

TOWN COMMON SONGS

Montague Center Town Common
2:00 PM every day rain or shine

songs we've sung so far ...

- Bells Of Montague
- Bring Me Little Water Sylvie
- By Way Of Sorrow
- Guantanamera Bay
- Here Is My Home
- Hey Rain (Montague)
- Keep On The Sunny Side
- Let It Be
- Let Union Be
- Michael Row The Boat Ashore
- My Favorite Things
- Oh River / Finding My Way
- Pack Up Your Sorrows
- Roll The Old Chariot Along
- Rolling Home To Old New England
- Swing Low / Saints Go Marching / I'm Gonna Sing
- This Land Is Your Land
- Thousands Or More
- Unison In Harmony
- Up Above My Head
- When We Go Rolling Home

last updated Saturday 21 March 2020

new song suggestions? email will.quale@gmail.com

BELLS OF MONTAGUE

(orig. by Sydney Carter / adapted by ...?)

Loud are the bells of Montague
The people come and go
Here by the tower of Montague
I tell them what I know

**Ring out, bells of Montague
Let the winter come and go
All shall be well again, I know**

Love, like the yellow daffodil
Is coming through the snow
Love, like the yellow daffodil
Is Lord of all I know

Ring out ...

Ring for the yellow daffodil
The flower in the snow
Ring for the yellow daffodil
And tell them what I know

Ring out ...

**All shall be well, I'm telling you
let the winter come and go
All shall be well again, I know**

Loud are the bells of Montague
The people come and go
Here by the tower of Montague
I tell them what I know

Ring out ...

**All shall be well, I'm telling you
let the winter come and go
All shall be well again, I know**

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<https://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=653>

BRING ME LITTLE WATER SYLVIE

(trad. African American, from Huddie Ledbetter)

Bring me little water Sylvie

Bring me little water now
Bring me little water Sylvie
Every little once in a while

Don't you hear me calling Sylvie?

Don't you hear me calling now?
Don't you hear me calling Sylvie?
Every little once in a while

Getting' mighty thirsty Sylvie

Getting' mighty thirsty now
Getting' mighty thirsty Sylvie
Every little once in a while

Bring me little water Sylvie

Bring me little water now
Bring me little water Sylvie
Every little once in a while.

Can't you hear me calling Sylvie?

Can't you hear me calling now?
Can't you hear me calling Sylvie?
Every little once in a while

Getting' hot and thirsty Sylvie

Getting' hot and thirsty now
Getting' hot and thirsty Sylvie
Every little once in a while

Bring me little water Sylvie

Bring me little water now
Bring me little water Sylvie
Every little once in a while

Every little once in a while

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<http://www.stephengriffith.com/folksongindex/bring-me-little-water-sylvie/>

BY WAY OF SORROW

(by Julie Miller / arranged by Cry Cry Cry)

You've been taken by the wind
You have known the kiss of sorrows
Doors that would not take you in
Outcast and a stranger

**You have come by way of sorrow
You have come by way of tears
But you'll reach your destiny
Meant to find you all these years
Meant to find you all these years**

You have drunk a bitter wine
With none to be your comfort
You who once were left behind
Will be welcome at love's tables

You have come ...

You will one day come to know
You will one day come to know

All the nights that joy has slept
Will awake to days of laughter
Gone the tears that you have wept
You'll dance in freedom ever after

You have come ...

<http://echoesinthewind.net/?p=8633>

GUANTANAMERA BAY

(by Jose Marti, Jose Fernandez Diaz, Julian Orban, Hector Angulo, & Pete Seeger)

Yo soy un hombre sincero
De donde crecen las palmas
Y antes de morirme quiero
Echar mis versos del alma

(I am a truthful man,
From the land of the palm.
Before dying, I want to
share these poems of my soul.)

Guantanamera! Guajira!
Guantanamera!
Guantanamera! Guajira!
Guantanamera!

