball.”

The little man felt very bad,
One meat ball was all he had,
And in his dreams he hears that call,
“You gets no bread with one meat ball.

“One meat ball, one meat ball,
Well, you gets no bread with one meat ball.”

Soundie: <https://youtu.be/li0qPwn4U8Y>
Josh White: <https://youtu.be/po5rUasUWIg>

Oops! I Did It Again

(Marry, Ageyn Hic Hev Donne Yt)
~ Karl Sandberg-Rami Yacoub

I think I did it again
I made you believe we're more than just
 friends
It might seem like a crush
But it doesn't mean that I'm serious
'Cause to lose all my senses
That is just so typically me
Oh baby, baby

Oops!...I did it again
I played with your heart, got lost in the game
Oh baby, baby
Oops!...You think I'm in love
That I'm sent from above
I'm not that innocent

You see my problem is this
I'm dreaming away
Wishing that heroes, they truly exist
I cry, watching the days
You see I'm a fool in so many ways
But to lose all my senses
That is just so typically me
Oh baby, baby

Oops!...I did it again
I played with your heart, got lost in the game
Oh baby, baby
Oops!...You think I'm in love
That I'm sent from above
I'm not that innocent

Richard Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/3L6j2Z8dK10>

Only Remembered

~ Horatius Bonar (1870); Ira Sankey (1891);
John Tams (1990)

Fading away like the stars in the morning,
Losing their light in the glorious sun,
Thus would we pass from this earth and its
toiling,
Only remembered for what we have done.

Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered for what we have done;
Thus would we pass from this earth and its
toiling,
Only remembered for what we have done.

Only the truth that in life we have spoken,
Only the seed that in life we have sown,
These will pass onward when we are
forgotten,
Only remembered for what we have done.

Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered for what we have done;
These will pass onward when we are
forgotten,
Only remembered for what we have done.

Who'll sing the anthem and who'll tell the
story,
Will the line hold, will it shatter and run,
Shall we at last be united in glory,
Only remembered for what we have done.

Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered for what we have done;
Shall we at last be united in glory,
Only remembered for what we have done.

Coope Boyes Simpson:

<https://youtu.be/eDC2KkQkfsE>

Will Quale's notes

<http://www.towncommonsongs.org/notes/onlyrememberednotes.pdf>

Horatius Bonar, an Edinburgh pastor (1808-89), wrote a ten-stanza poem "The Everlasting Memorial" which was published in his Hymns of Faith and Hope (1860). Ira Sankey, the American religious singer (1840-1908), adapted three stanzas of Bonar's poem, wrote one new stanza, and wrote the music (with its familiar chorus) for the hymn he titled "Only Remembered" in 1891.

In 1986, English folk band Swan Arcade recorded the first three stanzas of Sankey's arrangement.

John Tams ... was asked to write music for 1990's *The Ship*, a play produced in a Glasgow shipyard and set during its final working days (1960s) before the industry's collapse ... Tams found Sankey's "Only Remembered" and adapted it -- taking only Sankey's first stanza and chorus, and to that writing a new second stanza.

Soaring from earth like a fly in molasses
Taken aloft like a slug on the wing;
Seen only dimly through mists as time
passes
Where are the words I am trying to sing?

Vaguely remembered, almost remembered
Vaguely remembered from what I have
sung;
La la la la la la la la la-la-la
Vaguely remembered from what I have sung

Outside of the Inside

~ Richard Thompson

God never listened to Charlie Parker
Charlie Parker lived in vain
Blasphemer, womaniser,
Let a needle numb his brain
Wash away his monkey music
Damn his demons, Damn his pain

And what's the point of Albert Einstein
What do we need Physics for?
Heresy's his inspiration
Corrupt and rotten to the core
Curse his devious mathematics
Curse his deadly atom war

There's a message on the wind
Calling me to glory somewhere
There are signs too deep for the dumb
Like perfume in the air
And when I get to Heaven
I won't realise I'm there

Shakespeare, Isaac Newton
Small ideas for little boys
Adding to the senseless chatter
Adding to the background noise
Hard to hear my oratory
Hard to hear my inner voice

Van gogh, Botticelli
Scraping paint onto a board
Colour is the fuel of madness
That's no way to praise the Lord
Grey's the colour of the pious
Knelt upon the misericord

There's a message on the wind
Calling me to glory somewhere
There are signs too deep for the dumb
Like perfume in the air
And when I get to Heaven
I won't realise I'm there

I'm familiar with the cover
I don't need to read the book
I police the world of action
Inside's where I never look
Got no time to help the worthless
Lotus-eaters, Mandarins, crooks

There's a message on the wind
Calling me to glory somewhere
There are signs too deep for the dumb
Like perfume in the air
And when I get to Heaven
I won't realise I'm there

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/a_dW25rned4

Overseas Call

~ Loudon Wainwright III

I'm in the old world
You're in the new
Gonna pick up the phone
Try to get through
Seven hours and an ocean
Between me and you
Gonna make me an overseas call

A foreign language
In a distant place
A different time zone
With a slower pace
I remember your body
But I forgot your face
Got to make me an overseas call

A few days ago, I called you up
I'm afraid that I woke you up too
The connection was clear
But we didn't connect
I hung up, feeling hung up and blue

This is expensive
I probably should write
But letters take so long
And postcards are just trite
And it's dark over here
But back there there's still light
Gonna make me an overseas call

I hope you're at home
I don't want your machine
I hope you're awake
Not asleep and a dream
And I hope that you love me
Whatever that means

A few days ago, I called you up
I'm afraid that I woke you up too
The connection was clear
But we didn't connect

I hung up, feeling hung up and blue

The fish in the ocean
Will gather around
That telephone cable
They will fathom the sound
Of a lost human voice
Finally found
Gonna make me an overseas call

Loudon Wainwright III:

<https://youtu.be/XLIXcOAorn8>

Painted Ladies

~ Richard Thompson

It's a grey, grey morning, and the rain it do
fall

I'm feeling hungry and low

My bed's so empty, I wish I could call

On the painted ladies I know

When you've got no credit, don't hold no
sway

With the painted ladies I know

It's thank you for nothing, we'll see you
someday

The painted ladies I know

Leave at home, what you value enough

And laugh all your senses away

When you want to love everyone, how can
you love

The painted ladies all say

Those film stars and beauties will please
you tonight

If you go to bed with a book

But they can't hold a candle to something
that trembles

If you need to do more than look

They come from rich fathers and twinkle
their eyes

And you're begging them, please, not to go

When you're starved for some loving, they
can make you feel special

The painted ladies I know

If you're seeking fortune, if you're seeking
fame

And you're looking yourself in the eye

And God help the children playing their
game,

The end of the game is goodbye

They pass through your vision like thoughts
in a dream

Your good times are slipping away

It's time to move on or go down with the
ship,

The painted ladies all say.

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/1AJDwBoDMCg>

Papa's On The House Top

~ Leroy Carr (1932)

Mama made Papa be quiet as a mouse
So Papa climbed on top of the house
Made a lot of whoopee, made a lot of noise
Stood up and cheered with the rest of the
boys

Baby's in the cradle, brother's gone to town
Sister's in the parlor, trying on a gown
Mama's in the kitchen messing all around
Papa's on the house top, won't come down

The Blues they've come, the Blues they've
come
Nobody knows where the Blues come from
The Blues they've gone, the Blues they've
gone
And everybody's happy when the old Blues
gone

Baby's in the cradle, brother's gone to town
Sister's in the parlor, trying on a gown
Mama's in the kitchen messing all around
Papa's on the house top, won't come down

Papa saw a chicken out in the yard
Picked up a rock and hit him hard
Hit him hard, killed him dead
Now the chicken's in the gravy and the
gravy's on the bread

Baby's in the cradle, brother's gone to town
Sister's in the parlor, trying on a gown
Mama's in the kitchen messing all around
Papa's on the house top, won't come down

Hush-a-little baby, don't you cry
Blues gonna leave you by and by
Papa came in, sure was cold
Put the baby in the cradle and the Blues
outdoor

Baby's in the cradle, brother's gone to town
Sister's in the parlor, trying on a gown
Mama's in the kitchen messing all around
Papa's on the house top, won't come down

Jim Kweskin: <https://youtu.be/Hlhrmh3z8D0>

Leroy Carr: <https://youtu.be/MlCjZziJSR0>

Pavanne

~ Richard & Linda Thompson

How do you love a woman
With eyes cold as the barrel of her gun
Who's never missed her mark on anyone
Pavanne, Pavanne, Pavanne

Casino doors swing open, the rich men
raise their eyes
They say who is this beauty as elegant as
ice
And later there's an accident, another
charge d'affair
Is lying in a pool of blood, no witness
anywhere
And they say she was a hundred miles
away
The hotel porter saw her climb the stairs
And the maid with trembling hands knows
what to say
When the judge says "Are you sure," "I'm
sure" she swears

Pavanne, cold steel woman Pavanne
How do you love a woman
With eyes cold as the barrel of her gun
Who's never missed her mark on anyone
Pavanne, Pavanne, Pavanne

At the presidential palace a thousand
people saw
His excellency leave his car and never
make the door
The blood flows from his fingers as he
clutches at the stain
He staggers like a drunken man, lies twisted
in the rain
And they say she grew up well provided for
Her mother used to keep her boys for sure
And father's close attentions led to talk
She learned to stab her food with a silver
fork

Pavanne, cold steel woman Pavanne

And they say she didn't do it for the money
And they say she didn't do it for a man
They say that she did it for the pleasure
The pleasure of the moment

Pavanne, cold steel woman Pavanne
How do you stop this woman
When everyone is moving in a trance
Like prisoners of some slow, courtly dance
Pavanne, Pavanne, Pavanne
Pavanne, Pavanne, Pavanne

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/L030-SO6KQE>

Penny for the Ploughboys

~ Colin Cater

At the end of the year all the fields were
brown in the days when I was young
With corn in the barns, frost in the ground,
and never a green shoot sprung
Then the ploughmen came with their
hobnailed boots and the Molly Dance
rich and slow
And with magical plays and songs of the
land they bade the corn to grow

Only once a year, Penny for the Ploughboys
To keep us in good cheer, multiply the grain
Only once a year, Penny for the Ploughboys
To speed the plough until the year turns
round again

Well, the wind did blow and the sun did
shine and the rain from heaven did fall
Then little Sir John sprung up his head and
he soon grew amazing tall
When the corn was ripe, the harvesters
came and the barns and the breweries
rang
And when all was safely gathered in they
raised their voice and sang.

Only once a year, Penny for the Ploughboys
To keep us in good cheer, multiply the grain
Only once a year, Penny for the Ploughboys
To speed the plough until the year turns
round again

Ah, now the seasons are all changed
around, a slave to the great machines
The fields are ploughed in the high summer
time, by the turn of the year they're
green
Gone are the trades, the horses, the
travellers that followed the seasons
along

And the old pubs close because they can't
resound to the fiddle or the country song

Only once a year, Penny for the Ploughboys
To keep us in good cheer, multiply the grain
Only once a year, Penny for the Ploughboys
To speed the plough until the year turns
round again

Ah, but there's strength in the plays, the
dances and songs that have lasted a
thousand years
There's strength in the hops and barley malt
brewed into a country beer
It puts a spring in the step of an old straw
bear, makes the dancer leap for the sky
When the Molly gangs come to speed the
plough they raise their glass and cry

Only once a year, Penny for the Ploughboys
To keep us in good cheer, multiply the grain
Only once a year, Penny for the Ploughboys
To speed the plough until the year turns
round again

At the end of the year all the fields were
brown in the days when I was young
With corn in the barns, frost in the ground,
and never a green shoot sprung
Then the ploughmen came with their
hobnailed boots and the Molly Dance
rich and slow
And with magical plays and songs of the
land they bade the corn to grow

Nowell Sing We Clear:

<https://youtu.be/Jqg459OonGA>

Pete Coe: <https://youtu.be/nHQ0km0JVbk>

Colin Cater: https://youtu.be/LD_IBL7zKOc

Persuasion

~ Richard Thompson / Tim Finn

You and I, tempted by the promise of a
different life
Time has fled, there's a constant battle
running through my head
I don't know what to do...'cos I still believe
After all the foolish things you put me
through
I could always make a start on something
new
And I've always been a man who's open to
Persuasion

Blind romance, there'll be no half measures
given half a chance
But we never learn, trusting in the fire while
the cruel flame burns
And we need to rebuild what was never
there
What got left behind
After all the foolish things that we've been
through
I could always make a start on something
new
And I'll always be a man who's open to
Persuasion

And it's written in my heart so that
everybody can see it
And it's written in my soul, after all I still
believe it
I still believe it
I still believe it
I still believe it
I still believe it

I don't know what to do...'cos I still believe
After all the foolish things you put me
through
I could always make a start on something
new
And I'll always be a man who's open to

Persuasion - Persuasion

Richard & Teddy Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/mMEoBzIT3eY>

Pharaoh

~ Richard Thompson

Pharaoh he sits in his tower of steel
The dogs of money all at his heel
Magicians cry "Oh truth! Oh real!"
We're all working for the Pharaoh

A thousand eyes, a thousand ears
He feeds us all, he feeds our fears
Don't stir in your sleep tonight, my dears
We're all working for the Pharaoh

It's Egypt land, Egypt land
We're all living in Egypt land
Tell me, brother, don't you understand
We're all working for the Pharaoh

Hidden from the eye of chance
The men of shadow dance a dance
We're all struck into a trance
We're all working for the Pharaoh

The idols rise into the sky
Pyramids soar, Sphinxes lie
Head of dog, Osiris eye
We're all working for the Pharaoh

And it's Egypt land, Egypt land
We're all living in Egypt land
Tell me, brother, don't you understand
We're all working for the Pharaoh

I dig a ditch, I shape a stone
Another battlement for his throne
Another day on earth is flown
We're all working for the Pharaoh

Call it England, you call it Spain
Egypt rules with a whip and chain
Moses free my people again
We're all working for the Pharaoh

And it's Egypt land, Egypt land

We're all living in Egypt land
Tell me, brother, don't you understand
We're all working for the Pharaoh

Pharaoh he sits in his tower of steel
Around his feet the princes kneel
Far beneath we shoulder the wheel
We're all working for the Pharaoh

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/4LycS4Av5K8>

The Philosophers Song

~ Monty Python

Immanuel Kant was a real piss-ant who was
very rarely stable,
Heidegger, Heidegger was a boozy beggar
who could drink you under the table,
David Hume could out-consume Wilhelm
Friedrich Hegel,
And Wittgenstein was a beery swine who
was twice as sloshed as Schlegel.

There's nothing Nietzsche couldn't teach yer
'bout the raising of the wrist,
Socrates himself was permanently pissed.

John Stewart Mill, of his own free will, on
half a pint of shandy was particularly ill,
Plato, they say, could stick it away, half a
crate of whisky every day,
Aristotle, Aristotle was a bugger for the
bottle, Hobbes was fond of his dram,
And Rene Descartes was a drunken fart: "I
drink, therefore I am."

Yes, Socrates himself is particularly missed

-

A lovely little thinker, but a bugger when
he's pissed.

Monty Python:

<https://youtu.be/I9SqQNgDrgg>

A Pilgrim's Way

~ Rudyard Kipling / Peter Bellamy

I will not look for holy saints to guide me on
my way
Or male and female devilkins to lead my
feet astray.
If these be added I rejoice - if not, I shall not
mind
As long as I have leave and choice to meet
my fellow-kind.
For as we come and as we go (and deadly
soon go we!)
The people, lord, Thy people, are good
enough for me.

Thus I will honour pious men whose virtue
shines so bright
(Though none are more amazed than I
when I by chance do right)
And I will pity foolish men for woe their sins
have bred
(Though ninety-nine percent of mine I
brought on my own head)
And Amorite or Eremite or General
Averagee
The people, Lord, Thy people are good
enough for me.

And if the bore me overmuch, I will not
shake mine ears
Recalling many thousand such whom I have
bored to tears
And if they labour to impress I will not doubt
nor scoff
Since I myself have done no less and
sometimes pulled it off
Yes as we are and we are not and we
pretend to be
The people, lord, Thy people, are good
enough for me.

And when they work me random wrong as
oftentimes hath been

I will not cherish hate too long (my hands
are none too clean)
And if they do me random good I will not
feign surprise
No more than those whom I have cheered
with wayside courtesies
Yes as we give and as we take - whate'er
our takings be)
The people, lord, Thy people, are good
enough for me.

Deliver me from every pride - the Middle,
High and Low
That keeps me from a brother's side,
whatever pride he show
And purge me from all heresies of thought
and speech and pen
That bid me judge him otherwise than I am
judged. Amen
For as we live and as we die - if utter Death
there be
The people, lord, Thy people, are good
enough for me.

That I might sing for Crowd or King or
road-borne company
That I may labour in my day, vocation and
degree
To prove the same by deed and name, and
hold unshakenly
(Where'er I go, whate'er I know, whoe'er my
neighbour be)
This single faith in Life and Death and to
Eternity
"The people, lord, Thy people, are good
enough for me."

