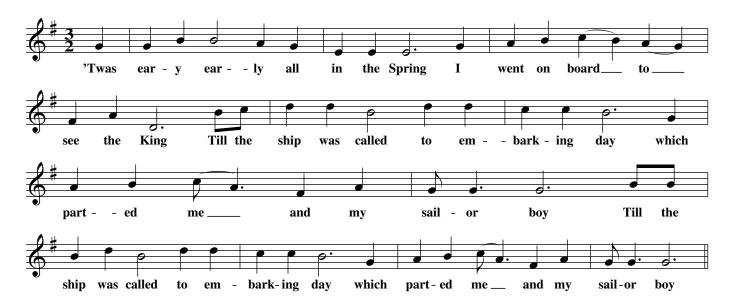
Early, early all in the Spring



(Chorus: repeat last two lines of each verse)

- 2. 'Oh father, father build me a boat That on the ocean I may float And every Queen's ship that I pass by I will enquire for my sailor boy'
- 3. She had not long sailed on the deep, Before five Queen's ships she chanced to meet, 'Now, jovial sailors, come tell me true Does my sweet William sails among your crew?'
- 4. No,no, fair lady, he is not here
 He's dead and drownd-ed, I do declare
 On yonders island as we passed by,
 'Twas there we lost your young sailor boy
- 5. She wrang her hands and she tore her hair, Just like a lady in despair And against a rock her boat it flew, Crying, 'What shall I do now my sailor boy?'
- 6. In two or three days later this lady died,
 A letter found by her bedside,
 And the reason why she lost her life
 Because she was not this sailor's wife
- 7. 'Then dig me a grave both long and deep, And grow it over with lilies sweet And on my tombstone a turtly dove To show the world I died for love.'

Source: Sung by George "Daddy" Lane. Winchcombe workhouse. Collected by Percy Grainger 5 April 1908.

© Gloucestershire Traditions