



KelticDead Music

Stories, Tunes and Songs in the Traditions of our Celtic Dead

To the Four Ayrts to Guide Us, and
For the Four Winds to Get Us There!

The mission of the **KelticDead Music** initiative is to find tunes and songs from around the world that have Celtic, Folk, World, Americana, and Seafaring origins, and arrange them into simple sheet music formats for folk musicians to use and share. In addition, the KDM initiative provides the in-depth stories with possible lyrics for a more complete music-education experience.

*All the selections and sheet music content provided in the **KelticDead Music** initiative are from traditional, made-public, made-public with credits, or cited credits where applicable. This material content is from various internet sources and the personal interpretations of the subject is provided by **Patrick O-Shaun Young, KelticDead Music**. All graphics are either public domain or cited where applicable. Validation and verification are left up to the reader.*

Go To Sea No More

As with most seafaring tunes, the melodies used were often ‘borrowed’ from other folk tunes.

In this version of the ballad (Go To Sea No More), the tune was based upon “The Fisherman’s Song” (also known as “Lament of the Fisherman’s Wife”). Other variants have similar beats and rhythms, such as “Going To Sea Once More,” out of Nova Scotia which was based upon the melody, “Skibbereen.” The version played by the KelticDead Music group follows the latter variant.

From the 1700s into the early 20th Century, Liverpool was the central seaport in the United Kingdom. Ships and sailors from all parts of the world were seen in this port city on the Mersey Estuary in England. The made public picture to the right was taken from an old photograph in the 1800s.



The Potato Blight (1845-1847) caused the Great Famine (an Gorta Mór) in Ireland, and millions of poor Irish and Scots began to flood into the English seaport of Liverpool to live, to work, or if possible, to emigrate.

Work was hard to find, and many had to take jobs out to sea to work on whaling packet ships which harvested the blubber from “right whales” to provide oil for lighting purposes.

Go To Sea No More

When first, I landed in Liverpool, I went upon a spree
Me money, alas, I spent too fast - got drunk as drunk could be
And when me money, it was gone, I knew I wanted more
A man be blind to make up his mind and go to sea once more

Once more, boys, once more and go to sea once more
A man be blind to make up his mind and go to sea once more

I spent the night with Angeline, too drunk to roll in bed
Me watch was new - me money too – next morning she had fled.
And as I walked the streets about, the whores they all did roar
There goes Jack Strapp, that poor sailor lad, and he goes to sea once more

Once more, boys, once more, oh, go to sea once more
There goes Jack Strapp, that poor sailor lad, and he goes to sea once more

And as I walked the streets about, I met with Rapper Brown
I asked for him to take me on - he looked at me and frowned
He said, "Last time you was paid off - with me you could no score.
I'll take a chance and I'll take your advance, and you'll go to sea once more."

Once more, boys, once more, and go to sea once more
"I'll take a chance and I'll take your advance, and you'll go to sea once more."

I shipped aboard on a whaling ship – 'twas bound for arctic seas
Where cold winds blow through the frost and snow, - Jamaica rum would freeze
But worse to bear, I had no gear; me money spent on shore
'twas then I wished that I was dead and go to sea no more

No more, boys, no more, oh, go to sea no more
'twas then I wished that I was dead and go to sea no more

So come all of you seafaring men, who'll listen to me song
When you come off those rotten boats, I'll have you not go wrong
Oh, Take advice, no strong drink, and don't go sleep with whores
Get married and sleep all your nights in bed and go to sea no more

No more, boys, no more, Oh, go to sea no more
Get married and sleep all your nights in bed and go to sea no more.

The Potato Blight (1845-1847) caused the Great Famine (an Gorta Mór) in Ireland, and millions of poor Irish (and Scots) began to flood into the English seaport of Liverpool to live, to work, or if possible, to emigrate.

Painting of Liverpool at dusk by John Atkinson Grimshaw. Made Public.



Go To Sea No More

Because of the overcrowding, crime, prostitution, and child trafficking were common in those days. In Liverpool many girls were faced with severe choices to either beg, steal, or become prostitutes. In that time, the youngest prostitute that was pregnant (on record in that city) was 10 years old. Many of these poor girls did not survive into their twenties.



Bothels were not clean and often set up in the alleys or streets. This made-public picture shows a range of prostitutes from children to old women in 1890 (in Queen Victoria's time).

In Liverpool, many seamen acquired work at the Custom House, and were hired on by ship foremen. The term "Rapper" in the song referred to someone who was English and not Scots or Irish.



The whaling industry was a hard, brutal life, but in the mid-1800s through the early 1900s, it was one of the few industries for the Scots and Irish due to the potato blight.



Made public photo of a Rope Maker's Guild (Left) and a made public painting of men in a whaling boat killing a whale.