Mi verso es de un verde claro
Y de un carmin encendido
Mi verso es un ciervo herido
Que busca en el monte amparo

(My verses are light green,
But they are also flaming red.
My verses are like a wounded fawn,
Seeking refuge in the mountain.)

Guantanamera! ...

Cultivo la Rosa blanca
En junio como en enero
Para el amigo sincero
Que me da su mano franca

(I cultivate a white rose
In June and in January
For the sincere friend
Who gives me his hand.)

Guantanamera! ...

Y para el cruel que me arranca
El corazon con que vivo
Cardo ni ortiga cultivo
Cultivo la rosa blanca

(And for the cruel one who would tear out
This heart with which I live.
I cultivate neither thistles nor nettles
I cultivate a white rose.)

Guantanamera! ...

Con los pobres de la tierra
Quiero yo mi suerte echar
El arroyo de la sierra
Me complace mas que el mar

(With the poor people of this earth,
I want to share my lot.
The little streams of the mountains
Please me more than the sea.)

Guantanamera! ...

<https://songmeanings.com/songs/wiki/3530822107858907732/>
<https://www.songfacts.com/facts/pete-seeger/guantanamera>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guantanamera>

HERE IS MY HOME

(by Si Kahn)

Good friends from whom we now must part
Where are we bound?
Your hands and voices lift my heart
Here is my home.

**Come darkness, come light,
Where are we bound?
Come morning, come night,
Here is my home.**

For those who work in harmony
Where are we bound?
Will learn to live in unity
Here is my home.

Come darkness ...

If we can join ourselves in song
Where are we bound?
Our hearts will live when we are gone
Here is my home.

Come darkness ...

The spirit that finds music here
Where are we bound?
Will live for ever in the air
Here is my home.

Come darkness ...

Good friends from whom we now must part
Where are we bound?
Your hands and voices lift my heart
Here is my home.

Come darkness ...

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<https://www.petersfieldcommunitychoir.co.uk/assets/documents/130153-here-is-my-home.pdf>

HEY RAIN (MONTAGUE)

(orig. by Bill Scott / known through Danny Spooner / adapted by Will Quale)

**Hey rain, rain coming down on the plain
On the roofs of the town.**

Rain in my beer and rain in my face
Montague Center is a bloody wet place,

Hey rain ...

Rain in my beer and rain in my grub
And they've fitted anchors to the Lady Killigrew pub,

Hey rain ...

I've got a Connecticut River sturgeon livin' in my 'fridge
There's another road closure on the Gen'ral Pierce Bridge,

Hey rain ...

The Nor'easter sky's so cold and black
Only warm place is the old sugar shack,

Hey rain ...

And a bloke from Greenfield nigh died of fright
The river rose thirty five feet last night,

Hey rain ...

It's the worst wet season we've ever had,
I'd swim down to Hadley but it's just as bloody bad,

Hey rain ...

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<https://mainlynorfolk.info/danny.spooner/songs/heyrain.html>

KEEP ON THE SUNNY SIDE

(by Ada Blenkhorn & J.Howard Entwisle, known through the Carter Family)

There's a dark and a troubled side of life;
There's a bright and a sunny side, too;
Tho' we meet with the darkness and strife,
The sunny side we also may view.

**Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life;
It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way,
If we keep on the sunny side of life.**

Tho' the storm in its fury break today,
Crushing hopes that we cherished so dear,
Storm and cloud will in time pass away,
The sun again will shine bright and clear.

Keep on the sunny side ...

Let us greet with a song of hope each day,
Tho' the moments be cloudy or fair;
Let us trust in our Savior always,
Who keepeth everyone in His care.

Keep on the sunny side ...