Peter Bellamy:

<https://youtu.be/CoZ2AH1yuyY>

John Roberts & Tony Barrand:

https://youtu.be/mKZ_MKhcM_0

Piney Mountains

~ Craig Johnson

Sit down buddy and we'll drink and smoke
Woman don't you weep for me
My hands can't fiddle and my heart's been
broke
You damned old piney mountain
Lost my fingers in the Galax mill
Buddy sing a sad old song
And my heart got broke in the yew pine hills
Lord and my time ain't long

I started out to loggin' when I was in my
prime
Woman don't you weep for me
Hitchin' up the spruce to the big drag lines
You damned old piney mountain
Where the skidders start a-buckin' as the
years come down
Buddy sing a sad old song
Makin' God's own thunder on the new-cut
ground
Lord and my time ain't long

We was fightin' over nothin' and drinkin' too
hard
Woman don't you weep for me
Ridin' up to camp on the flat-wheel car
You damned old piney mountain
Thirty years a-hangin' on the old chain
brake
Buddy sing a sad old song
Laid off and paid off in '58
Lord and my time ain't long

And the skidders got sold to a scrap iron
yard
Woman don't you weep for me
I moved down Virginia when the times got
hard
You damned old piney mountain
Lost my fingers to a steel band saw
Buddy sing a sad old song

Now my fiddle just hangs untuned on the
wall
Lord and my time ain't long

And the trees have grown up on the logging
road
Woman don't you weep for me
And the wildflowers bloom where the big
shays blow
You damned old piney mountain
There's nothin' left for me but to drink and
smoke
Buddy sing a sad old song
My hands can't fiddle and my heart's been
broke
Lord and my time ain't long

Bruce Molsky & Craig Johnson (2012):
<https://youtu.be/VJXN8CkP1j4>

A Poisoned Heart And A Twisted Memory

~ Richard Thompson

O you took my word and you took my key
You took my pride and you took my dignity
How can I still pretend
To be what a man should be

Well, whatever I say is in a book
Whatever I do there's someone there to
look
You just can't shake a man
The way that I've been shook

Now is this the way it's supposed to be
Is this the way it's supposed to be
A poisoned heart and a twisted memory
O is this the way it's supposed to be
Is this the way it's supposed to be
A poisoned heart and a twisted memory

O see that lifer doing his time
If I could have his place and he'd have mine
We'd be no better off
On either side of the line

Well, you took my job and you put me to
sleep
You feed me money, you treat me like a
creep
Wish I could get away
But I must be in it too deep

Tell me is this the way it's supposed to be
Is this the way it's supposed to be
A poisoned heart and a twisted memory
O is this the way it's supposed to be
Is this the way it's supposed to be
A poisoned heart and a twisted memory

Well, you tell me you're going to get in touch

You send me a letter that reads like
double-Dutch
You say, you're bound to lose,
You're a little such-and-such

You got my number, you got my rank
You drained my head, you drained my petrol
tank
And when I die of shame
I won't even know who to thank

Now, now, is this the way it's supposed to
be
Is this the way it's supposed to be
A poisoned heart and a twisted memory
O is this the way it's supposed to be
Is this the way it's supposed to be
A poisoned heart and a twisted memory

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/_j7UJf2YoO4

The Poor Ditching Boy

~ Richard Thompson

Was there ever a winter so cold and so sad
The river too weary to flood
The storming wind cut through to my skin
But she cut through to my blood

I was looking for trouble to tangle my line
But trouble came looking for me
I knew I was standing on treacherous
ground
I was sinking too fast to run free

With her scheming, idle ways
She left me poor enough
The storming wind cut through to my skin
But she cut through to my blood

I would not be asking, I would not be seen
A-beggin' on mountain or hill
But I'm ready and blind with my hands tied
behind
I've neither a mind nor a will

With her scheming, idle ways
She left me poor enough
The storming wind cut through to my skin
But she cut through to my blood

It's bitter the need of the poor ditching boy
He'll always believe what they say
They tell him it's hard to be honest and true
Does he mind if he doesn't get paid?

With her scheming, idle ways
She left me poor enough
The storming wind cut through to my skin
But she cut through to my blood

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/FtSNIINCKh0>

Poor Old Horse

[Roud 3724]

They say, old man, your horse will die
(And they say so, and we hope so)
They say, old man, your horse will die
(Oh poor old man)

And if he dies then we'll tan his hide
(And they say so, and we hope so)
Aye and if he dies then we'll tan his hide
(Oh poor old man)

And if he lives then we'll ride again
(And they say so, and we hope so)
Aye and if he lives then we'll ride again
(Oh poor old man)

And it's after years of much abuse
(And they say so, and we hope so)
Then we'll salt him down for the sailors' use
(Oh poor old man)

He's as dead as a nail in the lamp room
floor
(And they say so, and we hope so)
He's as dead as a nail in the lamp room
floor
(Oh poor old man)

Aye and he won't bother us no more
(And they say so, and we hope so)
Aye and he won't bother us no more
(Oh poor old man)

And it's Sally's in the garden and she's
picking the peas
(And they say so, and we hope so)
Aye and her long black hair's hangin' down
to her knees
(Oh poor old man)

And it's Sally's in the kitchen and she's
baking the duff

(And they say so, and we hope so)
Aye and the cheeks of her a___ are going
chuff chuff chuff
(Oh poor old man)

And it's down the long and the winding road
(And they say so, and we hope so)
And it's down the long and the winding road
(Oh poor old man)

It's mahogany beef and the weevily bread
(And they say so, and we hope so)
It's mahogany beef and the weevily bread
(Oh poor old man)

And I thought I heard the old man say
(And they say so, and we hope so)
Just one more pull and then belay
(Oh poor old man)

Just one more pull and that will do
(And they say so, and they hope so)
For we're the lads to kick her through
(Oh poor old man)

Albion Band:

<https://youtu.be/mczC8pWpj4w>

Poor Will And The Jolly Hangman

~ Richard Thompson / Dave Swarbrick

Fairport Convention:

<https://youtu.be/VFuWrbNUGtU>

Won't you rise for the hangman
His pleasure is that you should rise
He's the judge and the jury
At the jesters assize

Poor Will on the gallows tree
Never a cruel word did say
Oh that a young man
Should be treated this way

Run to me mother of anyone's child
And tell me the revelry planned
Judges and barristers, clerks at the law
His show is the best in the land
Here's a toast to the Jolly Hangman
He'll hang you the best that he can
Here's a toast to the Jolly

No purse for a champion
No true love come over the stile
The debt of a poor man
He'll pay in awhile

Poor ladies, poor gentleman
Born of a sorry degree
Will you laugh for the hangman
When he comes for his fee?

Run to me mother of anyone's child
And tell me the revelry planned
Judges and barristers, clerks at the law
His show is the best in the land
Here's a toast to the Jolly Hangman
He'll hang you the best that he can
Here's a toast to the Jolly

Rise for the hangman
His pleasure is that you should rise
He's the judge and the jury
At the jester's assize

Proper Pint of Porter

~ John Foreman / Tom Keays

John Barleycorn
Is a hero bold
And that is an ancient story
They rode him 'round
And harrowed him in
And that is an allegory
Of renewal and rebirth
And the greening of the earth
But what I really want to know
Is what a pint of ale is worth

All I want is a proper pint of porter
Poured in a proper pewter porter pot
I may be off my dot,
But I want a pint of porter in a proper pewter
pot
Iron porter pots and tin porter pots,
Oh, they're no use to me,
If I can't have a proper pint of porter in a
proper pewter porter pot
I'll have an ESB!

Now some regale
The India Pale Ale
A good bet for a long haul sailor
But made these days
With wheat and haze
It's become a colossal failure
Its IBU and ABV
Are astronomical
IPA it comes across
A trifle medicinal

All I want is a proper pint of porter
Poured in a proper pewter porter pot
I may be off my dot,
But I want a pint of porter in a proper pewter
pot
Iron porter pots and tin porter pots,
Oh, they're no use to me,

If I can't have a proper pint of porter in a
proper pewter porter pot
I'll have an ESB!

Tune derived from Herdman, Hills, and
Mangsen's version of "Proper Cup of
Coffee"

<https://youtu.be/EtKeWGASqzk>

Poverty Knock

[Roud 3491]

Up ev'ry morning at five,
A wonder that we keep alive.
Tired and yawning
In the cold morning
And back to the dreary old drive.

Oh dear, we're going to be late,
Gaffer is stood at the gate;
We're out of pocket
Our wages he'll dock it,
We'll have to buy grub on the slate.

Poverty, poverty knock,
My loom it is saying all day.
Poverty poverty knock,
Gaffer's too skinny to pay.
Poverty, poverty knock,
Keeping one eye on the clock.
And I know I can guttle
When I hear my shuttle
Go poverty, poverty knock

Oh dear, my poor head it sings,
I should have woven three strings.
The threads they keep breaking,
My poor heart is aching,
Oh God, how I wish I had wings.

Sometimes a shuttle flies out
It gives some poor woman a clout.
And there she lies bleeding
Nobody's heeding,
Who's going to carry her out?

Poverty, poverty knock,
My loom it is saying all day.
Poverty poverty knock,
Gaffer's too skinny to pay.
Poverty, poverty knock,
Keeping one eye on the clock.
And I know I can guttle

When I hear my shuttle
Go poverty, poverty knock

The tuner should tackle my loom,
alt: The tackler should fettle my loom
He'd rather sit on his bum,
For he's far too busy
A-courting our Lizzie
I just can't up get him to come.

Lizzie, she's so easily led,
I reckon he takes her to bed.
She always was skinny,
Now look at her pinny,
It's just about time they was wed.

Poverty, poverty knock,
My loom it is saying all day.
Poverty poverty knock,
Gaffer's too skinny to pay.
Poverty, poverty knock,
Keeping one eye on the clock.
And I know I can guttle
When I hear my shuttle
Go poverty, poverty knock

Jon Boden:

<https://youtu.be/WdsNwcyHSeM>

Roy Bailey: https://youtu.be/_fXMtpnZOwE

Prairie Lullaby

~ Billy Hill & Jimmie Rodgers

Shadows slowly creeping down the prairie
trail

Everything is sleeping - ah, but the
nightingale

Moon will soon be climbing in the purple sky
Night winds all a-humming this tender
lullaby.

Cares of the day have fled
My little sleepyhead
Stars are in the sky
Time that the prayers were said
My little sleepyhead
To a prairie lullaby

Saddle up your pony
The sandman's here
To guide you down the trail of dreams
Tumble in bed my tired
My little sleepyhead,
To a prairie lullaby

Cares of the day have fled
My little sleepyhead
Stars are in the sky
Time that the prayers were said
My little sleepyhead
To a prairie lullaby

Saddle up your pony
The sandman's here
To guide you down the trail of dreams
Tumble in bed my tired
My little sleepyhead
To a prairie lullaby

Geoff Muldaur:

<https://youtu.be/26Dzvqg-Y5c>

Put It There Pal

~ Richard Thompson

Old friend, it's been so long, and it's been so
real

And if I helped you once it was no big deal
Too bad I can't be there when they call your
name

They're going to write you down in the hall
of fame

You really got what you wanted, I'm thrilled
as pie

It really couldn't happen to a nicer guy

Put it there pal, put it there
Now and then just throw me a crumb
Put it there pal, put it there
Thanks for the help when I needed it, chum

You saw me drowning, you said I was a fake
and laughed

Then you jumped right in and used me for a
raft

You shot me down with friendly fire
You were all dressed up to play Gun For
Hire

The rope you threw me was made of barbed
wire

But put it there pal, put it there, pal
Put it there

I know you mean well, call me a sentimental
fool

I know sometimes you've got to be kind to
be cruel

When you pat me on the back, that was
quite some slap

That kind of compliment, it could kill a chap

So I'll drink your health, all this emotion's
given me a thirst

But maybe I'll have my food-taster drink it
first

Put it there pal, put it there
You deserve everything you got coming
Put it there pal, put it there
Call me up if you want to come slumming

Some say you're a rattlesnake in the grass
But I say the sun shines out of your arse

So it's no hard feelings, live and let live
With a gift like yours, you're bound to give
You're so full of love it leaks out like a sieve

So put it there pal, put it there pal
Put it there
Put it there
Put it there
Put it there, pal
Put it there, pal
Put it there, pal

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/bFBtwS8_Pqg

Queen of Waters

~ Nancy Kerr

Well away my love away,
For we're sailing home today
On a boat called memory
Hail home, hearts that long for the land

Oh she's like some Persian queen,
With her opal robes serene
In the lamplight shimmering
Hail home, hearts that long for the land

On a blue jay morning
Feathering thorny memories
Hail home, hearts have been too long away
On a well-worn byway travelling
Magpie gathering
Farewell queen of waters

Well it's hard to roll in mirth,
When your feet don't touch the earth
And the wolf comes hungering
Hail home, hearts that long for the land

Folly never foots the bill
And we all shall pay in full
For a life in melody
Hail home, hearts that long for the land

On a blue jay morning
Feathering thorny memories
Hail home, hearts have been too long away
On a well-worn byway travelling
Magpie gathering
Farewell queen of waters

Well I should have sowed my corn,
But I danced until the dawn
Like an ant grasshoppering
Hail home, hearts that long for the land

Oh there must be better ways
For to keep the debts at bay

And the whiskey trickling
Hail home, hearts that long for the land

On a blue jay morning
Feathering thorny memories
Hail home, hearts have been too long away
On a well-worn byway travelling
Magpie gathering
Farewell queen of waters

So we'll bid our ship adieu
There's a mooring in the blue
Where the gulls are gathering
Hail home, hearts that long for the land

Oh she's like some Persian queen,
And her like shall ne'er be seen
Only in our reverie
Hail home, hearts that long for the land

On a blue jay morning
Feathering thorny memories
Hail home, hearts have been too long away
On a well-worn byway travelling
Magpie gathering
Farewell queen of waters

On a blue jay morning
Feathering thorny memories
Hail home, hearts have been too long away
On a well-worn byway travelling
Magpie gathering
Farewell queen of waters

Nancy Kerr & James Fagen:

<https://youtu.be/BYyJvvUsjDA>

Rainbow Over The Hill

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/WXPm2NYoJoQ>

Rainbow over the hill
Rainbow over the hill
Rain clouds lifting
Just when you think they never will

And I'll be on my way
Up and down in a swamp all day
And just when it broke my will
There's a rainbow over the hill

Don't you worry your weary head
About the fools and problems in your way
If you could see beyond tomorrow
You never would shed a tear today

Rainbow over the hill
Rainbow over the hill
New day breaking
No time to be standing still

And further on down the road
I'll reap what I have sown
And just when I've had my fill
There's a rainbow over the hill

Don't you worry your weary head
About the fools and problems in your way
If you could see beyond tomorrow
You never would shed a tear today

Rainbow over the hill
Rainbow over the hill
Rain clouds lifting
Just when you think they never will

And I'll be on my way
Up and down in the swamp all day
And just when I've had my fill
There's a rainbow over the hill
Rainbow over the hill
Rainbow over the hill

Razor Dance

~ Richard Thompson

After the death of a thousand kisses
Comes the catacomb of tongues
Who can spit the meanest venom
From the poison of their lungs

Cruellest dance is the razor dance
Circle in and circle around
He said, she said, she said, he said
Thrill to put the other one down
The razor dance, the razor dance

This time, gone too far
This time, can't heal the scar
I want to break out of this spin
But gravity's pulling me in
The razor dance, the razor dance

What flies straighter than an arrow
What cuts deeper than a lance
Your wit may shine on the withering line
Cruellest dance is the razor dance
The razor dance, the razor dance

Blood boils, tears burn
Some people never learn
If time could crawl back in its shell
And mischievous tongues could untell
But that's not the meaning of Hell

Take your partners for the razor dance
Take your partners for the razor dance
Take your partners for the razor dance
The razor dance
The razor dance, the razor dance

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/2HhBkXykKkU>

Reckless Kind

~ Richard Thompson

Here we stand in sheets of rain
Parting ways, loved in vain
Never knew you'd be the reckless kind

I reached out to catch your fall
Said you needed a place to crawl
Never knew you'd be the reckless kind

The reckless kind, the reckless kind
The reckless kind, the reckless kind
You're his not mine

They say you run with a breakneck crowd
Live your love scenes right out loud
Break hearts all around, you're the reckless
kind

You said you were well satisfied
Proud to see me by your side
Pride's a worthless thing to the reckless kind

The reckless kind, the reckless kind
The reckless kind, the reckless kind
You're his not mine

Love lies shattered on the ground
Jagged pieces all around
Say you'll come back but I know you're the
reckless kind

Oh the reckless kind, the reckless kind
The reckless kind, the reckless kind
You're his not mine
His not mine
You're the reckless kind
The reckless kind
The reckless kind

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/st7GAPaypn4>

Remember, O Thou Man

~ Thomas Ravenscroft

Remember, O thou man,
O thou man, O thou man,
Remember O thou man,
Thy time is spent.
Remember, O thou man,
How thou cam'st to me then,
And I did what I can,
Therefore repent.

Remember Adam's fall,
O thou man, O thou man!
Remember Adam's fall
From heaven to hell!
Remember Adam's fall,
How we were condemned all
To hell perpetual,
There for to dwell.

Remember God's goodness,
O thou man, O thou man!
Remember God's goodness,
And promise made!
Remember God's goodness,
How His only Son He sent
Our sins for to redress,
Be not afraid.

The angels all did sing,
O thou man, O thou man!
The angels all did sing,
On Sion hill
The angels all did sing,
Praises to our glorious King,
And peace to man living,
With a good will!

The Shepherds amazed was,
O thou man, O thou man!
The Shepherds amazed was,
To hear the angels sing,
The Shepherds amazed was

How it should come to pass
That Christ our Messias
Should be our King!

To Bethlehem did they go,
O thou man, O thou man!
The shepherds three;
O thou man, O thou man!
To Bethlehem did they go,
To see whether it were so,
Whether Christ were borne or no
To set man free.

As the Angels before did say,
O thou man, O thou man!
As the Angels before did say,
So it came to pass;
As the Angels before did say,
They found him wrapt in hay
In a manger, where he lay
So poor he was.

In Bethlehem he was born,
O thou man, O thou man!
In Bethlehem he was born,
For mankind's sake;
In Bethlehem he was born,
For us that were forlorn,
And therefore took no scorn
Our sins to bear.

