

Early, early all in the Spring

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time. The melody is simple and features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The lyrics are: 'Twas ear - y ear - - ly all in the Spring I went on board__ to __ see the King Till the ship was called to em - - bark - ing day which part - - ed me ___ and my sail - or boy Till the ship was called to em - bark-ing day which part-ed me _ and my sail-or boy

(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 drown-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.

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