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keep_On_the_Sunny_Side

LET IT BE

(by John Lennon & Paul McCartney)

When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be
And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

**Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be**

And when the broken-hearted people living in the world agree
There will be an answer, let it be
For though they may be parted, there is still a chance that they will see
There will be an answer, let it be

**Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
Yeah, there will be an answer, let it be**

**Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be**

And when the night is cloudy there is still a light that shines on me
Shine until tomorrow, let it be
I wake up to the sound of music, Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be

**Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be
There will be an answer, let it be**

**Let it be, let it be, let it be, yeah, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be**

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<https://www.songfacts.com/lyrics/the-beatles/let-it-be>

LET UNION BE

(trad. English, collected by Alfred Williams in Wiltshire)

Come my lads, let us be jolly
Drive away dull melancholy,
For to grieve it is a folly
When we're met together.

**Let union be in all our hearts,
Let all our hearts be joined as one.
We'll end the day as we began,
We'll end it all in pleasure.
Whack-folla-rolla-rye, too-ra-lie-doe (3x)
When we're met together.**

Old king Solomon in all his glory
Told each wife a different story,
In our cups we'll sing him glory
When we're met together.

Let union be ...

Eating and drinking are quite charming,
Smoking and piping there's no harm in.
All these things we'll delight in
When we're met together.

Let union be ...

Grab the bottle as it passes,
Do not fail to fill your glasses.
Water drinkers are dull asses
When we're met together.

Let union be ...

Cease your quarreling and fighting,
Evil-speaking and backbiting.
All these things take no delight in
When we're met together.

Let union be ...

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<https://mainlynorfolk.info/folk/songs/letunionbeinallourhearts.html>

MICHAEL ROW THE BOAT ASHORE

(trad. African American, collected by Charles Pickard Ware)

Michael row the boat ashore,

Hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore,

Hallelujah

My brothers and sisters are all aboard,

Hallelujah

My brothers and sisters are all aboard,

Hallelujah

The river is deep and the river is wide,

Hallelujah

Milk and honey on the other side,

Hallelujah

Jordan's river is chilly and cold,

Hallelujah

Chills the body but warms the soul,

Hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore,

Hallelujah

Michael row the boat ashore,

Hallelujah

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<http://www.stephengriffith.com/folksongindex/michael-row-the-boat-ashore/>

MY FAVORITE THINGS

(by Oscar Hammerstein & Richard Rogers)

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favorite things

Cream-colored ponies and crisp apple strudels
Doorbells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles
Wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings
These are a few of my favorite things

**When the dog bites, when the bee stings
When I'm feeling sad
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don't feel so bad**

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes
Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes
Silver-white winters that melt into springs
These are a few of my favorite things

When the dog bites ...

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<https://www.songfacts.com/lyrics/julie-andrews/my-favorite-things>

OH RIVER

(by Karisha Longaker, known through MaMuse)

PART 1

Finding my way, finding my way, finding my way,
Finding my way, finding my way back home
(x2)

PART 2

Oh river, I hear you, feel you calling me
Oh river, who will I be when I reach the sea

PART 3

Boom bi- bitsa bitty bitta
(x8)

PART 4

I— I am home
(x2)

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<https://thebirdsings.com/oh-river/>

PACK UP YOUR SORROWS

(by Richard Fariña & Pauline Marden)

No use crying, talking to a stranger
Naming the sorrow you've seen
Too many bad times, too many sad times
Nobody knows what you mean

**But if somehow you could pack up your sorrows
And give them all to me
You would lose them, I know how to use them
Give them all to me**

No use rambling, walking in the shadows
Trailing a wandering star
No one beside you, no one to hide you
And nobody knows what you are

But if somehow ...

No use gambling, running in the darkness
Looking for a spirit that's free
Too many long times, too many wrong times
And nobody knows what you see

But if somehow ...

No use roaming, going by the roadside
Seeking a satisfied mind
Too many highways, too many byways
And nobody's walking behind

But if somehow ...

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<https://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=4719>

ROLL THE OLD CHARIOT ALONG

(trad.)