In a manger laid he was,
O thou Man, O thou Man,
In a manger laid he was
At this time present.
In a manger laid he was,
Between an ox and an ass,
And all for our trespass,
Therefore repent.

Give thanks to God always,
O thou man, O thou man!
Give thanks to God always,
With heart most joyfully

Give thanks to God always,
Upon this blessed day,
Let all men sing and say:
'Holy, holy!'

From the Melismata (1611) - this carol
reprinted from Chappell's Popular Music
of Olden Time. It may have been merely
collected, or updated, by Ravenscroft.

Richard's lyrics are actually a bit different.

Richard Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/zFx9Llkb3qg>

The Riley Boys

~ Carol Denney

It was lovely in the spring
All the flowers were in bloom
And we met beside the shore for a moment
There were birds and there were planes
Flying patterns all around
And we shared a single sound for a moment

If the Riley boys were here
They would tell us all was well
Not to cry and not to worry for tomorrow
If the Riley boys were here
This would be a joyous tear
Instead of one for mercy and for sorrow

If it's quiet in the streets
It is not for want of feet
That would march if they could only find the
way
If the halo round the light
In this quiet street tonight
Were the hearts that wander by it would be
crying

If the Riley boys were here
They would surely take our hands
And remind us that on earth our days are
fleeting
If the Riley boys were here
And their gentle voices near
They'd remind us all that someday we'll be
meeting

It's so hard to read the news
And so beautiful outside
And the world that seemed so wide now
seems so broken
All the things we love and keep
In our dreams and in our sleep
Startled birds that we have suddenly
awoken

If the Riley boys were here
They would tell us not to cry
Dry your eyes they'd say
There's work to do tomorrow
If the Riley boys were here
We'd hold fast another year
And be thankful for what mercy
We could borrow

Carol Denney:

<https://youtu.be/F1A3ul-3JMQ>

Roll Over Vaughn Williams

~ Richard Thompson

Gentle ladies, gentleman
Waiting 'till the dance begins
Carefully we come to speak
A word for all to hear
If you listen, if you should
We won't be misunderstood
But don't expect the words to ring
Too sweetly on the ear

Live in fear, live in fear
Live in fear

In the gutter, in the street
Off his head or off his feet
Listen to the scratchy voices
Eating at your nerves
Pencils ready, paper dry
Shoot the girls and make 'em cry
Run for cover, things are bad
But now they're getting worse

Live in fear, live in fear
Live in fear, live in fear

Is it painful, is it right?
Does it keep you warm at night?
Fool your friends and fool yourself
The choice is crystal clear
If you break it on your knee
Better men might disagree
Do you laugh or do you stick
Your finger in your ear?

Live in fear, live in fear
Live in fear, live in fear

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/cNCBgqojjVA>

Rolling Down to Old Maui

[Roud 2005 ; trad.]

It's a damn tough life, full of toil and strife,
we whalermen undergo
And we don't give a damn when the gale is
done, how hard the winds did blow
'Cause we're homeward bound from the
Arctic ground with a good ship, taut and
free
And we won't give a damn when we drink
our rum with the girls of Old Maui

Rolling down to Old Maui, me boys
Rolling down to Old Maui
We're homeward bound from the Arctic
Ground
Rolling down to Old Maui

Once more we sail with the northerly gale
through the ice and wind and rain
Them coconut fronds, them tropical lands,
we soon shall see again
Six hellish months we've passed away on
the cold Kamchatka sea
But now we're bound from the Arctic
Ground, rolling down to Old Maui

Rolling down to Old Maui, me boys
Rolling down to Old Maui
We're homeward bound from the Arctic
Ground
Rolling down to Old Maui

Once more we sail with the northerly gale,
towards our island home
Our mainmast sprung, our whaling done,
and we ain't got far to roam
Our stu'n's'l bones is carried away, what
care we for that sound?
A living gale is after us, thank God we're
homeward bound

Rolling down to Old Maui, me boys

Rolling down to Old Maui
We're homeward bound from the Arctic
Ground
Rolling down to Old Maui

How soft the breeze through the island
trees, now the ice is far astern
Them native maids, them tropical glades, is
awaiting our return
Even now their big brown eyes look out,
hoping some fine day to see
Our baggy sails, running 'fore the gales,
rolling down to Old Maui

Rolling down to Old Maui, me boys
Rolling down to Old Maui
We're homeward bound from the Arctic
Ground
Rolling down to Old Maui

Stan Rogers:

<https://youtu.be/P7GC9KsvkDI>

Rolling Home

~ John Tams

Round goes the wheel of fortune
Don't be afraid to ride
There's a land of milk and honey
Waits on the other side
There'll be peace and there'll be plenty
You'll never need to roam
When we go rolling home, when we go
rolling home.

Rolling home, when we go rolling home
When we go rolling, rolling, when we go
rolling home

The gentry in their fine array
Do prosper night and morn
While we unto the fields must go
To plough and sow their corn
The rich may steal the power
But the glory's ours alone
When we go rolling home, when we go
rolling home.

Rolling home, when we go rolling home
When we go rolling, rolling, when we go
rolling home

The frost is on the hedgerow
The icy winds do blow
While we poor weary labourers
Strive through the driving snow
Our dreams fly up to glory
Up where the lark has flown
When we go rolling home, when we go
rolling home.

Rolling home, when we go rolling home
When we go rolling, rolling, when we go
rolling home

The summer of resentment
The winter of despair

The journey to contentment
Is set with trap and snare
Stand to and stand together
Your labour's yours alone
When we go rolling home, when we go
rolling home.

Rolling home, when we go rolling home
When we go rolling, rolling, when we go
rolling home

So pass the bottle round
And let the toast go free
Here's a health to every labourer
Wherever they may be
Fair wages now and ever
Let's reap what we have sown
When we go rolling home, when we go
rolling home.

Rolling home, when we go rolling home
When we go rolling, rolling, when we go
rolling home

Meridian: <https://youtu.be/Va7HlmaeJ5Y>

The Rolling of the Stones

[Roud 38]

Tim Radford sings The Rolling of the Stones

“Will you go to the rolling of the stones
Or the dancing of the ball?
Or will you go and see pretty Susie
And dance among them all?”

“I will not go to the rolling of the stones
Or the tossing of the ball,
But I will go and see pretty Susie
And dance among them all.”

“Will you drink of the blood,
The white wine and the red?
Or will you go and see pretty Susie
When that I am dead?”

They hadn't danced but a single dance
More than twice around
Before the sword at her true love's side
Gave him his fatal wound.

They picked him up and carried him away,
For he was sore distressed.
They buried him all in the greenwoods
Where he was wont to rest.

Pretty Susie she came a-wandering by
With a tablet under her arm,
Until she came to her true love's grave
And she began to charm.

She charmed the fish out of the sea
And the birds out of their nests,
She charmed her true love out of his grave
So he could no longer rest.

“Will you go to the rolling of the stones
Or the dancing of the ball?
Or will you go and see pretty Susie
And dance among them all?”

“I will not go to the rolling of the stones
Or the tossing of the ball
But I will go and see pretty Susie
And dance among them all..”

Joe Hickerson:

<https://youtu.be/S0rXEsh-QbE>

Row On

~ trad. / Tim Laycock[Roud 2084]

Clouds are upon the summer sky
There's thunder in the wind
Pull on, pull on and homeward hie
Nor give one look behind

Row on, row on, another day
May shine with brighter light
Ply, ply the oars and pull away
There's dawn beyond the night

Bear where thou goest the words of love
Say all that words can say
Changeless affection, strength to prove
But speed upon the way

Row on, row on, another day
May shine with brighter light
Ply, ply the oars and pull away
There's dawn beyond the night

Like yonder river would I glide
To where my heart would be
My barque should soon outsail the tide
That hurries to the sea

Row on, row on, another day
May shine with brighter light
Ply, ply the oars and pull away
There's dawn beyond the night

But yet a star shines constant still
Through yonder cloudy sky
And hope as bright my bosom fills
From faith that cannot die

Row on, row on, another day
May shine with brighter light
Ply, ply the oars and pull away
There's dawn beyond the night

Row on, row on, God speed the way

Thou canst not linger here
Storms hang about the closing day
Tomorrow may be clear

Row on, row on, another day
May shine with brighter light
Ply, ply the oars and pull away
There's dawn beyond the night

Clouds are upon the summer sky
There's thunder in the wind
Pull on, pull on and homeward hie
Nor give one look behind.

Row on, row on, another day
May shine with brighter light
Ply, ply the oars and pull away
There's dawn beyond the night

John Roberts & Tony Barrand:
<https://youtu.be/VGpvgQvGriQ>

Words from ship's log, Three Brothers 1846,
tune Tim Laycock

The Rusty, Cold Farmer

~ Kipper Family

I'm a rusty, cold farmer in a cottage well
thatched
My rusty, cold cupboard is full
In my rusty, cold garden there's chickens
and ducks
And a pig and a sheep and a bull

I brew home brewed bread and I brew home
brewed cheese
I brew home brewed beer and I drink it
My rusty, cold knowledge is second to none
I don't say a lot but I think it

At four in the morning I rise from my bed
For that is the lot of the farmer
If you saw my missus then you'd understand
I call her my morning alarmer
On Monday and Tuesday I take life quite
slow
On Wednesday and Thursday I slack
On Friday and Saturday I don't do a sight
And by Sunday I'm flat on my back

In Spring that's too wet for to go on the land
In Summer that's always too dry
In Autumn that's cold and the crops get the
mold
And that's how we keep prices high

There's April, there's May, there's June and
July
There's August, September, October and
then
November, December, January, February
And March. Then we all start again

Salford Sunday

~ Richard Thompson

Salford Sunday, skies are weeping
Dawn is creeping through the blind
Salford Sunday and I'm aching
For the night I left behind.

Salford Sunday, morning after
Bass drum beating in my head
Sunday papers talking scandal
And a cold side of the bed.

For I left a weeping willow
She should be lying on my pillow
If I wasn't such a hard nose
Such a perfect waste of time.

Salford Sunday and I'm dreaming
And it's all in black and white
I do better, oh when I'm dreaming
Better than I did last night.

Salford Sunday and I'm walking
Though the rain is pelting down
There's a train goes back to London
I hate to leave this ugly town.

For I left a weeping willow
She should be lying on my pillow
If I wasn't such a hard nose
Such a perfect waste of time.

Salford Sunday, skies are weeping
Dawn is creeping through the blind
Salford Sunday and I'm aching
For the night I left behind
For the night I left behind.

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/00rGmilmRIE>

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/4LFgeqKIsM0>

Sam Hall

[Roud 369]

Now my name it is Sam Hall,
Chimney sweep.
Oh my name it is Sam Hall,
Chimney sweep.
My name it is Sam Hall,
And I robbed both great and small,
And now I pays for all.
Well, damn your eyes.

Well, they say I killed a man,
So they said.
Oh, they say I killed a man,
So they said.
Well, I hit him on the head,
With a great big lump of lead,
And I left him there for dead.
Well, damn his eyes.

So, they put me in a quad,
In a quad.
Yes, they put me in a quad,
In a quad.
Oh, they put me in a quad
And they tied me to a log,
And they left me there, by God.
Well, damn their eyes.

And the preacher he did come,
He did come.
Yes, the preacher he did come,
He did come.
Well, the preacher he did come,
And he spoke to Kingdom Come,
Well, he can kiss my bloody bum.
Well, damn his eyes.

And the hangman he comes too,
He comes too.
And the hangman he comes too,
He comes too.
Well, the hangman he comes too,

And all his bloody crew,
Saying, Sam, there's work to do.
Well, damn his eyes.

So, it's up the rope I'll go,
Rope I'll go.
And it's up the rope I'll go,
Rope I'll go.
Well, it's up the rope I'll go,
And I see's you down below,
Saying, Sam, we told you so.
Well, damn your eyes.

And, I see's Molly in the crowd,
In the crowd.
I see's Molly in the crowd,
In the crowd.
I see's Molly in the crowd,
And I hollers right out loud,
Molly, ain't you bloody proud?
Well, damn your eyes.

So, this will be my knell,
Be my knell.
Yes, this will be my knell,
Be my knell.
This will be my funeral knell,
And I'll see you all in hell,
And I hope you frizzles well.
Well, damn your eyes.

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/3JZPeXWDjxo>

Sam Jones

~ Richard Thompson

Me name is Sam Jones and it's bones me
occupation
Chuck your old hocks out for my
consideration
Thirty years a bone man, up and down the
nation
Sam Jones deliver them bones

I've been among the shamrock and I've
been among the thistle
I like it all picked over, clean as a whistle
No sign of meat on, no sign of gristle
Sam Jones deliver them bones

I've seen battlefields white with human ivory
Noble dukes and princes stripped of flesh
and finery
When the crows have done their job, they
say that's the time for me
Sam Jones deliver them bones

And I even dream of bones when I'm lying
very ill
Roomsfull of skeletons a-dancing the
quadrille
Rows and rows of skulls singing Blueberry
Hill
Sam Jones deliver them bones

And if you're unburied, the likes of me will
find you
You're no good to worms, but you might
become the finest glue
We'll grind you up and spread you out as
fertiliser, too
Sam Jones deliver them bones

And I've got a lorry, it's me own boneshaker
Where's there old knuckle joints I'll be the
undertaker

I'll come calling 'round just like the butcher
and the baker
Sam Jones deliver them bones

Me name is Sam Jones and it's bones me
occupation
Chuck your old hocks out for my
consideration
Thirty years a bone man, up and down the
nation
Sam Jones deliver them bones
Oh, Sam Jones deliver them bones
Sam Jones deliver them bones

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/2jbppqSClew>

Screaming Issue

~ Loudon Wainwright III

You and Ludwig van Beethoven
And your Manhattan Grandfather
Born on the 16th of December
Ludwig, grandfather and you

In Poland tanks were rolling
On Hudson street it was snowing
Taxi ride to the hospital
Laboring by centimeters

Lucy when I hear you crying I don't know
what I can do
You're so miserable lying next to me I can't
help you

Who were you in your last life?
How come you came at Christmas?
If you had waited longer
You might have been Lady Di's baby

Lucy when I hear you crying I don't know
what I can do
You're so miserable lying next to me I can't
help you

It's New Year's Day your first one
What is your resolution?
It's raining, grey beginning
Here's to Ludwig, grandfather and

You and Ludwig van Beethoven
And your Manhattan Grandfather
Born on the 16th of December
Ludwig, grandfather and you

Loudon Wainwright III:
<https://youtu.be/8gsvPaHklpk>

Send His Love to Me

~ PJ Harvey

Lover had to leave me
'Cross the desert plain
Turned to me his lady
Tell me "lover wait"

Calling Jesus, please
Send his love to me

Oh, wind and rain they haunt me
Look to the North and pray
Send me, please, his kisses
Send them home today

I'm begging, Jesus, please
Send his love to me

Left alone in desert
This house becomes a hell
This love becomes a tether
This room becomes a cell

Mummy, daddy, please
Send him back to me

How long must I suffer?
Dear God, I've served my time
This love becomes my torture
This love, my only crime
Oh lover please release me
My arms too weak to grip
My eyes too dry for weeping
My lips too dry to kiss

Calling, Jesus, please
Send his love to me
I'm begging, Jesus, please
Send his love to me

PJ Harvey: <https://youtu.be/rsUll7qVzYw>

Shake These Bones

~ Malcolm Dalglish (c1978)

I'll show you how I'm feeling Lord, any day
I'll shake these bones and shout and sing
my life away

I'll shake these bones and I will shout and
sing my life away
For it won't be long before these bones turn
to clay

I'll tell you what I'm feeling Lord, any time
I'll tell you lies, I'll tell you dreams, you won't
mind

I'll tell you lies, I'll tell you dreams, I know
that you won't mind
There's something there that's out of reach,
I will find

I'll tell you what I'm seeing Lord, everywhere
It may be only a small part of what is there
It may be only a small part of what is really
there

But I'll stumble like the blind man Lord,
without fear

I'll tell you what I'm hearing Lord, all the time
I'm hearing songs and melodies in my mind
I'm hearing songs and melodies, but when
they're out of mind

We'll hear the sweetest peace of all, left
behind

I'll show you how I'm living Lord, every day
I may not fall down on my knees and start to
pray

I may not fall down on my knees and and
worship you or pray
But there's reverence in my laughter Lord,
anyway

I'll show you who I'm loving Lord, in the
night

And when the door is open Lord, and filled
with light

And when the door is open Lord, and filled
with the morning light

We'll hear the child that calls for us, out of
sight

I'll show you who I'm loving Lord, in the day
And to my fellow people Lord, these words
I'll say

And to my fellow people Lord, these loving
words I'll say

And I'll shake these bones and shout and
sing my life away

I'll show you how I'm feeling Lord, any day
I'll shake these bones and shout and sing
my life away

I'll shake these bones and I will shout and
sing my life away

For it won't be long before these bones turn
to clay

Malcolm Dalglish, Grey Larsen & Claudia

Schmidt: https://youtu.be/ZSogV3_VyQ

Cindy Kallet, Ellen Epstein & Michael

Cicone: <https://youtu.be/MWZ9tle2iBA>

Shaky Nancy

~ Richard Thompson

Here she comes and there she goes
Nothing on her fingers, nothing on her toes
Why she comes nobody knows
Here comes shaky Nancy

Don't be believing, she melts in your hand
Runs with the tide and she shifts with the
 sand
She'll send you a message and turn to
 stone
She's a hard girl, Nancy

One cold morning, ice on the sea
Shaky Nancy won't you lean on me
Must mean something, how can you lose?
There's nothing choosy or chancy

Oh here she comes and there she goes
Nothing on her fingers, nothing on her toes
Why she comes nobody knows
Here comes shaky Nancy

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/PQhk2MUX5MA>

Shenandoah

Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you
Away, you rolling river
Oh, Shenandoah, I long to hear you
Away, I must away
Across the wide Missouri

Oh, Shenandoah, I love your daughter
Away, you rolling river
Oh, Shenandoah, I love your daughter
Away, I must away
Across the wide Missouri

Oh, Shenandoah, I took a notion
Away, you rolling river
Oh, Shenandoah, to cross the ocean
Away, I must away
Across the wide Missouri

Oh, Shenandoah, I'm bound to leave you
Away, you rolling river
Oh, Shenandoah, I'll not deceive you
Away, I must away
Across the wide Missouri

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/SzHN957j-K0>

She Said It Was Destiny

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/bHhFbijK-rw>

Is this the togetherness she meant - so rosy
I thought we'd share a continent - so cosy
I thought love's passions really
Would be more touchy-feely

She said it was Destiny
She said it was written somewhere
But if it was destiny
Why am I over here and she's over there
She said it was in the stars
Something that just had to be
But Venus aligned with Mars
Always really takes it out of me

O I'm not proud of my deceit - you know that
To come so near and then retreat - you
 know that
One beat before I fell
Somewhere I heard a bell - ring, ring

She said it was Destiny
She said it was written somewhere
But if it was destiny
Why am I over here and she's over there

There's clouds across my crystal ball - too
 misty
Was I too quick to give it all - when she
 kissed me
She's thrown a net on me
Razor wire geometry

She said it was Destiny
She said it was written somewhere
But if it was destiny
Why am I over here and she's over there
She said it was in the stars
Something that just had to be
But Venus aligned with Mars
Always really takes it out of me

Sheffield Wassail

~ Pete Smith

It is so many weeks
Since we've seen the evening sun
And solstice time has sung its rhyme
And wassail time is come

Here's to you and your families,
Young lovers and old friends,
We'll welcome in the New Year
Now we've seen the old one end.

