

House Carpenter

Child ballad #238

Dulcimer Arrangement by Garey McAnally

The first system of music is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of five measures of music. Below the staff are three lines representing the dulcimer strings: D (top), A (middle), and D (bottom). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-3 on the strings.

The second system of music continues the melody from the first system. It begins with a measure rest labeled '6'. The melody consists of five measures of music. Below the staff are three lines representing the dulcimer strings: D (top), A (middle), and D (bottom). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 on the strings.

The third system of music continues the melody from the second system. It begins with a measure rest labeled '11'. The melody consists of five measures of music. Below the staff are three lines representing the dulcimer strings: D (top), A (middle), and D (bottom). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-4 on the strings.

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House Carpenter

Well met, well met, my own true love, Well met, well met, cried he.
I've just returned from the salt, salt sea; All for the love of thee.

I could have married the King's daughter dear, She would have married me.
But I have forsaken her crowns of gold, All for the love of thee."

Well, if you could have married the King's daughter, dear, I'm sure you are to blame,
For I am married to a house carpenter, And find him a nice young man."

Oh, will you forsake your house carpenter And go along with me?
I'll take you to where, the grass grows green, To the banks of the salt, salt sea.

Well, if I should forsake my house carpenter And go along with thee,
What have you got to maintain me on, And keep me from poverty?

Six ships, six ships all out on the sea, Seven more upon dry land,
One hundred and ten, all brave sailor men, Will be at your command.

She picked up her own wee babe, Kisses gave him three,
Said Stay right here with my house carpenter And keep him good company.

Then she putted on her rich attire, so glorious to behold.
And as she trod along her way, she shown like the glittering gold.

Well, they'd not been gone but about two weeks, I know it was not three.
When this fair lady began to weep, She wept most bitterly.

Ah, why do you weep, my fair young maid, Weep for your golden store?
Or do you weep for your house carpenter, Who never you shall see anymore?

I do not weep for my house carpenter Or for any golden store.
I do weep for my own wee babe, Who never I shall see anymore.

Well, they'd not been gone but about three weeks, I'm sure it was not four.
Our gallant ship sprang a leak and sank, Never to rise anymore.

One time around spun our gallant ship, Two times around spun she,
Three times around spun our gallant ship And sank to the bottom of the sea.