

The Lost Lady Found

The musical score is written on three staves in a 6/8 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and features a prominent descending line in the first staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

'Twas down in a vall - - ey a
fair maid did dwell. She lived with her un - cle, as all knew full well. 'Twas
down in the vall-ey, where vio-lets grew gay; three gyp-sies be-trayed her and stole her a-way.

2. Long she'd been missing and could not be found.
The uncle he searched the country around
Till he came to the trustee 'twixt hope and fear.
The trustee made answer "She have not been seen here."
3. The trustee speaks up, his courage so bold
"I'm afraid she've been murdered for the sake of her gold.
We'll have life for life", the trustee did say.
"We'll send you to prison and there you shall stay."
4. There was a young squire who that loved her so.
Oft times together to school they would go.
"I'm afraid she's been murdered, so great is my fear
If I'd wings like a dove, I'd fly to my dear."
5. He travelled through England, through France and through Spain.
He ventured his life on the watery main.
He came to a house where he lodged for a night.
In this same house was his own heart's delight.
6. As soon as she saw him she flew to his arms
She told him her grief as she gazed on his charms
"How came you to Dublin, my dearest?" said he.
"The gypsies betrayed me and stole me away."
7. "Your uncle in England in prison doth lie
And for your sweet sake he's condemned for to die."
"Carry me back to old England" said she
"One thousand I'll give you thee and thy bride I will be."
8. Then they came to old England, her uncle to see
The carriage was under the high gallows tree.
"Oh, pardon, oh pardon, oh pardon" cried she.
"Don't you see I'm alive his dear life to save."

9. Straightway from the gallows they led him away
The bells they did ring and the music did play
The house in the valley with mirth did abound
As soon as they heard the lost lady was found.

Source: Sung by Archer Goode, Cheltenham; collected 1979 by Gwilym Davies and Mike Yates
Notes: Mr Goode only sang the first verse. The remainder is from William Martin, Winchcombe.

©Gloucestershire Traditions