So here we come a wandering
Upon this wintry night
And here we come a-wassailing
To make the future bright

Here's to you and your families,
Young lovers and old friends,
We'll welcome in the New Year
Now we've seen the old one end.

God bless the old and weary
Whose times is nearly run
And all the unsung carers
Who are paid a paltry sum

Here's to you and your families,
Young lovers and old friends,
We'll welcome in the New Year
Now we've seen the old one end.

And God bless the young and hearty,
Whose futures are unclear
We wish them work and plenty
And a prosperous New Year

Here's to you and your families,
Young lovers and old friends,
We'll welcome in the New Year
Now we've seen the old one end.

So think on those who have no home

Who sleep from door to door
And damn the rich and famous,
Who greed for more and more

Here's to you and your families,
Young lovers and old friends,
We'll welcome in the New Year
Now we've seen the old one end.

God damn the politicians
Who lie and cheat each day
And damn the institutions
Who help them on their way

Here's to you and your families,
Young lovers and old friends,
We'll welcome in the New Year
Now we've seen the old one end.

God bless the keepers of this [pub | house]
And all who dwell within
So raise your glass and raise your voice
And sing the New Year in

Here's to you and your families,
Young lovers and old friends,
We'll welcome in the New Year
Now we've seen the old one end.

The old year's gone forever,
God bless it and good cheer
I'll raise my glass and wish you all
A happy New Year

Here's to you and your families,
Young lovers and old friends,
We'll welcome in the New Year
Now we've seen the old one end.

Melrose Quartet:

<https://melrosequartet.bandcamp.com/track/sheffield-wassail>

Shepherd of the Downs

[Roud 1215]

A shepherd of the downs being weary of his
port

Retired to the hills where he used to resort.
In want of refreshment he laid himself down,
He wanted no riches, nor wealth from the
Crown,
He wanted no riches, nor wealth from the
Crown.

He drank of the cold brook, he ate of the
tree,
Himself he did enjoy from all sorrow was
tree,
He valued no girl be she ever so fair,
No pride nor ambition he valued no care,
No pride nor ambition he valued no care.

As he was a-walking one evening so clear
A heavenly sweet voice sounded soft in his
ear.
He stood like a post not one step could he
move,
He knew not what hailed him but thought it
was love,
He knew not what hailed him but thought it
was love.

He beheld a young damsel a fair modest
bride
She had something amiss and disguised in
her face.
Disguised in her face she unto him did say,
How now, Master Shepherd, how came you
this way?
How now, Master Shepherd, how came you
this way?

The shepherd he replied and modestly said,
I never was surprised before at a maid.
When first you beheld me from sorrow I was
free,

But now you have stolen my poor heart from
me,
But now you have stolen my poor heart from
me.

He took her by the hand and thus he did say
We will get married pretty Betsy today.
So to church they did go and were married
we hear,
And now he'll enjoy pretty Betsy his dear,
And now he'll enjoy pretty Betsy his dear.

Bob & Ron Copper:

https://youtu.be/M2_wM_aIKIU

Shepherds Arise

[Roud 1207]

Shepherds arise, be not afraid, with hasty
steps prepare
To David's city, sin on earth,
With our blest Infant, with our blest Infant
there,
With our blest Infant there, with our blest
Infant there.
Sing, sing, all earth, sing, sing, all earth
eternal praises sing
To our Redeemer, to our Redeemer and our
heavenly King.

Laid in a manger viewed a Child, humility
Divine,
Sweet innocence sounds meek and mild.
Grace in his features-grace in his features
shine,
Grace in his features shine, grace in his
features shine.
Sing, sing, all earth, sing, sing, all earth
eternal praises sing
To our Redeemer, to our Redeemer and our
heavenly King.

For us the Saviour came on earth, for us his
life he gave,
To save us from eternal death
And to raise us from-and to raise us from
the grave
To raise us from the grave and to raise us
from the grave
Sing, sing, all earth, sing, sing, all earth
eternal praises sing
To our Redeemer, to our Redeemer and our
heavenly King.

Andy Turner: <https://youtu.be/9qqJ4BMtF3g>

She May Call You Up Tonight

~ Steve Martin-Caro / Michael Brown

I've been telling lines
I never knew
all to keep that girl
away from you
but she may call you up tonight
then what could I say
that would sound right

Thoughts that raised my mind
just pushed aside
all the chances there
that we once had
but she may call you up tonight
then what could I say
that would sound right

And when I'm crying
yes I know my mind is flying
to a place where there's no trying
but she may call you up tonight

I've been telling lines
I never knew
all to keep that girl
away from you
but she may call you up tonight
then what could I say
that would sound right

but she may call you up tonight
then what could I say
that would sound right
then what could I say
that would sound right

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/dUjXM1kTrxc>

She Twists The Knife Again

~ Richard Thompson

I keep my nose clean, I keep my speech
plain
I keep my promises, she twists the knife
again
I shut my memory, I close my eyes and then
She takes another bite, she twists the knife
again

She never leaves me my dignity
Makes a dunce of me in mixed company
No bygone can be a bygone
She throws the spanner in, she puts the
screws on

In the middle of a kiss, she twists the knife
again
When I get up off my knees, she twists the
knife again
When I think I'm off the hook she gets me
She twists the knife again, she twists the
knife again

I make my moves well, I let her tell me when
I walk a fine line, she twists the knife again
Just when the scar heals, just when the grip
unbends
Just when her mind reels, she twists the
knife again

She can give it out, she can't take it
She smells something bad, she has to rake
it
I bring home my packet, my white-collar
money
I'm in a fist fight, she thinks she's Gene
Tunney

In the middle of a kiss, she twists the knife
again
When I get up off my knees, she twists the
knife again

When I think I'm off the hook she gets me
She twists the knife again, she twists the
knife again

She never leaves me my dignity
Makes a dunce of me in mixed company
No bygone can be a bygone
She throws the spanner in, she puts the
screws on

In the middle of a kiss, she twists the knife
again
When I get up off my knees, she twists the
knife again
When I think I'm off the hook she gets me
She twists the knife again, she twists the
knife again
She twists the knife again

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/pxWO6Ru7nQ4>

She's Not There

~ Rod Argent

Well no one told me about her, the way she
lied

Well no one told me about her, how many
people cried

But it's too late to say you're sorry

How would I know, why should I care

Please don't bother tryin' to find her

She's not there

Well let me tell you 'bout the way she looked

The way she'd act and the color of her hair

Her voice was soft and cool

Her eyes were clear and bright

But she's not there

Well no one told me about her, what could I
do

Well no one told me about her, though they
all knew

But it's too late to say you're sorry

How would I know, why should I care

Please don't bother tryin' to find her

She's not there

Well let me tell you 'bout the way she looked

The way she'd act and the color of her hair

Her voice was soft and cool

Her eyes were clear and bright

But she's not there

But it's too late to say you're sorry

How would I know, why should I care

Please don't bother tryin' to find her

She's not there

Well let me tell you 'bout the way she looked

The way she'd act and the color of her hair

Her voice was soft and cool

Her eyes were clear and bright

But she's not there

The Zombies:

<https://youtu.be/it68QbUWVPM>

Teddy Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/q5mqvviQ9GM>

Shove Around the Jug

[trad / John Mayberry]

Shove around the jug, me boys,
Chorus around the room,
We're the boys that fear no noise
Although we're far from home!

* Well, I courted a girl in Albany,
One in Montreal,
One in Philadelphia,
But the best's in Lewiston Falls.

Shove around the jug, me boys,
Chorus around the room,
We're the boys that fear no noise
Although we're far from home!

* When you get to Albany
Give the girls a call.
There's not a tart to be compared,
With the ones from Lewiston Falls.

Shove around the jug, me boys,
Chorus around the room,
We're the boys that fear no noise
Although we're far from home!

When I came on from Ireland
I was just a lad.
But working these canal boats
Is the only life I've had.

Shove around the jug, me boys,
Chorus around the room,
We're the boys that fear no noise
Although we're far from home!

* A dollar in a tavern
Is very easy spent.
If I had it in Ireland,
I'd have to pay down rent.

Shove around the jug, me boys,

Chorus around the room,
We're the boys that fear no noise
Although we're far from home!

Amsterdam or Liverpool,
Rome or Syracuse,
If you've ever been to Lewiston Falls,
It's the only place you'd choose.

Shove around the jug, me boys,
Chorus around the room,
We're the boys that fear no noise
Although we're far from home!

A drunkard in the tavern,
A fish is in the sea!
The cork is in the bottle,
But the whiskey is in me!

Shove around the jug, me boys,
Chorus around the room,
We're the boys that fear no noise
Although we're far from home!

* The three original verses are "I courted a girl in Albany", "A dollar in a tavern", and "When you get to Albany". I believe that all of the other verses were written by John Mayberry.

Sibella

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/vp7bDVIHY7Q>

Oh some girls hold the ace, the deuce, the
trey
X-ray the deck to see what's coming
Mary Antoinette she smiled that way
Easy to smile when the luck is running

Like a myth you rode in from the west
From the go you had my button pressed
Did the tea-time of your soul
Make you long for wilder days?
Did you never let Jack Kerouac
Wash over you in waves?

Sibella, we don't make sense together
But my heart's with you
Sibella, I found myself
Strange but true, strange but true

Some say you can learn a lot from books
Thrill right to second-hand living
Life is just as deadly as it looks
But fiction is more forgiving

You took chances well within your means
Salon hair and creases in your jeans
All those lonely winters long
Did you really think it through
Did you really ache for me like I really ached
for you

Sibella, we don't make sense together
But my heart's with you
Sibella, I found myself
Strange but true, strange but true

Sibella, we don't make sense together
But my heart's with you
Sibella, I found myself
Strange but true, strange but true
Strange but true, strange but true
Strange but true

Sights And Sounds Of London Town

~ Richard Thompson

Oh Gillian she's a Doncaster lass
Trains it down on the quarter past
Friday night leaves the kids at home
And struts her stuff on the Euston Road
Saying "Do you want some company
darling?"

Do you want some company now?
My place, your place or no place
I could use the extra cash anyhow"
That's the sights and sounds of London
Town

The sights and sounds of London Town
The sights and sounds of London Town

Oh Jean-Paul he came over from Toulouse
They told him that London was the golden
goose

He never got his hands on enough to eat
He never did get his arse up off the street
Wanted to be a rap DJ
They took his pulse then they turned him
away

Under the radar of your fellow man
With all that charisma it ain't worth a damn
Saying "Lend me your shoes till Monday
Oh brother can you lend me a comb
I can wash dishes all night long
I just need my fare back home"
That's the sights and sounds of London
Town

The sights and sounds of London Town
The sights and sounds of London Town

Well Jackie she tried just about everything
She tried to dance, she tried to sing
Too many doors slammed in your face
It leaves a nasty aftertaste
You scramble around for a little bit of cash
Ease the pain with Mister Flash

Saint Annes Court is the rendezvous
For those who share your point of view
Saying "This is the last time you will see me
Never again no way

One more time I'll never ask you again
I've just got to get through today"
That's the sights and sounds of London
Town

The sights and sounds of London Town
The sights and sounds of London Town

Oh Mickey he sleeps every two or three
days
Runs through Soho like a rat through a
maze

A little blackmail here a sting on the side
Enough to get started on the next enterprise
Dresses expensive but that's just a crutch
Like his word or his handshake it doesn't
mean much

Depends on his kickback from the middle
man

And whatever he can beat out of Sally Ann
Saying "Lucky I'm the one you ran into
Oh lucky I've taken a shine
Lucky I'm needing a partner
50/50 right down the line"

Oh that's the sights and sounds of London
Town

The sights and sounds of London Town
The sight and sounds of London Town

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/Vq8f7VP19o0>

Singer's Farewell

~ Ian Robb / William Walker

Farewell, old friend, it's time to go,
You must be on your way.
Do not let this parting grieve you so,
Though dreary seems the day.

And I'll sing hallelujah,
And you'll sing hallelujah,
And we'll all sing hallelujah
When we arrive at home.

No saint you were, while on this earth
You trod your path so wide,
For saints do seldom venture forth,
For fear they stray aside.

And I'll sing hallelujah,
And you'll sing hallelujah,
And we'll all sing hallelujah
When we arrive at home.

If God there be, some Pharisee
Of unforgiving ways,
Then look for Him, for you must seek
To brighten up His days.

And I'll sing hallelujah,
And you'll sing hallelujah,
And we'll all sing hallelujah
When we arrive at home.

And when at Peter's gate you stand,
With sins of flesh and wine,
One song the bribe, he'll take your hand
And lead you in to dine.

And I'll sing hallelujah,
And you'll sing hallelujah,
And we'll all sing hallelujah
When we arrive at home.

Though friends may join and friends may
part,
Though friends be born and die,
Each song remains within the heart,
Each spirit ever nigh.

And I'll sing hallelujah,
And you'll sing hallelujah,
And we'll all sing hallelujah
When we arrive at home.

Ian Robb: <https://youtu.be/f26fopIXP6E>

Tune is Hallelujah #146 by William Walker,
with alto part by S.M. Denson, from the
Original Sacred Harp by Owel W.
Denson (1911).

Sisters

~ Richard Thompson

Remember the time when we two kin were
reared

There was never a morsel but that it was
shared

If the one babe was stung, t'was the other
would cry

There scarce was a crossed word and
never a lie

Our people were drab and defeated like
slaves

The light of their fathers went into the
graves

I took to the highway to find some relief
I never meant parting to put you to grief

Sisters

We were sisters

'Til love came between us and pulled us
apart

We were sisters

We were sisters

Don't call me your sister and put a knife
through my heart

Now you smile when you greet me, you put
on a show

But it's slander you're talking as soon as
you go

If your eye and my eye don't meet anymore

Hold fast to your tongue when I've walked
out the door

Sisters

We were sisters

'Til love came between us and pulled us
apart

We were sisters

We were sisters

Don't call me your sister and put a knife
through my heart

You say that I'm different, don't hold me to
blame

It's not to my grandeur, it's not to your
shame

It's nothing of mine that I lay at your door
So take it or leave it, it's to heal not to sore

Sisters

We were sisters

'Til love came between us and pulled us
apart

We were sisters

We were sisters

Don't call me your sister and put a knife
through my heart

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/hP2h9xeMdtk>

Skewball

[Roud 456]

You gallant sportsmen all, come listen to my
story
It's of the bold Skewball, that noble racing
pony
Arthur Marvel was the man that brought
bold Skewball over
He's the diamond of the land and he rolls
about in clover

The horses were bought out with saddle,
whip and bridle
And the gentlemen did shout when they saw
the noble riders
And some did shout hooray, the air was
thick with curses
And on the grey Griselda the sportsmen laid
their purses

The trumpet it did sound, they shot off like
an arrow,
They scarcely touched the ground for the
going it was narrow.
Then Griselda passed him by and the
gentlemen did holler,
"The grey will win the day and Skewball he
will follow."

Then halfway round the course up spoke
the noble rider
"I fear we must fall back for she's going like
a tiger.
Up spoke the noble horse, "Ride on, my
noble master,
For we're half way round the course and
now we'll see who's faster."

And when they did discourse, bold Skewball
flew like lightning
They chased around the course and the
grey mare she was taken

"Ride on my noble lord, for the good two
hundred guineas.
The saddle shall be of gold when we pick up
our winnings."

Past the winning post, bold Skewball proved
quite handy
And horse and rider both ordered sherry
wine and brandy
And then they drank a health unto Miss
Griselda
And all that lost their money on the sporting
plains of Kildare

Steeleye Span:

<https://youtu.be/rnZFSKDfHCl>

Skip Rope Song

~ Jesse Winchester

I used to know a pretty girl
Who cut off all her hair
The scissors flew among the curls
And curls went everywhere

I gathered up her fallen locks
And carried them away
And put them in silver box
And keep them to this day

Song, sing, birdy with the wing
Perfect circle sun
The grown ups get to make the rules
And we have all the fun
Yes, we have all the fun

But now I am in love with you
And I hope that you will stay
And to prove that my love is true
I'll throw the curls away

Song, sing, birdy with the wing
Perfect circle sun
The grown ups get to make the rules
And we have all the fun
Yes, we have all the fun

Jesse Winchester:

<https://youtu.be/TbRscGw3buE>

Sleep On Beloved

[Roud 15632]

Waterson:Carthy sing Sleep On Beloved

Sleep on, beloved, sleep and take thy rest,
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's
breast.

