

The Ball of Twine

♩ = leisurely

1. Oh it's a let me sing to you _____ of a girl I loved so true
Don't get up too ear - ly _____ in the morn. _____
Take heed of what I say, _____ and ne - ver go a - - stray,
But keep your hands on your lit - tle ball of twine.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The tempo is marked 'leisurely'. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. There are several blank lines in the lyrics, likely representing rests or breathers.

2. Well I met this fair young maid
And unto her I said
'Can I wind up your little ball of twine?'

(This is only a half verse)

3. 'Oh no kind Sir,' said she
'You're a stranger unto me,
You've got some other girlie in your eye.
So why not go to those
Who has money and fine clothes
And wind up their little ball of yarn.'

4. Well I took this fair young maid
And I laid her in the shade
Of course I did not think it any harm
So while the blackbirds and the thrushes
Were whistling in the bushes
I was winding up her little ball of twine.

Source: Billy Buckingham, Stonehouse.
Collected by Gwilym Davies, February 1979