

Barbara Allen

The musical notation consists of three staves. The first staff is in 3/4 time and contains the lyrics: [1. In Read-ing town where I was born, there was a fair maid dwell-ing. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: I picked her out to be my wife, and her name was Bar - bara Alle - en. The third staff is in 2/4 time and concludes with the lyrics: All - en, her name was Bar - bara All - en.]

[2. 'Twas in the merry month of May,
When green leaves they were springing,
A young man on his death bed lay
For the love of Barbara Allen.]

[3. He sent to her a servant-man
To the place where she was dwelling,
Saying - "Fair maid, to my master you must go,
If your name is Barbara Allen."]

4. Then slowly, slowly she came up,
And slowly she drew nigh him
And all she said when there she came,
"Young man I think you're dying."

[5. "Nothing but Death's prints in thy cheeks,
All joys they are fled from thee,
I cannot save thee from the grave,
So farewell my dearest Johnny!"]

[6. As she was walking in the fields
She heard the bells a-ringing,
And as they rang they seemed to say -
"Hard-hearted Barbara Allen."]

[7. Hard-hearted creature, sure, I was,
To one that loved me so dearly;
I wish I had more kinder been
In the time of life, when he was near me.]

[8. 'Twas he that died on one good day,
And she that died the morrow;
'Twas only he that died for love,
And she that died for sorrow.]

9. And when she on her death-bed lay
And to be buried by him,
And sore repented of the day
That she did e'er deny him.

Source: Emily Bishop, Bromsberrow Heath, 27th August 1957, collected by Russell Wortley
Wortley noted only two verses from Miss Bishop. The remaining verses sung by James Mills
at South Cerney were noted by Alfred Williams.

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