We love thee well but Jesus loves thee
best,

Goodnight, goodnight, goodnight.

Until our shadows from this earth are cast,
Until He gathers in His sheaves at last,
Until the twilight gloom is over past:
Goodnight, goodnight, goodnight.

Until made beautiful by love divine
Thou in the likeness of thy Lord shalt shine,
And He will bring that golden crown of thine,
Goodnight, goodnight, goodnight.

Until we meet again before the throne
Clothed in the spotless robes He gives His
own,
Until we know as we have known:
Goodnight, goodnight, goodnight.

Waterson:Carthy:

<https://youtu.be/RYwbpCm2apA>

Small Town Romance

~ Richard Thompson

Small town romance
Back seat for a bed
Nothings must be whispered
Rumours must be fed

Small town romance
Everyone knows your mind
They peep from faded curtains
They read your valentines

O you got to get away
O you got to get away
O you got to get away
O they can't stand love in a small town

They knew you when you were weaning
They knew you when you were grown
They think they know all about you
They'll never leave you alone

Small town romance
There's too many jealousies
Old maids with long gone lovers
Old flames with bad memories

O you better get away
O you better get away
O you better get away
O they can't stand love in a small town

Midnight packing and leaving
Note pinned upon the sheets
Tail lights off in the distance
A ride through the painted streets

O small town romance
They'd still break you if they could
They'd always say I told you so
She never was no good

See she never loved him anyway

See she never loved him anyway
See she never loved him anyway
O you can't have love in a small town

See she never loved him anyway
See she never loved him anyway
See she never loved him anyway
O you can't have love in a small town

The Snow It Melts the Soonest

[Roud 3154 ; trad.]

Oh the snow it melts the soonest when the
winds begin to sing
And the corn it ripens fastest when the
frosts are setting in
And when a young man tells me that my
face he'll soon forget
Before we part, I'd bet a crown, he'd be fain
to follow it yet

Oh the snow it melts the soonest when the
winds begin to sing
And the swallow skims without a thought as
long as it is spring
But when spring blows and winter goes my
lad then you'd be fain
With all your pride for to follow me, were it
'cross the stormy main

Oh the snow it melts the soonest when the
winds begin to sing
And the bee that flew when summer shone
in winter he won't sing
And all the flowers in all the land so brightly
there they be
And the snow it melts the soonest when my
true love's for me

So never say me farewell here, no farewell
I'll receive
You can meet me at the stile, you'll kiss and
take your leave
And I'll wait it till the woodcock crows or the
martin takes its leave
Since the snow it melts the soonest when
the winds begin to sing

Anne Briggs: <https://youtu.be/-ag07gaPrLE>

The Snows They Melt the Soonest

[Roud 3154 ; trad.]

The snows they melt the soonest when the
wind begins to sing
The corn it ripens fastest when the frosts
are settling in
And when a woman tells me that my face
she'll soon forget
Before we part, I'll wage a crown, she's fain
to follow it yet

The snows they melt the soonest when the
winds begin to sing
The swallow flies without a thought as long
as it is spring
But when spring goes and winter blows my
love then you'll be fain
For all your pride to follow me across the
raging main

The snows they melt the soonest when the
winds begin to sing
And the bee that flew when summer shone
in winter cannot sting
And I've seen a woman's anger melt
between the night and the morn
So it's surely not a harder thing to melt a
woman's scorn

So don't you bid me farewell here, no
farewell I'll receive
For you will lie with me, my lass, then you
kiss and take your leave
And I'll wait here till the moorcock calls and
the martin takes the wing
For the snows they melt the soonest when
the winds begin to sing

Dick Gaughan:
<https://youtu.be/a2INKPLGcYI>

So Ben Mi Ch'a Bon Tempo

~ Orazio Vecchi (1550-1605)

So ben mi c'ha bon tempo
Il so ma basta mo

So ben che favorito
Ahime! No'l posso dir

O s'io pottessi dire
Chi va chi sta chi vien

La ti dara martello
Per farti disperar

Saluti e baciamani
Son tutto indarno a fe

Richard Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/jV3mLU3awB0>

John Horton translates it as:

I know a lucky fellow
I know but I won't tell

I know that he's in favour
I'm sorry I can't say

I wish that I could tell you
Who goes, who stays, who comes

I'm sure you would be jealous
And maybe you'd despair

Solid Air

~ John Martyn

You've been taking your time
And you've been living on solid air
You've been walking the line
And you've been living on solid air
Don't know what's going 'round inside
And I can tell you that it's hard to hide
When you're living on solid air

And you've been painting the blues
And you've been looking through solid air
You've been seeing it through
And you've been looking through solid air
Don't know what's going 'round in your mind
And I can tell you don't like what you find
When you're moving through solid air, solid
air

I know you, I love you
And I can be your friend
I can follow you anywhere
Even through solid air

You've been stoning it cold
You've been living on solid air
You've been finding it cold
You've been living on solid air
I don't know what's going on inside
I can tell you that it's hard to hide
When you're living on solid air, solid air

You've been getting too deep
You've been living on solid air
You've been missing your sleep
you've been moving through solid air
I don't know what's going on in your mind
But I know you don't like what you find
When you're moving through solid air, solid
air

I know you, I love you
I will be your friend

I will follow you anywhere
Even through solid air

You've been walking your line
You've been walking on solid air
You've been taking your time
'Cause you've been walking on solid air
Don't know what's going on inside
But I can tell you that it's hard to hide
When you're living on solid air, solid air

You've been painting the blues
You've been living on solid air
And you've been seeing it through
And you've been looking through solid air
I don't know what's going in your mind
But I can tell you don't like what you find
When you're living through solid air, solid air

I know you, I love you
And I can be your friend
I can follow you anywhere
Even through solid air

Icy blue solid air
Blue solid air

John Martyn:

<https://youtu.be/PCCWqYfZVi0>

Song for the New Year

~ Ian Robb

One evening so silent as I was out walking
I spied an old woman sat down by a tree
And as I drew nigh her, I could hear her soft
talking
These wishes she made for the child on her
knee:

For the child on her knee,
For the child on her knee,
These wishes she made for the child on her
knee.

First, I'll wish that in peace you may always
be living
Oh, never to kill at a sergeant's command;
For King and for country's no reason for
giving
Your life and your blood in some far away
land:

Some far away land,
Some far away land,
Your life and your blood in some far away
land.

May you be your own master; let no man
control you
Whether tyrant of government, factory or
farm
No matter the wages they'll pay to console
you
To slavery's orders ne'er lift a strong arm:

Ne'er lift a strong arm,
Ne'er lift a strong arm,
To slavery's orders ne'er lift a strong arm.

Good health be your fortune, no gift can
excel it
But guard it from those who would take it
away

In mills, mines, and factories they'll force
you to sell it
For industry's profit most dearly you'll pay:

Most dearly you'll pay,
Most dearly you'll pay,
For industry's profit most dearly you'll pay.

And the last of my hopes is for friendship
and kindred
For the love of companions is our greatest
need
And though you may live to the age of a
hundred
It's young you'll remain while friendships
succeed:

While friendships succeed,
While friendships succeed,
It's young you'll remain while friendships
succeed.

So now, lads and lasses, come fill up your
glasses
And drink a good health to our children so
dear
To live free from classes while history
passes *
To friends and to loved ones, a Happy New
Year:

A Happy New Year,
A Happy New Year,
To friends and to loved ones, a Happy New
Year.

Ian Robb: <https://youtu.be/6qrkwVVF2k>

* Barrant and Roberts sing:
Hail and farewell to the old year that
passes

Staines Morris

[Roud V18894]

Come ye young men, come along,
With your music and your song.
Bring your lasses in your hands
For 'tis that which love commands.

Then to the maypole haste away
For 'tis now our holiday (x2)

'Tis the choice time of the year
For the violets now appear.
Now the rose receives its birth
And the pretty primrose decks the earth.

Then to the maypole haste away
For 'tis now our holiday (x2)

And when you well reckoned have
What kisses you your sweethearts gave,
Take them all again and more,
It will never make them poor.

Then to the maypole haste away
For 'tis now our holiday (x2)

When you thus have spent your time
Till the day be past its prime
To your beds repair at night
And dream there of your day's delight.

Then to the maypole haste away
For 'tis now our holiday (x2)

Come ye young men, come along,
With your music and your song.
Bring your lasses in your hands
For 'tis that which love commands.

Then to the maypole haste away
For 'tis now our holiday (x2)

Morris On: <https://youtu.be/gMlrYeHwyOU>

Strange Affair

~ Richard Thompson

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/UBnYg0ty-Q4>

This is a strange affair
The time has come to travel but the road is
filled with fear
This is a strange affair
My youth has all been wasted and I'm bent
and grey with years
And all my companions are taken away
And who will provide for me against my
dying day
I took my own provision, but it fooled me
and wasted away

Oh where are my companions?
My mother, father, lover, friend, and enemy
Where are my companions?
They're prisoners of death now, and taken
far from me
And where are the dreams I dreamed in the
days of my youth
They took me to illusion when they
promised me the truth
And what do sleepers need to make them
listen,
Why do they need more proof?
This is a strange, this is a strange affair

Won't you give me an answer?
Why is your heart so hard towards the one
who loves you best?
When the man with the answer
Has wakened you, and warned you, and
called you to the test
Wake up from your sleep that builds like
clouds upon your eyes
And win back the life you had that's now a
dream of lies
Turn your back on yourself and if you follow,
You'll win the lover's prize
This is a strange, this is a strange affair

Streets Of Paradise

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/gfURslucl0g>

The tears fall down like whisky
The tears fall down like wine
On an island made of cocaine
In a sea of turpentine
We all need some assistance
But won't that day be fine
When we're walking down the streets of
Paradise

Tar brush on the corner
I've never seen him before
He drank ten fingers of what they had
Now his feet don't touch the floor
He can't see me or this dirty old town
He's got nothing to look for
He's walking down the streets of Paradise

Walking down the streets of Paradise
Walking down the streets of Paradise

I'd trade my silver mansion
With a guard on every door
I'd trade my wealth and treasure
And the sash my father wore
I'd trade my little sister
And my brother who went before
To be walking down the streets of Paradise

Walking down the streets of Paradise
Walking down the streets of Paradise

I asked you for a racehorse
Now don't hand me no mule
I asked you for a fast car
Don't you take me for a fool
Just hand me down my telescope
And a bullet I can chew
I'll be walking down the streets of Paradise

Walking down the streets of Paradise
Walking down the streets of Paradise

Substitute

~ Pete Townshend

You think we look pretty good together
You think my shoes are made of leather
I'm a substitute for another guy
I look pretty tall but my heels are high
The simple things you see are all
 complicated
I look pretty young, but I'm just back-dated
 yeah

Substitute (Your lies for fact)
Substitute (I see right through your plastic
 Mac)
Substitute (I look all white but my dad was
 black)
Substitute (My fine-looking suit's really
 made out of sack)

I was born with a plastic spoon in my mouth
The north side of my town faced east
And the east was facing south
And now you dare to look me in the eye
Those crocodile tears are what you cry
It's a genuine problem, you won't try
To work it out at all, just pass it by, pass it by

Substitute (Me for him)
Substitute (My coke for gin)
Substitute (You for my mum)
Substitute (At least I'll get my washin' done)

I'm a substitute for another guy
I look pretty tall but my heels are high
The simple things you see are all
 complicated
I look pretty young, but I'm just back-dated,
 yeah

I was born with a plastic spoon in my mouth
The north side of my town faced east
And the east was facing south
And now you dare to look me in the eye

Those crocodile tears are what you cry
It's a genuine problem, you won't try
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Substitute (Your lies for fact)
Substitute (I see right through your plastic
 Mac)
Substitute (I look all white but my dad was
 black)
Substitute (My fine-looking suit's really
 made out of sack)

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/4MeB_rP-Xgg

For The Who's American single, released in
April 1966, the line in the chorus "I look
all white but my dad was black" was
changed to "I try walking forward but my
feet walk back."

Sugar in the Hold

Well, I wish I was in Mobile Bay,
Screwing cotton all the day
But I'm stowing sugar in the hold below,
Below, below, below

Hey, ho, below, below
Stowing sugar in the hold below
Hey, ho, below, below
Stowing sugar in the hold below

The J. M. White, she's a new design
Stern to stem she's mighty fine
She can beat any boat on the New Orleans
line
Stowing sugar in the hold below

Hey, ho, below, below
Stowing sugar in the hold below
Hey, ho, below, below
Stowing sugar in the hold below

"Tell the mate we got bad news.
Can't get no steam from the fire in the flue"
The engineer he did bellow
Stowing sugar in the hold below

Hey, ho, below, below
Stowing sugar in the hold below
Hey, ho, below, below
Stowing sugar in the hold below

The captain's on the quarter deck
Scratchin' away at his old neck
"Heave the larboard lead, and let her go"
Stowing sugar in the hold below

Hey, ho, below, below
Stowing sugar in the hold below
Hey, ho, below, below
Stowing sugar in the hold below

Hey, ho, below, below

Stowing sugar in the hold below
Hey, ho, below, below
Stowing sugar in the hold below

The Teacups: <https://youtu.be/WUvYRr-rj34>

A steamboat work song, the origins of which are extensively debated online, but remain frustratingly unclear. According to the Illinois Museum, the J. M. White was an American vessel from Mississippi, launched in 1876. It seems to have been an unlucky one; although fast and powerful, it almost bankrupted the Captain, John W. Tobin, and was destroyed by fire in 1888.

Sumer is Icumen In

[trad]

Sumer is icumen in,
Lhude sing, cuccu!
Groweth sed and bloweth med
And springth the wude nu.
Sing, cuccu!

Awe bleteth after lomb,
Lhouth after calve cu
Bulloc sterteth, bucke ferteth.
Murie sing, cuccu!
Cuccu, cuccu,
Wel singes thu, cuccu.
Ne swik thu naver nu!

Sing cuccu nu, sing cuccu!
Sing cuccu nu, sing cuccu!

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/cKikjYdf1DA>

The Sun Never Shines On The Poor

~ Richard Thompson

The urchins are writhing around in the mud,
Like eels playing tag in a barrel
The old Sally Army sound mournful and
sweet
As they play an old Chrissmassy carol;
The world is as black as a dark night in hell
What kind of a place can this be?
Old people like hermit crabs run into
doorways
All fearing to say, do you feel a
downtrodden as me?

Ting-a-ling, Ting-a-Ling, the Devil he leans
on your bell,
The future looks black as before
And the sun never shines, the sun never
shines on the poor

The rich man he dreams of his gold and his
plate
And his house and his car and his women,
The poor man he dreams of his one-roomed
estate
And his wage-packet short by one shilling
The last penny falls through a hole in your
jeans,
Now ain't that the way when you're down?
Just walking in circles for the rest of your
life,
And feeling so low that your chin scrapes
along the ground

Ting-a-ling, Ting-a-Ling, the Devil he leans
on your bell,
The future looks black as before
And the sun never shines, the sun never
shines on the poor

Now some of the people are poor in the
purse
They don't have the cash at the ready
And some of the people are crippled and
lame
They can never stand up true and steady
And some of the people are poor in the
head
Like the simpleton fools that you see
But most of the people are poor in the heart
It's the worst kind of poor, it's the worst kind
of poor you can be

Ting-a-ling, Ting-a-Ling, the Devil he leans
on your bell,
The future looks black as before
And the sun never shines, oh the sun never
shines on the poor

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/uN4saRHqXO0>

Sunny Afternoon

~ Ray Davies (c1966)

The tax man's taken all my dough
And left me in my stately home
Lazing on a sunny afternoon
And I can't sail my yacht
He's taken everything I got
All I've got's this sunny afternoon

Save me, save me, save me from this
squeeze
I gotta big fat mama trying to break me
And I love to live so pleasantly
Live this life of luxury
Lazing on a sunny afternoon
In the summertime
In the summertime
In the summertime

My girlfriend's run off with my car
And gone back to her ma and pa
Telling tales of drunkenness and cruelty
Now I'm sitting here
Sipping at my ice cold beer
Lazing on a sunny afternoon

Help me, help me, help me sail away
Well give me two good reasons why I
oughta stay
'Cause I love to live so pleasantly
Live this life of luxury
Lazing on a sunny afternoon
In the summertime
In the summertime
In the summertime

Ah, save me, save me, save me from this
squeeze
I gotta big fat mama trying to break me
And I love to live so pleasantly
Live this life of luxury
Lazing on a sunny afternoon
In the summertime

In the summertime
In the summertime
In the summertime
In the summertime

Eliza Carthy & The Wayward Band:
<https://youtu.be/0u4uFBLmVvo>

SunnyVista

~ Richard Thompson

In SunnyVista all your dreams are reality
It's the smart place to be
For all the family
O SunnyVista, where you always wanted to
stay
We'll dance the happy hours away

Now the work is very clean
You'll be helped by this machine
And the hours are very short
More time at home with the little dears
All the houses are the same
It's a standard we maintain
Any problems please report
And we will soon allay your fears

It's a smashing place for kids
You really are well rid
They'll be off your hands all day
In the camps they'll play and play
For kids of other ages
Yes, dad and granddad too
The leisure time facilities
Will keep them smiling through

In SunnyVista all your dreams are reality
It's the smart place to be
For all the family
O SunnyVista, where you always wanted to
stay
We'll dance the happy hours away

O the old folks will love it
Our staff are very kind
There's community singing
Helps to stimulate the mind
The cemetery is most discreet
All done without a fuss
For all life's little grievances
Just leave it all to us

O there's parks and there's bingo
There's contests and there's games
And everybody's friendly
'Cos we're all just the same
There's chances for promotion
For the right kind of chap
Who's smart and keen and go ahead
We'll put him on the map

In SunnyVista all your dreams are reality
It's the smart place to be
For all the family
O SunnyVista, where you always wanted to
stay
We'll dance the happy hours away
We'll dance the happy hours away

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/Da1AjQY6d3k>

Sunset Song

~ Richard Thompson

With you or without you, love,
I must be moving
Never meant to linger here so long
With you or without you,
though it breaks my heart
To hear the Sunset Song

Wasn't that a time we had,
and bless you for it
But I'm a stranger here, I don't belong
The band's down on the jetty,
if you cup your ear
You'll hear the Sunset Song

You said, if I hold my breath
Dive down deep enough
I might grow fins
Seems to me I've held my breath
Held my breath to please you
ever since

Early morning, that's the time
for fare-thee-wells
Slip out of the warm sheets and gone
But I want to hear it as I walk along
Hear the Sunset Song

In your waking, in your dreams,
I won't be martyred
On that cross where some say
I belong
Opinions are coffins, I'll just trust my feet
To find the Sunset Song

Every day I'll wear your memory
Like a favourite shirt upon my back
In the hallway, there's my suitcase
By the door, I never did unpack

With you or without you, love,
I must be moving

Never meant to linger here so long
With you or without you,
though it breaks my heart
To hear the Sunset Song

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/4j99i6UqQLY>

Sussex Drinking Song

~ Hilaire Belloc

On Sussex Downs, where I was bred,
In rains where autumn lanes are red,
Where Aran tumbles in his bed
And dusty gales go by.