Go To Sea No More

The expression “Those rotten boats” refers to the fact that ships in the 1800s were typically made of wood, and after sea voyages, wooden sailing ships had to have extensive maintenance done on the hulls. The made public painting below shows a wooden ship in New Bedford being rolled over or “hove down” to remove barnacles and other damage.



Contrary to what one might think, most sailors in those days were of good moral character. The tale that this sailor relates serves as a warning to others to not do what he did.

The times were hard, and it was not unusual to see children beg, steal or even prostitute to survive.



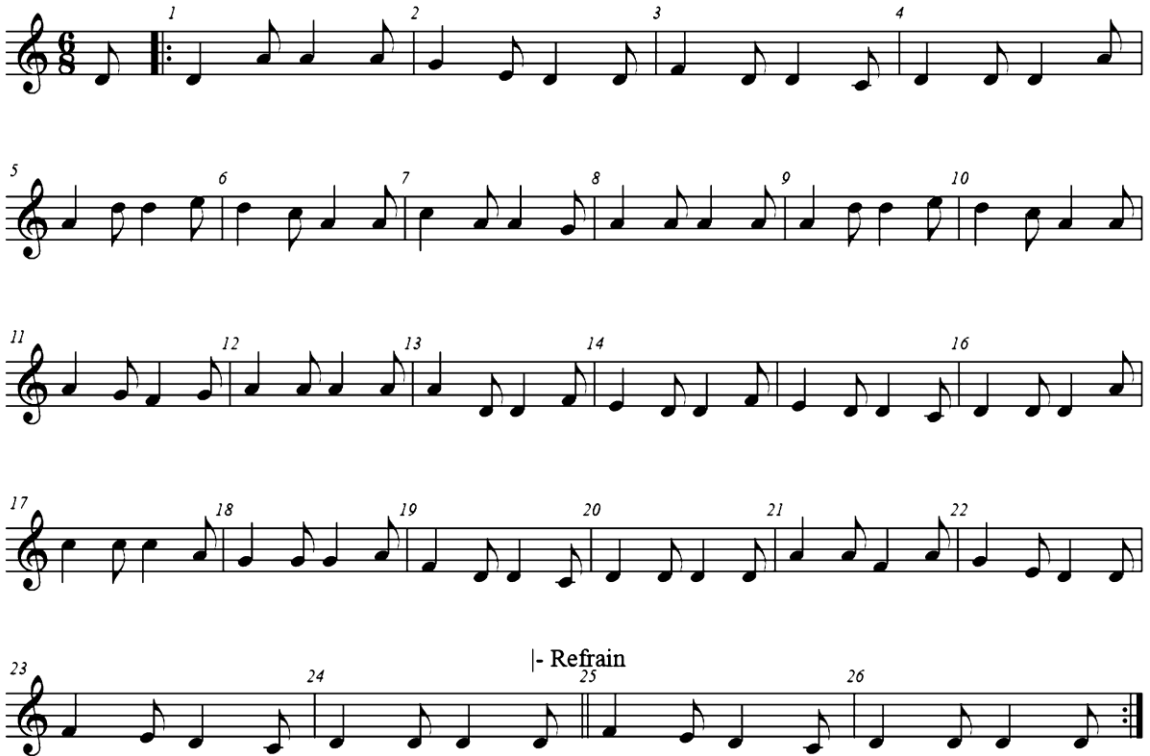
Each assignment with a ship requires certain kinds of gear, and the young sailor lost his advance to “Rapper Brown.” And, since whaling ships normally hunt in northern seas, our poor sailor lad nearly froze to death.

Go To Sea No More

Melody variant from "Skibbereen"

Arrangement by KelticDead Music
Variant arrangement from "Go To Sea No More."

Seafaring



1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 16

17 18 19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26

|- Refrain

<https://www.reverbNation.com/kelticdead2/song/35433508-go-to-sea-no-more--kdm>

KelticDead Music Group:

Shaun Young arranged the sheet music, and adjusted the lyrics of the song to play with it. He uses an Irish-Tuned, Low Octave Bouzouki to set the rhythm and beat, a Kerry Mezzo C whistle, and voices.

Earnie Taft filled in the melody with his fiddle, and

Linda King provided a guitar, chorus voices, and harmony.

For this and other "KDM Story Broadside" visit
<https://kelticdeadmusic.org/story-broadside/>



Shaun Young



Earnie Taft



Linda King

KelticDead Music Initiative

is a private, on-line music-education initiative. All the music projects are recorded with live, acoustic instruments and performed in accordance with simplified sheet music arranged in eight bar formats (whenever possible) in accordance with the guidelines that are within the Celtic music traditions. For more music videos and stories visit ...

<https://KelticDeadMusic.org>