

The Poor Drunkard's Child

The musical score is written on four staves in a 2/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "As I walked out one fair summer's day, Through the green fields and meadows I carelessly did stray, I drew nigh unto a cottage that looked destitute and wild. And I heard a voice saying I'm a poor drunkard's child." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and a triplet of eighth notes over the words "I'm a poor".

As I walked out one fair summer's day, Through the
green fields and meadows I carelessly did stray, I drew
nigh unto a cottage that looked destitute and wild. And I
heard a voice saying I'm a poor drunkard's child."

“My father he drank till he spent all his store,
Which causes me in poverty to weep ever more.
He spent all his store, but was not reconciled,
He died frantic and left me a poor drunkard’s child.”

“My mother she died in a workhouse hard by
And the last words she said to me were, ‘You poor drunkard’s child.’
She died broken hearted looking up with a sigh,
‘Is there no one to take pity on my poor drunkard’s child?’

“Oh, now to conclude and to finish my song,
I hope you’ll forgive me if I have mentioned wrong;
Although I am friendless, I will never run wild
But I’ll set a good example for a poor drunkard’s child.”

Note: This song was taught to my two older sisters by my oldest brother’s wife over sixty years ago. I learned it from my sister. This song I never heard anyone sing except my sister, nor have I seen it in print.