Where branches, bare on vert and glen
And merry hills are whitening then;
I drink strong ale with gentle-men,
Which no one can deny, deny,
Which no one can deny, deny.

In cold November off I go,
And turn my face against the snow;
And watch the wind where ere it blow,
Because my heart is high.

'Till I settle me down in Steyning to sing
Of the girls I've met in my wandering;
And all I mean to do in Spring
Which no one can deny, deny,
Which no one can deny, deny.

'Tho times be hard and fortunes tough,
The ways be foul and the weather rough;
We are of stout south country stock
Who cannot have strong ale enough

From Crowborough Top to Ditchling Down,
From Hustpierpont to Arundel town,
The girls are fine, the ale is brown;
Which no one can deny, deny,
Which no one can deny, deny.

Martyn Wyndham-Read:

<https://youtu.be/OSwydk1mzg8>

Martyn Wyndham-Read set the words to the
Irish rebel tune "The West's Awake"

Sweet Thames Flow Softly

~ Ewan McColl (c1968, 1972)

I met my girl at Woolwich Pier beneath the
big crane standing
And all the love I felt for her it passed all
understanding
Took her sailing on the river, flow sweet river
flow
London town was mine to give her, sweet
Thames flow softly
Made the Thames into a crown, flow sweet
river flow
Made a brooch of Silvertown, sweet
Thames flow softly

At London Yard I held her hand, at
Blackwell Point I faced her
At the Isle of Dogs I kissed her mouth and
tenderly embraced her
Heard the bells of Greenwich ringing, flow
sweet river flow
All the time my heart was singing, sweet
Thames flow softly
Limehouse Reach I gave her there, flow
sweet river flow
As a ribbon for her hair, sweet Thames flow
softly

From Shadwell Dock to Nine Elms Reach
we cheek to cheek were dancing
A necklace made of London Bridge her
beauty was enhancing
Kissed her once again at Wapping, flow
sweet river flow
After that there was no stopping, sweet
Thames flow softly
Richmond Park it was a ring, flow sweet
river flow
I'd have given her anything, sweet Thames
flow softly

From Rotherhithe to Putney Bridge my love
I was declaring

And she from Kew to Isleworth her love for
me was swearing
Love it set my heart a-burning, flow sweet
river flow
Never saw the tide was turning, sweet
Thames flow softly
Gave her Hampton Court to twist, flow
sweet river flow
Into a bracelet for her wrist, sweet Thames
flow softly

But now, alas, the tide has changed, my
love she has gone from me
And winter's frost has touched my heart and
put a blight upon me
Creeping fog is on the river, flow sweet river
flow
Sun and moon and stars gone with her,
sweet Thames flow softly
Swift the Thames runs to the sea, flow
sweet river flow
Bearing ships and part of me, sweet
Thames flow softly

Planxty: <https://youtu.be/VgJwJa7Wk14>

The Swimming Song

~ Loudon Wainwright III

This summer I went swimming
This summer I might have drowned
But I held my breath and I kicked my feet
And I moved my arms around
Moved my arms around

This summer I swam in the ocean
And I swam in a swimming pool
Salt my wounds, chlorined my eyes
I'm a self-destructive fool
I'm a self-destructive fool

This summer I did the back stroke
And you know that that's not all
I did the breast stroke and the butterfly
And the old Australian crawl
The old Australian crawl

This summer I swam in a public place
And a reservoir to boot
At the latter I was informal
At the former I wore my suit
I wore my swimming suit, yeah

This summer I did swan dives
And jack-knives for you all
And once when you weren't looking
I did a cannon-ball
Did a cannon-ball

This summer I went swimming
This summer I might have drowned
But I held my breath and I kicked my feet
And moved my arms around
Moved my arms around

Loudon Wainwright III:

<https://youtu.be/XOnqh7LpITs>

Kate & Anna McGarrigle:

<https://youtu.be/IZXfDxikwWA>

Take Care The Road You Choose

~ Richard Thompson

If I ever get out of these shoes
And I shrug off a skin or two
I'll come looking in the wasted places
Beat-up, last ditch rendezvous

If it had been some other place
Some other time to find me
If I had been in my right mind
Not looking for ghosts behind me

Then I'd hold you with my fingers burning
Kiss your little tears of yearning
But sometimes there's no turning
Take care the road you choose

If I ever get out of my mind
Guillotine myself to stop me dreaming
And let my heart go where it will
Without those other voices screaming

Some take the high, some take the low
Some take the straight and narrow
Some still standing at the crossroads
Some fly like an arrow

With my radar I'll find you, darling
No regrets to blind you, darling
And never look behind
Take care the road you choose

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/K387mNCjTw8>

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

~ Jack Norworth & Albert Von Tilzer (c1908)

Katie Casey was baseball mad,
Had the fever and had it bad.
Just to root for the home town crew,
Ev'ry sou Katie blew.
On a Saturday her young beau
Called to see if she'd like to go
To see a show, but Miss Kate said "No,
I'll tell you what you can do:"

Take me out to the ballgame,
Take me out with the crowd;
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don't care if I never get back.
Let me root, root, root for the home team,
If they don't win, it's a shame.
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,
At the old ball game.

Katie Casey saw all the games,
Knew the players by their first names.
Told the umpire he was wrong,
All along, Good and strong.
When the score was just two to two,
Katie Casey knew what to do,
Just to cheer up the boys she knew,
She made the gang sing this song:

Take me out to the ballgame,
Take me out with the crowd;
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don't care if I never get back.
Let me root, root, root for the home team,
If they don't win, it's a shame.
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,
At the old ball game.

Frank Sinatra & Gene Kelly (1948):

<https://youtu.be/TrJp8OC7pZk>

Steve Goodman:

<https://youtu.be/Fu0SPk83Dhl>

Carly Simon: <https://youtu.be/TUF6jzJQYfc>

Edward Meeker (1908):

<https://youtu.be/q4-gsdLSSQ0>

Tale in Hard Time

~ Richard Thompson

Take the sun from my heart
Let me learn to despise
I'll show you another who cannot tell lies

The blind man can see
Put a match to his eyes
I'll show you another who sings as he cries

I cannot be whole
As the beggar who sighs
But I'll show you another who knows as he
dies

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/wpDTEcTm9gM>

Fairport Convention:

<https://youtu.be/02yzDJCSKqg>

Tear Stained Letter

~ Richard Thompson

It was three in the morning when she took
me apart
She wrecked the furniture, she wrecked my
heart
She danced on my head like Arthur Murray
The scars ain't never going to mend in a
hurry

Just when I thought I could learn to forget
her
Right through the door come a tear-stained
letter
Oh, oh, oh love love
Cry, cry if it makes you feel better
Set it all down in a tear-stained letter
Oh, oh, oh love love love
Cry, cry if it makes you feel better
Set it all down in a tear-stained letter

Well my head was beating like a song by
the Clash
It was writing cheques that my body couldn't
cash
Got to my feet, I was reeling and dizzy
I went for the 'phone but the line was busy

Just when I thought that things would get
better
Right through the door come a tear-stained
letter
Oh, oh, oh love love
Cry, cry if it makes you feel better
Set it all down in a tear-stained letter
Oh, oh, oh love love love love
Cry, cry if it makes you feel better
Set it all down in a tear-stained letter

Well I like coffee and I like tea
But I just don't like this fiddle-di-dee
It makes me nervous, it gives me the hives
Waiting for a kiss from a bunch of fives

Just when I think I could learn to forget her
Right through the door come a tear-stained
letter

Oh, oh, oh love love love
Cry, cry if it makes you feel better
Set it all down in a tear-stained letter
Oh, oh, oh love love
Cry, cry if it makes you feel better
Set it all down in a tear-stained letter
Oh, oh, oh
Cry, cry if it makes you feel better
Set it all down in a tear-stained letter

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/Vnk_R-1aWwI

Tempted

~ Glenn Tilbrook / Chris Difford

I bought a toothbrush, some toothpaste
A flannel for my face
Pyjamas, a hairbrush
New shoes and a case
I said to my reflection
Let's get out of this place

Past the church and the steeple
The laundry on the hill
Billboards and the buildings
Memories of it still
Keep calling and calling
But forget it all
I know I will

Tempted by the fruit of another
Tempted but the truth is discovered
What's been going on
Now that you have gone
There's no other
Tempted by the fruit of another
Tempted but the truth is discovered

I'm at the car park, the airport
The baggage carousel
The people keep on crowding
I'm wishing I was well
I said it's no occasion
It's no story I could tell

At my bedside empty pocket
A foot without a sock
Your body gets much closer
I fumble for the clock
Alarmed by the seduction
I wish that it would stop

Tempted by the fruit of another
Tempted but the truth is discovered
What's been going on
Now that you have gone

There's no other
Tempted by the fruit of another
Tempted but the truth is discovered

I bought a novel, some perfume
A fortune all for you
But it's not my conscience
That hates to be untrue
I asked of my reflection
Tell me what is there to do

Tempted by the fruit of another
Tempted but the truth is discovered
What's been going on
Now that you have gone
There's no other
Tempted by the fruit of another
Tempted but the truth is discovered

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/ACnOVr5sZS8>

Thanksgiving Eve

~ Bob Franke

It's so easy to dream of the days gone by
So hard to think of the times to come
And the grace to accept every moment as a
 gift
Is a gift that is given to some

What can you do with your days
But work and hope
Let your dreams bind your work to your play
What can you do with each moment of your
 life
But love 'till you've loved it away
Love 'till you've loved it away.

There are sorrows enough for the whole
 world's end
There are no guarantees but the grave
But the lives we have lived and the times we
 have spent
Are a treasure too precious to say

What can you do with your days
But work and hope
Let your dreams bind your work to your play
What can you do with each moment of your
 life
But love 'till you've loved it away
Love 'till you've loved it away.

Sally Rogers:

<https://youtu.be/oYSqFcWubD0>

Three Day Millionaire

~ Mike Waterson

Why, I left school Friday
And I started work on Saturday
To catch the early tide
And be a galley boy's me plan
On the fishin' grounds to roam
Eighteen hundred mile from home
I couldn't give a bugger, I'm a man

I shall get to deck a-learnin'
It's the bonus I'll be earnin'
And the money comes in handy
For the old ran-tan
Brylcreme in me hair
Three day millionaire
I couldn't give a bugger, I'm a man

I sh'll get meself a suit made
To show I'm in the fishin' trade
I'll put me brothel-creepers on
And swagger when I can
All me pots are pint-sized
Watch me gettin paralysed
To show the younger buggers who's a man

And when I get to skipper
I'll get married, have a nipper
I'll take the lad to sea wi' me
And teach him all I can
I'll be a different sort of fella
Have a house out in Kirk Ella
And I'll show the bleedin' neighbours who's
a man

I'll be a different sort of fellow
Have a house out in Kirk Ella
And I'll show the bleedin' neighbours who's
a man

The Watersons:

https://youtu.be/N_2jr4pDVYM

- * ran-tan = riotous conduct; spree (from a banging or pounding noise)
- * brothel-creepers = suede shoes with crepe soles - Fifties swagger!
- * Kirk Ella = village on the western outskirts of Kingston upon Hull, situated in the East Riding of Yorkshire, north of the Humber.

Time To Ring Some Changes

~ Richard Thompson

This old house is a-tumbling down
The walls are gone but the roof is sound
The landlord's deaf, he can never be found
It's time to ring some changes

They'll arrest you son if you just stand still
They'll ask you to pose with your hand in
the till
They'll ask you to die when you've written
your will
It's time to ring some changes

It's time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes

O the politicians they look so smug
You say tell the truth and they give you a
shrug
You might find the truth swept under the rug
It's time to ring some changes

You pay for your money for your daily bread
But the bread's gone up so you need more
money
The money's gone down, better borrow
instead
It's time to ring some changes

Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes

O you fall in love with the girl you've seen
Diamond studded on a tv screen
But the change in your pocket won't buy you
a dream
It's time to ring some changes

So you steal a car and you go for a ride
You end up sleeping with some girl guide
And everything you do leaves you empty
inside
It's time to ring some change

Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes
Time to ring some changes

The Albion Band:

<https://youtu.be/cvgsNeWrXt8>

The Trees Are All Bare

The Copper Family Christmas Song
[Roud 1170]

The trees all are bare, not a leaf to be seen
And the meadows their beauty have lost.
Now winter has come and 'tis cold for man
and beast,
And the streams they are,
And the streams they are all fast bound
down with frost.

'Twas down in the farmyard where the oxen
feed on straw,
They send forth their breath like the steam.
Sweet Betsy the milkmaid now quickly she
must go,
For flakes of ice she finds,
For flakes of ice she finds a-floating on her
cream.

'Tis now all the small birds to the barn-door
fly for food
And gently they rest on the spray.
A-down the plantation the hares do search
for food,
And lift their footsteps sure,
Lift their footsteps sure for fear they do
betray.

Now Christmas is come and our song is
almost done
For we soon shall have the turn of the year.
So fill up your glasses and let your health go
round,
For I wish you all,
For I wish you all a joyful New Year.

Coope, Boyes, Simpson:

<https://youtu.be/cKDIPa-6yy4>

Turning Of The Tide

~ Richard Thompson

How many boys, one night stands,
How many lips, how many hands, have held
you

Like I'm holding you tonight
Too many nights, staying up late,
Too much powder and too much paint
No you can't hide from the turning of the
tide

Did they run their fingers up and down your
shabby dress
Did they find some tender moment there in
your caress

The boys all say "You look so fine"
They don't come back for a second time
Oh you can't hide from the turning of the
tide

Poor little sailor boy, never set eyes on a
woman before
Did he tell you that he'd love you, darling,
for evermore?

Pretty little shoes, cheap perfume,
Creaking bed in a hotel room
Oh you can't hide from the turning of the
tide

Did they run their fingers up and down your
shabby dress
Did they find some tender moment there in
your caress

The boys all say "You look so fine",
They don't come back for a second time
Oh you can't hide from the turning of the
tide

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/oLv8wwTy26s>

The Twa Corbies

[Roud 5]

As I was walking all alane,
I heard twa corbies a makin mane;
The tane unto tae the tither did say o,
Whar sall we gang and dine the day o?
Whar sall we gang and dine the day?

In ahint yon auld fail dyke,
I wot there lies but a new slain knight;
And naebody kens that he lies there o,
But his hawk and his hound and his lady fair
o,
But his hawk and his hound and his lady
fair.

His hound is tae the hunting gane,
His hawk tae fetch the wild fowl hame,
His lady's tain anither mate o,
So we may mak oor dinner swate o,
So we may mak oor dinner swate.

Ye'll sit on his white hause bane,
And I'll pike oot his bonny blue een;
Wi ae lock o his golden hair o
We'll theek oor nest whan it grows bare o,
We'll theek oor nest whan it grows bare.

Many a man's for him makes mane,
But nane sall ken whar he is gane;
Oer his white banes, whan they are bare o,
The wind sall blaw for evermair o,
The wind sall blaw for evermair.

Steeleye Span:

<https://youtu.be/uhy3nIIH78Q>

The Twentieth Century Is Almost Over

~ Steve Goodman

Back in 1899,
When everybody sang "Auld Lang Syne"
A hundred years took a long, long time
For every boy and girl
Now there's only one thing that I'd like to
 know
Where did the twentieth century go?
I'd swear it was here just a minute ago
All over this world

And now the twentieth century is almost
 over
Almost over, almost over
The twentieth century is almost over
All over this world
All over this world
All over this world
The twentieth century is almost over
All over this world

Does anyone remember the Great
 Depression?
I read all about it in True Confession
The years go by and they make quite an
 impression
Or at least that is what I've been told *
Has anybody seen my linoleum floors
Petroleum jelly, and two World Wars?
They got stuck in the revolving doors
All over this world

And now the twentieth century is almost
 over
Almost over, almost over
The twentieth century is almost over
All over this world
All over this world
All over this world
The twentieth century is almost over

All over this world

The winter's getting colder, summer's
 getting hotter
Wishin' well's wishin' for another drop of
 water
And Mother Earth's blushin' 'cause
 somebody caught her
Makin' love to the Man in the Moon
Tell me how you gonna keep 'em down on
 the farm
Now that outer space has lost it's charm?
Somebody set off a burglar alarm
And not a moment too soon
Because...