Oh, a drop of Nelson's blood wouldn't do us any harm,
Oh, a drop of Nelson's blood wouldn't do us any harm,
Oh, a drop of Nelson's blood wouldn't do us any harm,
And we'll all hang on behind!

So we'll roll the old chariot along!
We'll roll the old chariot along!
We'll roll the old chariot along!
And we'll all hang on behind!

Oh, a plate of Irish stew wouldn't do us any harm ...
And we'll all hang on behind!
So we'll roll ...

Oh, a good night ashore wouldn't do us any harm ...
And we'll all hang on behind!
So we'll roll ...

Oh, a roll in the clover wouldn't do us any harm ...
And we'll all hang on behind!
So we'll roll ...

Oh, a long spell in gaol wouldn't do us any harm ...
And we'll all hang on behind!
So we'll roll ...

Oh, a nice watch below wouldn't do us any harm ...
And we'll all hang on behind!
So we'll roll ...

Oh, a night with the gals wouldn't do us any harm ...
And we'll all hang on behind!
So we'll roll ...

ETC ETC ...

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<https://maritime.org/chanteys/roll-the-old-chariot-along.htm>

ROLLING HOME TO OLD NEW ENGLAND

(trad.)

Call all hands to man the capstan
See the cable running clear
Heave away and with a will boys
For our homeland we will steer

Rolling home, rolling home
Rolling home across the sea
Rolling home to old New England
Rolling home, dear land, to thee

Fare-you-well you Spanish ladies
We must now bid you adieu
Happy times we spent together
Happy times we spent with you

Rolling home ...

'round Cape Horn one frosty morning
And our sails were filled with snow
Clear your sheets and sway your halyards
Swing her out and let her go

Rolling home ...

Up aloft amid the rigging
Blows a wild and rushing gale
Like a monsoon in the springtime
Filling out each well known sail

Rolling home ...

And the waves we leave behind us
Seem to murmur as they flow
There's a hearty welcome waiting
In the land to which you go

Rolling home ...

Many thousand miles behind us
Many thousand miles before
Ocean lifts her winds to bring us
To that well remembered shore

Rolling home ...

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<https://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=51635>

<https://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=17029>

SWING LOW / SAINTS GO MARCHING / I WANT TO SING
(trad. African American / arranged by ???)

PART 1

Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Coming for to carry me home

PART 2

Oh when the saints go marching in
Oh when the saints go marching in
I wanna be in that number
Oh when the saints go marching in

PART 3

I'm gonna sing, sing, sing, I'm gonna dance, dance, dance
I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna dance, Allelu
When the gates are opened wide, I'll be standing by your side
I'm gonna sing, I'm gonna dance, Allelu!

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<https://www.westropprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Gospel-Medley-lyrics.pdf>

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

(by Woody Guthrie)

**This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.**

As I was walking
that ribbon of highway
I saw above me
that endless skyway;
I saw below me
that golden valley;

This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land ...

I've roamed and rambled
and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of
her diamond deserts;
And all around me
a voice was sounding;

This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land ...

When the sun came shining,
and I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving
and the dust clouds rolling,
As the fog was lifting
a voice was chanting:

This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land ...

As I went walking
I saw a sign there,
And on the sign
it said "No Trespassing."
But on the other side
it didn't say nothing.

That side was made for you and me.

This land is your land ...

In the shadow of the steeple
I saw my people,
By the relief office
I seen my people;
As they stood there hungry,
I stood there asking

Is this land made for you and me?

This land is your land ...

Nobody living
can ever stop me,
As I go walking
that freedom highway;
Nobody living
can ever make me turn back

This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land ...

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https://www.woodyguthrie.org/Lyrics/This_Land.htm

THOUSANDS OR MORE

(trad. English, collected from the Copper Family in Sussex)

The time passes over more cheerful and gay,
Since we've learnt a new act to drive sorrows away.

