

Down By the Seaside

Oh, down by the sea - side where the ships were a - sail - ing, I es -
pied a pret - ty maid, she was weep - ing and wail - ing. I ____
steps to her and says, "My dear what grieves thee?" And the
an - wer that she made me was, "There's none can re - lieve me."

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and folk-like, with lyrics written below the notes. There are some musical ornaments, such as a fermata and a triplet, over the notes for "grieves" and "me."

“It is seven long years since my love and I parted,
He left me here to mourn, all alone broken-hearted.
He vowed he would return if life was but lent him,
Which causes me to fear that death doth prevent him.”

“Your love and I fought under one commander,
We fought for our lives and old England’s great honor.
‘Twas on that unhappy shore where your love and I parted,
And the best of it all was he died loyal hearted.

“And as he was a-dying, his bones being broken,
He turns to me and says, ‘Here, take this love token;
Go carry it to my love, there are none who are fairer,
And tell her for me to wed with the bearer.”

“Oh, young man,” said she, “you may stand your chances,
I’ll think of his overthrow and of his adventures,
But since death has served him so, I will wed with no stranger.
To the wild woods I will go; I’ll become a wood ranger.”

Then hearing her say so, it made my love stronger,
And to her I did go; I could stay no longer.
They both sat them down to sing, but she sang the clearest
Like a nightingale in spring, “You are welcome home, dearest.”

Note: I have heard my older sister say that grandmother Spinney sang this song.
I have never heard this song sung outside my own family.