The twentieth century is almost over
Almost over, almost over
The twentieth century is almost over
All over this world
All over this world
All over this world
The twentieth century is almost over
All over this world

Old Father Time has got his toes a tappin'
Standing at the window, grumblin' and a
 rappin'
Everybody's waiting for something to
 happen
Tell me if it happens to you!
The Judgment Day is getting nearer
There it is in the rear view mirror
If you duck down I could see a little clearer
All over this world!

And now the twentieth century is almost
 over
Almost over, almost over
The twentieth century is almost over
All over this world
All over this world
All over this world
The twentieth century is almost over

All over this world

Now the twentieth century is almost over
Almost over, almost over
The twentieth century is almost over
All over this world
All over this world
All over this world
The twentieth century is almost over
All over this world

Steve Goodman:

<https://youtu.be/MNDaUPRgM6M>

* Original couplet was:

Sorry I was late for the recording session,
Somebody put me on hold
I changed to this (keeping the original
rhyming scheme)
The years go by and they make quite an
impression
Or at least that is what I've been told

Two Song Set

~ Loudon Wainwright III

With a monkey in my closet
And a skeleton on my back
I stroll down to my local
To knock a few back

Bobby, that old bartender
Don't you know he's my friend
I'd drink me three drinks
And Bobby'd fill it up for free again

Bobby give me change for a dollar
I wanna buy some cigarettes
I wanna play some music on the juke box,
Bob
A quarter plays a two-song set

The waitress is polite to me
But it's just not the same thing now
A few years back, Bob
I was the cat's meow

You win some and you lose some
It's an adage I can't understand
I know what they're saying
They're saying I was a flash in the pan

Bobby give me change for a dollar
I wanna buy some cigarettes
I wanna play some music on the juke box,
Bob
A quarter plays a two-song set

I'm sittin' on this bar stool
I guess that's where my butt belongs
Dreamin' about the time
When a quarter could buy you three songs

Bobby, you're a gamblin' man
How'd you like to place a little bet?
It won't be long before
Two bits'll buy a one-song set

Bobby give me change for a dollar
I wanna buy some cigarettes
I wanna play some music on the juke box,
Bob
A quarter plays a two-song set

Loudon Wainwright III:

<https://youtu.be/mPtpgaI0EyU>

Unhappy Anniversary

~ Loudon Wainwright III

Unhappy anniversary
It's one year since we split
I walk and talk and get around
Lie down, stand up and sit
I eat and drink and smoke and sleep and
Live a little bit
Unhappy anniversary
It's one year since we split

Unhappy anniversary
It's ten years since we met
There is no need to remind you
No way I could forget
We fell in love and we fell out
Both times there was no net
Unhappy anniversary
It's ten years since we met

Unhappy anniversary
I cannot count the days
And nights that I have thought of you
Since we went separate ways
I tell my mind to forget you
But my heart disobeys
Unhappy anniversary
I cannot count the days

Unhappy anniversary
It's one year since we split
I walk and talk and get around
Lie down, stand up and sit
I eat and drink and smoke and sleep and
Live a little bit
Unhappy anniversary
It's one year since we split

Loudon Wainwright III:

<https://youtu.be/W26TVNwaH84>

Uninhabited Man

~ Richard Thompson

Only a misdirected dart
At an unprotected heart
I'm sure it happens every day
Just a passing interlude
A fresh face to change the mood
I'll find my feet again you say

What rock I had you rolled
What rock I had you rolled away

But I live as best I can
Meet the uninhabited man
Please read the sign and walk away
What an old dry shell I am
The uninhabited man
I'll find my feet again you say

No doubt they'll pull me down
No doubt they'll pull me down someday

Who's been sleeping in my bed
Who's been sleeping in my bed

Who's been sitting in my chair
Who's been licking in my bowl
Who's been sleeping in my bed

A romantic ruin am I
Funny how I catch the eye
The vacuum slowly sucks you in
I'm left no skill, no art
To meet you heart to heart
You'll find no me beneath the skin
And if there's no me then there's no
And if there's no me then there's no sin

Who's been sleeping in my bed
Who's been sleeping in my bed

And who's been sitting in my chair
Who's been licking in my bowl

Who's been sleeping in my bed

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/5LZNXeL8vbl>

Unison in Harmony

~ Jim Boyes

Soaring skywards, leaping sideways
Do or die words cleave the air
Joy and laughter morning after
Raise the rafters we don't care
If the roof's beyond repair

Raise the rafters, raise the rafters,
Raise the rafters we don't care
If the roof's beyond repair.

Sisters brothers to all others
Let that be our guiding star
Hearts on fire but no Messiah
Hear the music from afar
What we sing is what we are

Hear the music, hear the music
Hear the music from afar
What we sing is what we are

Over hills and over valleys
Over mountains over seas
Nations shouting unto nations
Until nations cease to be
Unison in harmony

Until nations, until nations
Until nations cease to be
Unison in harmony

Until nations, until nations
Until nations cease to be
Unison in harmony

Red Guitar
~ Loudon Wainwright III

Used to have a red guitar until I smashed it
one drunk night
Smashed it in the classic form as Peter
Townsend might

I threw it in the fireplace, I left it there awhile
Kate, she started crying when she saw my
sorry smile

Red guitar was made of wood, could not
take the heat
Red guitar, it caught on fire and the damage
was complete
It burned until all that was left was six pegs
and six strings
Kate, she said "You are a fool, you've done
a foolish thing"

I put the remains in the case and I put the
case away
Went to New York City for a new guitar the
next day
I bought myself a blond guitar, I had it for
three days
Some junky stole my blond guitar. God
works in wondrous ways

Coope Boyes Simpson:

<https://youtu.be/Ktn2MJcpC5I>

Valerie

~ Richard Thompson

Oh Valerie! You give me heart attack
Oh Valerie! You put me on the rack
Oh you say that I'm history, you say I'm no
good
Then you want to be two babes in the wood
That's what I call playing to the gallery
Well I'm a-wait, wait, waiting for Valerie

Hey Valerie! She got a scar down here
Valerie! She got gold in her ear
A figure like this, lips like that
Red fingernails, teeth like a cat
She never gets home till five or four or three
Well I'm a-wait, wait, waiting for Valerie

Well I'm soft in the head, I give her hard
cash
She spends all my money on junk and trash
Nylon fur, plastic shoes
And fifty-seven things she's never going to
use
Never, never, never going to use
Oh Valerie! Oh Valerie! Oh Valerie!

Well Valerie! You're going to choke or drown
Valerie! Why don't you put that down?
If you don't get over this eating jag
They're going to take you home in a body
bag
I can't stand to see one more calorie
Well I'm a-wait, wait, waiting for Valerie

Now every time I turn my back
She's 'round the corner, looking for a crack
It's going to be the ruin of me
Well I'm running on nervous energy
Running on nervous energy

Oh Valerie! She want to move out of town
Valerie! She want the money down
She want leopard-skin this, tiger-skin that

Matching luggage, lipstick, hat
I can't afford her on my salary
Still I'm a-wait, wait, waiting for Valerie
I'm a-wait, wait, waiting for Valerie
Hmm I'm a-wait, wait, waiting for Valerie

Valerie! Oh Valerie! Well! Whooo!

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/YZjmFkuAyXc>

Valparaiso Round the Horn

~ George Millar & Wilcil Mcdowell

Was a cold and frosty morning in December
When all of me money it was spent
Oh where it went to the log I can't remember
So I down to the shipping office went

Sing Paddy lay back (Paddy lay back)
Take up yer' slack (Take up yer slack)
Take a turn around your capstan, haul
away! (Haul away!)
All ship stations boys be handy
For we're bound for Valaparaíso round the
horn!

That day there was a great demand for
sailors
For colonies, for Frisco and for France
So I signed aboard the limey barque the
Hotspur
And got paralytic drunk on me advance

Sing Paddy lay back (Paddy lay back)
Take up yer' slack (Take up yer slack)
Take a turn around your capstan, haul
away! (Haul away!)
All ship stations boys be handy
For we're bound for Valaparaíso round the
horn!

Well now I woke up in the morning stippin'
sore
And I knew that I was on me way again
Oh when I heard a voice kickin' in the door
"Harry get up to yer bugger and answer to
yer name!"

Sing Paddy lay back (Paddy lay back)
Take up yer' slack (Take up yer slack)
Take a turn around your capstan, haul
away! (Haul away!)
All ship stations boys be handy

For we're bound for Valaparaíso round the
horn!

I wish that I was at the Jolly Sailor
Sing Paddy lay back (Paddy lay back)
Take up yer' slack (Take up yer slack)
Take a turn around your capstan, haul
away! (Haul away!)
All ship stations boys be handy
For we're bound for Valaparaíso round the
horn!

I wish that I was at the Jolly Sailor
Along with Irish Molly drinking beer
Then I thought, "What jolly lads were
sailors?"
Then with me flipper I wiped away a tear

Sing Paddy lay back (Paddy lay back)
Take up yer' slack (Take up yer slack)
Take a turn around your capstan, haul
away! (Haul away!)
All ship stations boys be handy
For we're bound for Valaparaíso round the
horn!

Sing Paddy lay back (Paddy lay back)
Take up yer' slack (Take up yer slack)
Take a turn around your capstan, haul
away! (Haul away!)
All ship stations boys be handy
For we're bound for Valaparaíso round the
horn!

Joe Stead: <https://youtu.be/spyrhxauoBc>

Walking On A Wire

~ Richard Thompson

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/2PxNrwbURgU>

I hand you my ball and chain
You just hand me that same old refrain
I'm walking on a wire, I'm walking on a wire
And I'm falling

I wish I could please you tonight
But my medicine just won't come right
I'm walking on a wire, I'm walking on a wire
And I'm falling

Too many steps to take
Too many spells to break
Too many nights awake
And no one else
This grindstone's wearing me
Your claws are tearing me
Don't use me endlessly
It's too long, too long to myself

Where's the justice and where's the sense?
When all the pain is on my side of the fence
I'm walking on a wire, I'm walking on a wire
And I'm falling

Too many steps to take
Too many spells to break
Too many nights awake
And no one else
This grindstone's wearing me
Your claws are tearing me
Don't use me endlessly
It's too long, it's too long to myself

It scares you when you don't know
Whichever way the wind might blow
I'm walking on a wire, I'm walking on a wire
And I'm falling
I'm walking on a wire, I'm walking on a wire
And I'm falling
I'm walking on a wire, I'm walking on a wire
And I'm falling

Walking The Long Miles Home

~ Richard Thompson

Oh the last bus has gone
Or maybe I'm wrong
It just doesn't exist
And the words that flew
Between me and you
I must be crossed off your list
So I'm walking the long miles home
I don't mind losing you
In fact I feel better each step of the way
In the dark I rehearse all the right things to
say
I'll be home, I'll be sober by break of day
Walking the long miles home

Not a soul is around
As I put more ground
Between me and you
And the whole town's asleep
Or maybe they're deep
In the old "voulez vous"
So I'm walking the long miles home
And I don't mind losing you
Got the moon there for company each step
of the way
And the rhythm in my shoes keep the blues
all away
When you ride Shank's Pony you don't have
to pay
Walking the long miles home

Oh the party was grand
But I hadn't quite planned
On staying so long
And while you accused me
The hours confused me
And my friends had all gone
So I'm walking the long miles home
And I don't mind losing you
Ah there's nobody out but the cop on the
beat
He's snoring so loud I don't hear my feet

I just laugh to myself and move off down the
street

Walking the long miles home
I'm walking the long miles home
Oh walking the long miles home

Richard Thompson:

https://youtu.be/2QyzLZ3i_QQ

Walking Through A Wasted Land

~ Richard Thompson

I'm walking through a wasted land
Of soft sell concrete and rust
What ever happened to this country?
Where is the hand you can trust?
Walk down, walk down, walk down

I remember when a farmer was ashamed
If he never put his hand to a plough
You can buy a lot of shame with your money
He's riding in a limousine now
Walk down, walk down, walk down, walk
down!

Sweat is the name of this town
It's an ugly old, dirty old disgrace
And now that the steel's shut down
It's fear puts the sweat in a man's face
Walk down, walk down, walk down

Oh now I should have a break like you
But somebody stacked up the decks
Heads are going to roll some day
If we ever get this yoke off our necks
Walk down, walk down, walk down, oh

Well I'm walking through a wasted land
I'm walking through a wasted land
Where is the future we planned
I'm walking through a wasted land
Walk down, walk down, walk down, walk
down!

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/Aj92yV3wLDs>

Wall Of Death

~ Richard Thompson

Let me ride on the Wall Of Death one more
time

Let me ride on the Wall Of Death one more
time

You can waste your time on the other rides

This is the nearest to being alive

Oh let me take my chances on the Wall Of
Death

You can go with the crazy people in the
Crooked House

You can fly away on the Rocket or spin in
the Mouse

The Tunnel Of Love might amuse you

Noah's Ark might confuse you

But let me take my chances on the Wall Of
Death

On the Wall Of Death all the world is far
from me

On the Wall Of Death it's the nearest to
being free

Well you're going nowhere when you ride on
the carousel

And maybe you're strong but what's the
good of ringing a bell

The switchback will make you crazy.

Beware of the bearded lady

Oh let me take my chances on the Wall Of
Death

Let me ride on the Wall Of Death one more
time

Oh let me ride on the Wall Of Death one
more time

You can waste your time on the other rides

This is the nearest to being alive

Oh let me take my chances on the Wall Of
Death

Let me take my chances on the Wall Of
Death

Oh let me take my chances on the Wall Of
Death

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/u9v9fD0NjQ0>

Waltzing's For Dreamers

~ Richard Thompson

Oh play me a blue song and fade down the
light
I'm sad as a proud man can be sad tonight
Just let me dream on, oh just let me sway
While the sweet violins and the saxophones
play
And Miss, you don't know me, but can't we
pretend
That we care for each other, till the band
reach the end

One step for aching, and two steps for
breaking
Waltzing's for dreamers and losers in love
One step for sighing and two steps for
crying
Waltzing's for dreamers and losers in love

Now they say love's for gamblers, oh the
pendulum swings
I bet hard on love and I lost everything
So don't send me home now, put a shot in
my arm
And we'll drink out old memories and we'll
drink in the dawn
And Mr Bandleader won't you play one
more time
For I've good folding money in this pocket of
mine

Oh, one step for aching, two steps for
breaking
Waltzing's for dreamers and losers in love
One step for sighing, and two steps for
crying
Waltzing's for dreamers and losers in love

Oh Miss, you don't know me, but can't we
pretend
That we care for each other, till the band
reach the end

Oh, one step for aching, two steps for
breaking

Waltzing's for dreamers and losers in love
One step for sighing, two steps for crying
Waltzing's for dreamers and losers in love
Waltzing's for dreamers and losers in love

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/RGAVSCm8WfY>

We Sing Hallelujah

~ Richard Thompson

A man, he's like a rusty wheel
On a rusty cart
He sings his song as he rattles along
And then he falls apart

And we'll sing hallelujah
At the turning of the year
And we work all day in the old fashioned
way
'Till the shining star appears

A man, he's like a briar
He covers himself with thorns
He laughs like a clown when his fortune's
down
And his clothes are ragged and torn

And we'll sing hallelujah
At the turning of the year
And we work all day in the old fashioned
way
'Till the shining star appears

A man, he's like a three string fiddle
Hanging upon the wall
He plays when somebody scrapes on the
bow
Or he can't play at all

And we'll sing hallelujah
At the turning of the year
And we work all day in the old fashioned
way
'Till the shining star appears

A man, he's like his father
Wishes he was never born
He longs for the time when the clock will
chime
And he's dead for evermore

And we'll sing hallelujah
At the turning of the year
And we work all day in the old fashioned
way
'Till the shining star appears

And we'll sing hallelujah
At the turning of the year
And we work all day in the old fashioned
way
'Till the shining star appears

Richard & Linda Thompson:
<https://youtu.be/ffHHxpPZk38>

Welcome Poor Paddy Home

Dervish: <https://youtu.be/qrTFymFo5gg>

I am a true born Irishman
I'll never deny what I am
I was born in sweet Tipperary town
Three thousand miles away

Hurray me boys hurray
No more do I wish for to roam
For the sun it will shine in the harvest time
To welcome poor Paddy home

The girls thay are gay and frisky
They'd take you by the hand
Saying Jimmy mo chroi will you come with
me
To welcome poor Paddy home

Hurray me boys hurray
No more do I wish for to roam
For the sun it will shine in the harvest time
To welcome poor Paddy home

In came the foreign nation
And scattered all over the land
The horse, the cow, the goat, sheep and
sow
Came into the stranger's hands

Hurray me boys hurray
No more do I wish for to roam
For the sun it will shine in the harvest time
To welcome poor Paddy home

The Scotsman can boast of the thistle
And England can boast of the rose
But Paddy can boast of the Emerald Isle
Where the dear little shamrock grows.

Hurray me boys hurray
No more do I wish for to roam
For the sun it will shine in the harvest time
To welcome poor Paddy home

Wheely Down

~ Richard Thompson

She womanly lay like the lay of the land
The land around Wheely Down
And every curve was a high, high hill
To hang above the town
From Holland they came to make the maps
And they had made her well
For the rivers danced all across the green
And the pinewood sweet did smell

As far as ever a man can see
It yields him more and more
And every house he washes it white
And he covers it all with straw
Except for the fool, who makes his home
Upon the flooded ground,
And the still on the tide is a glass to the
eyes
That stare out of Wheely Down

All things must change within the earth
The moving and the lame.
For the worms will rot the miller's wheel
And the rats will eat the grain.
And the armies of deliverance
Are run into the ground,
And the kestrel turns in the empty skies
On high over Wheely Down.