**Sorrows away, sorrows away, sorrows away,
Since we've learnt a new act to drive sorrows away.**

Bright Phoebe awakes so high up in the sky
With her red, rosy cheeks and her spark-al-ing eye,

**Spark-al-ing eye, spark-al-ing eye, spark-al-ing eye,
With her red, rosy cheeks and her spark-al-ing eye.**

If you ask for my credit you'll find I have none,
With my bottle and friend you will find me at home.

**Find me at home, find me at home, find me at home,
With my bottle and friend you will find me at home.**

Although I'm not rich and although I'm not poor
I'm as happy as those that's got thousands or more,

**Thousands or more, thousands or more, thousands or more,
I'm as happy as them that's got thousands or more.**

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<https://mainlynorfolk.info/copperfamily/songs/thousandsormore.html>

UNISON IN HARMONY

(by Jim Boyes)

Soaring skywards, leaping sideways,
Do or die words cleave the air.
Joy and laughter, mornings after,
**Raise the rafters we don't care,
If the roof's beyond repair.**

**Raise the rafters, raise the rafters,
Raise the rafters we don't care,
If the roof's beyond repair.**

Sisters brothers, to all others,
Let this be our guiding star.
Hearts on fire but no Messiah,
**Hear the music from afar.
What we sing is what we are.**

**Hear the music, hear the music,
Hear the music from afar.
What we sing is what we are.**

Over hills and over valleys,
Over mountains, over seas.
Nations shouting unto nations
**Until nations cease to be.
Unison in harmony.**

**Until nations, until nations
Until nations cease to be.
Unison in harmony.**

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<https://www.protestinharmony.org.uk/songs/unison-in-harmony-2/>

UP ABOVE MY HEAD

(trad. African American)

Up above my head	(up above my head)
I hear music in the air	(I hear music in the air)
Up above my head	(up above my head)
I hear music in the air	(I hear music in the air)
I really do believe	(I really do believe)
There's a Heaven up there.	

Up above my head	(up above my head)
I hear singing in the air	(I hear singing in the air)
...	...

Up above my head	(up above my head)
I hear shouting in the air	(I hear shouting in the air)
...	...

Up above my head	(up above my head)
I hear music in the air	(I hear music in the air)
...	...

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Up_Above_My_Head

WHEN WE GO ROLLING HOME

(by John Tams)

'Round goes the wheel of fortune,
don't be afraid to ride,
There's a land of milk and honey waits
on the other side;
There'll be peace and there'll be plenty,
you'll never need to roam,

**When we go rolling home,
when we go rolling home.**

**Rolling home, (when we go)
rolling home, (when we go);
Rolling, rolling, when we go rolling home.**

The gentry in its fine array
do prosper night and morn,
While we unto the fields must go
to plow and sow the corn;
The rich may steal the power,
but the glory is our own,

**When we go rolling home,
when we go rolling home.**

Rolling home ...

The summer of resentment,
the winter of despair,
The journey to contentment
is set with trap and snare;
Stand true and stand together,
your labour is your own,

**When we go rolling home,
when we go rolling home.**

Rolling home ...

The frost is on the hedgerow,
the icy winds do blow,
While we poor weary labourers
strive through the sleet and snow;
Our hopes fly up to glory,
up where the larks do go,

**When we go rolling home,
when we go rolling home.**

Rolling home ...

So pass the bottle 'round,
and let the toasts go free,
It's a health to every labourer,
wherever he may be;
Fair wages now and ever,
let's reap what we have sown,

**When we go rolling home,
when we go rolling home.**

Rolling home ...

'Round goes the wheel of fortune,
don't be afraid to ride,
There's a land of milk and honey,
waits on the other side;
There'll be peace and there'll be plenty,
you'll never need to roam,

**When we go rolling home,
when we go rolling home.**

Rolling home ...

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<http://gestsongs.com/09/rollinghome.htm>

MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND KEEP THE OLD

this is the town and these are the people