

Water Music - Texts & Translations

Sea Fever *John Masefield (1902)*

I must go down
to the seas again,
To the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship
and a star to steer her by,
And the wheel's kick
and the wind's song
and the white sail's shaking,
And a grey mist
on the sea's face,
and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down
to the seas again,
For the call
of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call
that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day
with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray
and the blown foam,
and the sea-gulls crying.

Down, down to the sea.

The Wellerman *Traditional New Zealand Folk Song*

There once was a ship
that put to sea,
The name of the ship
was the Billy Of Tea.
The winds blew up,
her bow dipped down,
O blow, my bully boys, blow.

Soon may
the Wellerman come
to bring us sugar
and tea and rum.
One day,
when the tonguin' is done,
We'll take our leave and go.

She had not been
two weeks from shore

When down on her
a right whale bore!
The captain called
all hands and swore
He'd take that whale in tow.

Before the boat
had hit the water
The whale's tail
came up and caught her,
All hands to the side,
harpooned and fought her,
When she dived down low.

A line we dropped
all in pursuit,
She raised her tail,
one last salute,
But the harpoon lodged,
there's no dispute,
She took that ship in tow.

And then for six long days
and six long nights
She drove us south
with all her might,
Until we were
too tired to fight...
Then we let her go. Huh!

In Meeres Mitten **(In The Middle Of The Sea)** *Friedrich Rückert*

In the middle of the sea
is an open store,
And inside
is a young saleswoman
Who has gold ribbon
and silk thread for sale.

In the middle of the sea
is a ball of gold,
That Turks and Christians
are fighting over.
Who at last will win the
noble treasure as their pay?

In the middle of the sea
is lofty altar,

All the women come
with rosaries;
Oh, pray to him for me,
to Jesus the child!

Full Fathom Five from The Tempest

William Shakespeare

Full fathom five
thy father lies.
Of his bones are coral made;
Those are pearls
that were his eyes;
Nothing of him that doth fade
But doth suffer a sea-change
Into something
rich and strange.
Sea-nymphs hourly
ring his knell:
Hark, now I hear them.
Ding-dong bell.

Lazy River *Sidney Arodin*

Oh, up a lazy river
by the old mill run
The lazy lazy river
in the noon-day sun
Linger in the shade
of a kind old tree
Throw away your troubles,
dream a dream with me.
Up a lazy river
where the robin's song
Awakes the bright
new morning
where we can move along.
Blue skies up above,
ev'ryone's in love,
Up a lazy river
How happy you could be
Up a lazy river with me.

Down In The River To Pray *Traditional*

As I went down
in the river to pray,
Studyin' about
that good old way,

And who should wear
the starry crown,
Good Lord,
show me the way.
O sisters let's go down,
let's go down,
come on down.
O sisters, let's go down,
down in the river to pray.

As I went down
in the river to pray,
Studyin' about
that good old way,
And who shall wear
the robe and crown,
Good Lord,
show me the way.
O brothers let's go down,
let's go down,
come on down.
O brothers, let's go down,
down in the river to pray.

As I went down
in the river to pray,
Studyin' about
that good old way,
And who should wear
the starry crown,
Good Lord,
show me the way.
O fathers let's go down,
let's go down,
come on down.
O fathers, let's go down,
down in the river to pray.

As I went down
in the river to pray,
Studyin' about
that good old way,
And who shall wear
the robe and crown,
Good Lord,
show me the way.
O mothers let's go down,
let's go down,
come on down.

O mothers, let's go down,
down in the river to pray.

Away From The Roll Of The Sea

Allister MacGillivray

Small craft in a harbor
that's still and serene
Give no indication
what their ways have been.
They rock at their moorings
all nestled in dreams.
Away from the roll of the sea.

Their stern lines are groaning
a lullaby air,
A ghost in the cuddy
a gull on the spar.
But never they whisper
of journeys afar,
Away from the roll of the sea.

Oh had they the tongues
for to speak
What tales of adventure
they'd weave.
But now they are anchored
to sleep and slumber alee.

Come fair winds to wake
them tomorrow we pray.
Come harvest a plenty
to them ev'ry day.
'til guided by harbour lights
they're home to stay.
Away from the roll of the sea.

Moon River

Johnny Mercer

Moon river, wider than a mile
I'm crossing you in style
someday.
Oh dream maker,
you heart breaker
Wherever you're goin',
I'm goin' your way.
Two drifters,
off to see the world
There's such a lot of world

to see.
We're after the same
rainbow's end,
Waitin' 'round the bend
My huckleberry friend,
Moon river, and me.

Take Me To The Water *Rollo Dilworth/Traditional*

Take me to the water.
Take me to the sea.
Take me to the river
So that my spirit can be free.
Gonna lay my burdens down,
Down by the riverside.
Gonna wade in the water,
The water that flows both
deep and wide.
Oh, take me, take me,
Take me to the water.

Gonna lay down my burden,
Down by the riverside.
Oh, take me, take me,
Take me to the water.
Gonna lay down
my sword and shield,
Down by the riverside.
Oh, take me, take me,
Take me to the water.

Wade in the water.
Wade in the water children.
God's a-gonna trouble
the water.

Take me to the water.
Take me to the sea.
Take me to the water.
Set my spirit free!
Wade in the water.
Wade in the water children,
And set my spirit free!
Down by the riverside.
I'll set my spirit free!
Oh, take me, take me,
Take me to the water!