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/iKkoZ2l-F8M>

When An Old Cricketer Leaves The Crease

~ Roy Harper

When the day is done and the ball has spun
in the umpires pocket away
And all remains in the groundsman's pains
for the rest of time and a day
There'll be one mad dog and his master,
pushing for four with the spin
On a dusty pitch with two pounds six of
willow wood in the sun.

When an old cricketer leaves the crease,
you never know whether he's gone
If sometimes you're catching a fleeting
glimpse of a twelfth man at silly Mid-on
And it could be Geoff and it could be John
with a new ball sting in his tail
And it could be me and it could be thee and
it could be the sting in the ale, sting in
the ale.

When the moment comes and the gathering
stands and the clock turns back to
reflect
On the years of grace as those footsteps
trace for the last time out of the act
Well this way of life's recollection, the
hallowed strip in the haze
The fabled men and the noonday sun are
much more than just yarns of their days.

When an old cricketer leaves the crease,
well you never know whether he's gone
If sometimes you're catching a fleeting
glimpse of a twelfth man at silly Mid-on
And it could be Geoff and it could be John
with a new ball sting in his tail
And it could be me and it could be thee and
it could be the sting in the ale, the sting
in the ale.

When an old cricketer leaves the crease,
well you never know whether he's gone
If sometimes you're catching a fleeting
glimpse of a twelfth man at silly Mid-on
And it could be Geoff and it could be John
with a new ball sting in his tail
And it could be me and it could be thee.

Roy Harper:

<https://youtu.be/GJCqECUmx44>

When I Get To The Border

~ Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/AWDIkiPKgFs>

Dirty people take what's mine
I can leave them all behind
They can never cross that line
When I get to the border

Sawbones standing at the door
Waiting 'till I hit the floor
He won't find me anymore
When I get to the border

Monday morning, Monday morning, closing
in on me
I'm packing up and I'm running away
To where nobody picks on me

If you see a box of pine
With a name that looks like mine
Just say I drowned in a barrel of wine
When I got to the border
When I got to the border

A one way ticket's in my hand
Heading for the chosen land
My troubles will all turn to sand
When I get to the border

Salty girl with the yellow hair
Waiting in that rocking chair
And if I'm weary I won't care
When I get to the border

Monday morning, Monday morning, closing
in on me
I'm packing up and I'm running away
To where nobody picks on me

The dusty road will smell so sweet
Paved with gold beneath my feet
And I'll be dancing down the street
When I get to the border
When I get to the border

When I Was on Horseback

[Roud 2]

When I was on horseback wasn't I pretty
When I was on horseback wasn't I gay
Wasn't I pretty when I entered Cork City
And met with my downfall on the fourteenth
of May.

Six jolly soldiers to carry my coffin
Six jolly soldiers to march by my side
It's six jolly soldiers take a bunch of red
roses
Then for to smell them as we go along.

Beat the drum slowly and play the pipes
only
Play up the dead-march as we go along
And bring me to Tipperary and lay me down
easy
I am a young soldier that never done wrong

When I was on horseback wasn't I pretty
When I was on horseback wasn't I gay
Wasn't I pretty when I entered Cork City
And met with my downfall on the fourteenth
of May.

Steeleye Span:

<https://youtu.be/MQDgA0S1l0o>

When Spring Comes In

[Roud 439]

Bob & Ron Copper:

https://youtu.be/3kh_OtMbO-I

When Spring comes on, the birds do sing,
The lambs do skip and the bells do ring,
While we enjoy their glorious charm,
So noble and so gay.

The primrose blooms and the cowslip, too.
The violets in their sweet retire,
The roses shining through the briar,
And the daffa-down dillys which we admire
Will die and fade away.

Young men and maidens will be seen
On mountains high and meadows green;
They will talk of love and sport and play
While these young lambs do skip away.
At night, they'll homeward wend their way
When evening stars appear.

The primrose blooms and the cowslip, too.
The violets in their sweet retire,
The roses shining through the briar,
And the daffa-down dillys which we admire
Will die and fade away.

The dairymaid to milking goes,
Her blooming cheeks as red as a rose.
She carries her pail all on her arm,
So cheerful and so gay.
She milks, she sings,
And the valleys ring.

The small birds on the branches there
Sit listening to this lovely fair;
She is her master's trust and care,
She is the ploughman's joy.

The primrose blooms and the cowslip, too.
The violets in their sweet retire,
The roses shining through the briar,
And the daffa-down dillys which we admire
Will die and fade away.

When The Spell Is Broken

~ Richard Thompson

When the spell is broken
When the spell is broken
How you ever gonna keep her now
You can't cry if you don't know how
When the spell is broken
When the spell is broken
All the joy is gone from her face
Welcome back to the human race
How long can the flame
Of love remain
When you curse and fight
And never see like
Or hear like spoken
When the spell is broken
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
When the spell is broken
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
Oh when the spell is broken
All your magic and your ways and schemes
All your lies come and tear at your dreams
When the spell is broken
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
When the spell is broken
Now you're handing her that same old line
It's just straws in the wind this time
When love has died,
There's none starry-eyed
No kiss, no tears,
No farewell souvenirs
Not even a token, when the spell is broken

Don't swear your heart
From the very start
Love letters you wrote
Are pushed back down you throat
And leave you choking, when the spell is
broken
(When the spell, When the spell, When the
spell is broken)
When the spell is broken

When the spell is broken
(When the spell, When the spell, When the
spell is broken)

When the spell is broken
When the spell is broken

(Can't cry if you don't know how)
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
(You can't cry if you don't know how)
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
(Can't cry if you don't know how)
(Can't cry if you don't know how)

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/4exilEoExXk>

Who Knows Where The Time Goes?

~ Sandy Denny

Across the evening sky, all the birds are
leaving
But how can they know it's time for them to
go?
Before the winter fire, I will still be dreaming
I have no thought of time

For who knows where the time goes?
Who knows where the time goes?

Sad, deserted shore, your fickle friends are
leaving
Ah, but then you know it's time for them to
go
But I will still be here, I have no thought of
leaving
I do not count the time

For who knows where the time goes?
Who knows where the time goes?

And I am not alone while my love is near me
I know it will be so until it's time to go
So come the storms of winter and then the
birds in spring again
I have no fear of time

For who knows how my love grows?
And who knows where the time goes

Fairport Convention:

<https://youtu.be/OkOB57UcYk8>

Why Do You Turn Your Back?

~ Richard Thompson

When you were helpless, before you knew
He gave you shelter until you grew
He kept you secret, then he gave you a
 name
You drank from a river, you slept in the hay

You grew up running, into the wind
You grew up fighting a war you'd never win
Against a foe you'd never seen
Pretending to be what you'd never been

Why do you turn your back on your best
 friend?
Why do you turn your back on the one who
 loves you?
Why do you turn your back on your best
 friend?
The only one who ever really cared
The only one who ever really cared

When you were burning, the sky would pour
When you were drowning, he threw you
 ashore
He saved your life, o just to be
The one who turned back his enemy

And now you're like a bolted door
No-one can change the lock, your palace is
 secure
You're the king and the prisoner
But don't you hear the knocking at the door?

Why do you turn your back on your best
 friend?
Why do you turn your back on the one who
 loves you?
Why do you turn your back on your best
 friend?
The only one who ever really cared
The only one who ever really cared

And now you falter, afraid to live
And now you hold back, afraid to be the
 giver
And do you ever think
Of the friend who gave you gifts like a river?

Why do you turn your back on your best
 friend?
Why do you turn your back on the one who
 loves you?
Why do you turn your back on your best
 friend?
The only one who ever really cared
The only one who ever really cared
Why do you turn your back on your best
 friend?

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/0H2PPVIhVMY>

The Wife of the Soldier

~ Bertold Brecht / Patrick John O'Hara Scott

What did the wife of the soldier get
From the ancient city of Prague?
From Prague she got the linen shirt
It matched her skirt did the linen shirt
That she got from the city of Prague

What did the wife of the soldier get
From Brussels the Belgian town?
From Brussels she got the delicate lace
Oh the charm and the grace of the delicate
lace
That she got from the Belgian town

What did the wife of the soldier get
From Paris the City of Light?
From Paris she got the silken dress
Oh to possess the silken dress
That she got from the City of Light

What did the wife of the soldier get
From Libya's desert sands?
From Libya, the little charm
Around her arm she wore the charm
That she got from the desert sands

What did the wife of the soldier get
From Russia's distant steppes?
From Russia she got the widow's veil
And the end of the tale is the widow's veil
That she got from the distant steppes

Martin Carthy: https://youtu.be/t0J-Vf_kSw0

Wild Ox Moan

~ Vera Ward Hall / Ruby Pickens Tartt

Well, come here, pretty woman
Come sit on daddy's knee
I got something to tell you woman
Well, don't you howl at me

Well, I'm going up to Texas
Well, don't you want to go
Well, I'm going to Texas
Cause that's where I belong

Well, that is... where... I belong

Well, I'm going to Texas
Well, to hear that wild ox moan
If you don't want to see me woman
I'm going to drive my milk cow home

Don't your kitchen look lonesome
When your biscuit roller's goes
That's why I'm going down to Texas
Cause that is where I belong

Well, that is... where... I belong
Well, that is... where... I belong

Geoff Muldaur:

<https://youtu.be/ZvjWNBu-JPc>

Will The Turtle Be Unbroken

~ Les Barker

I have bought a small apartment
In a lonely part of town
There are 27 storeys
It's a long way to the ground

There I live with my friend Myrtle
My companion, my best friend
She ain't human; she's a turtle
And I'll love her to the end

She was standing at my window
On a cold and cloudy day
Till some wild and wilful wind blew
My poor Myrtle clean away

Will the turtle be unbroken
By and by Lord, by and by
Lord help my Myrtle as she hurtles
Through the sky Lord, through the sky

I ran downstairs, I was crying
I must find her, I must know
My poor Myrtle would be lying
Several hundred feet below

Will the turtle be unbroken
By and by Lord, by and by
Lord help my Myrtle as she hurtles
Through the sky Lord, through the sky

Was she sundered into sections
As her shell fell to the ground
Would I find two hundred plectrums
My friend Myrtle all around

Will the turtle be unbroken
By and by Lord, by and by
Lord help my Myrtle as she hurtles
Through the sky Lord, through the sky

Oh caretaker, poor caretaker

Why do you lie here stone cold dead
Poor man went to meet his maker
Something landed on his head

And the turtle was unbroken
By and by Lord, by and by
For you guided my friend Myrtle
Through the sky Lord, through the sky

Undertaker, undertaker
Lay that poor man in his grave
Good Lord took the old caretaker
But my best friend she was saved

Yes the turtle was unbroken
By and by Lord, by and by
For you guided my friend Myrtle
Through the sky Lord, through the sky

Les Barker: <https://youtu.be/MRov5TUqkFQ>

Withered And Died

~ Richard Thompson

This cruel country has driven me down
Teased me and lied, teased me and lied
I've only sad stories to tell to this town
My dreams have withered and died

Once I was bending the tops of the trees
Kind words in my ear, kind faces to see

Then I struck up with a boy from the west
Played run and hide, played run and hide
Count one to ten and he's gone with the rest
My dreams have withered and died

Silver moon sail up and silver moon shine
On the waters so wide, waters so wide
Steal from the bed of some good friend of
mine
My dreams are withered and died

If I was a butterfly, live for a day
I could be free, just blowing away

This cruel country has driven me down
Teased me and lied, teased me and lied
I've only sad stories to tell to this town
My dreams have withered and died

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/kisbADMJLYk>

Would You Like to Play the Guitar?

~ Pat Donohue / Johnny Burke & Jimmy Van Heusen

Would you like to play the guitar?
Carry money home in a jar
From a coffeehouse or a bar
Or would you rather get a job?

A job is the thing that makes you get out of
bed

And work every day until you're dead.
Your back is achin' and your brain is numb
And you just can't wait until the weekend
comes

But if you don't want to starve or beg or rob
You're gonna have to get a job

Or would you like to play the guitar
Drive for miles and miles in your car
And pretend that you're a big star
Or would you rather book the gig?

An agent's the guy who takes his twenty
percent
What he says ain't always what he meant.
He'll clean you out in ways you never
thought
Because he's good at business and he
knows you're not.
And then he'll sue if you ever make it big
Cause he's the guy who booked the gig.

Or would you like to play the guitar
For a living--har-dee-har-har.
I'll admit it's kind of bizarre
Or would you rather be the wife?

The wife is the one who has to rescue our
butts
She's either a saint or else she's nuts.
She gets impatient and she gets annoyed

Cause she's the one who must remain
employed
And, by the way, if you want to wreck your
life
Become a guitar player's wife.

'Cause all the monkeys ain't in the zoo.
They can be trained to play guitar too.
Some do a whole lot better than you
But even if you don't go far
You could be worse off than you are
At least you're playing your guitar.

Jim Kweskin: <https://youtu.be/6t1gc4v5RVU>

Word Unspoken, Sight Unseen

~ Richard Thompson

I must leave this tainted place
Of slow and hidden pain
By all and any means
All the past I shall erase
And never look again
On child's memories

If you'll have me, truly have me
Word Unspoken, Sight Unseen
I'm new-born to be your lover
Word Unspoken, Sight Unseen

Take my trophies from the rack.
The medals from my chest
The walls wash clean
All my life is on my back
And swiftness suits me best
I'm travelling lean

So I come to you a shell
Make of me what you must
And I shall bend
What you need I cannot tell
But I shall sweep the dust
And patch and mend

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/KBFxVIZrSiM>

The Wrong Heartbeat

~ Richard Thompson

Don't think my love is something that you
can play with
I'm not the one to spend the time of day with
You learn to hide love, you lock it up or find
it gone
You think you need me, you think you read
me
From the beating of my heart

But you're listening to the wrong heartbeat
O you're listening to the wrong heartbeat
You're listening to the wrong heartbeat
My love is strong

If you should see a tear, you won't see
many
If you should hear me sigh, it's not for any
If you should greet me as I am walking
along
You only want to see just the shell of me
You don't know the other part

Well, you're listening to the wrong heartbeat
Ah, listening to the wrong heartbeat
I said, you're listening to the wrong
heartbeat
My love is strong

O you're listening to the wrong heartbeat
O listening to the wrong heartbeat
O listening to the wrong heartbeat
My love is strong

Don't throw your secrets where men will
steal them
You got to hide them, you got to seal them
No matter what you try, you'll never take my
love from me
And if you might think that you can move
me
From the beating of my heart

O you're listening to the wrong heartbeat
Ah, listening to the wrong heartbeat
You're listening to the wrong heartbeat
My love is strong

O yes you're listening to the wrong
heartbeat
You're listening to the wrong heartbeat
You're listening to the wrong heartbeat
My love is strong

You're, you're, you're listening to the wrong
heartbeat
O listening to the wrong heartbeat
O you're listening to the wrong heartbeat
My love is strong

Richard & Linda Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/3D2mdeHnQS0>

You Don't Say

~ Richard Thompson

I saw your old flame
Walking down the street
She's back in town again
She's looking out for you
She says you used her
And you were indiscreet
It really wounded her
When you bid adieu

Do you mean she still cares
Do you mean she still cares
Do you mean she still cares
Oh you don't say

Do you mean she still cares (Do you mean
she still cares)
Do you mean she still cares (Do you mean
she still cares)
Do you mean she still cares
But you don't say (you don't say)

She keeps half a ring
She says you've kept the other
She says you broke your word
When you pursue another
She says "You're getting love
Mixed up with sympathy
Young man, do your duty
And come on back to me"

Do you mean she still cares (Do you mean
she still cares)
Do you mean she still cares (Do you mean
she still cares)
Do you mean she still cares
Oh you don't say (you don't say)

Oh do you mean she still cares
Do you mean she still cares
Do you mean she still cares
Oh you don't say

She says her heart aches
Like you had bought and sold her
She took all her hopes
And pinned them on your shoulder
She sends you rosemary
And by this gift you're given
Remember love heals
And old wrongs forgiven

Do you mean she still cares (Do you mean
she still cares)
Do you mean she still cares (Do you mean
she still cares)
Do you mean she still cares
Oh you don't say (you don't say)

Do you mean she still cares
Oh do you mean she still cares
Do you mean she still cares
Oh you don't say

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/nYLDL1sMJOU>

You're Going to Need Somebody

~ Richard Thompson

When you're lost in the dark and you can't
find a way
When the night is so long you don't
remember the day
When you're too far gone to hear anybody
call
When your last deal left you with nothing at
all

You're going to need somebody, you're
going to need somebody
You're going to need the one who was
standing and waiting for you

When nobody wants you, nobody needs
you
Nobody loves you, nobody feeds you
When your ship is sinking in the middle of a
sea
When they locked you in chains and they've
thrown away the key

You're going to need somebody, you're
going to need somebody
You're going to need the one who was
standing and waiting for you

When you don't live long unless you're fast
on your feet
When they're taking your furniture right out
into the street
When you can't sleep at night for counting
cracks on the wall
When your friends build you up just to watch
you fall

You're going to need somebody, you're
going to need somebody
You're going to need the one who was
standing and waiting for you

When you're lost in the dark and you can't
find a way
When the night is so long you don't
remember the day
When you're too far gone to hear anybody
call
When your last deal left you with nothing at
all

You're going to need somebody, you're
going to need somebody
You're going to need the one who was
standing and waiting for you
You're going to need the one who was
standing and waiting for you

Richard Thompson:

<https://youtu.be/rCuQVLhO-VQ>