

# WELLERMAN

New Zealand Folksong

## Lively Sea Shanty

N.C.(Bm) Em

1. There once was a ship that put to sea, and the name of the ship was the  
2. had not been two weeks from shore when down on her a  
3.-6. (See additional lyrics)

*mf*

Bm

Bil - ly of Tea. The winds blew hard, her bow tipped down. he'd  
right whale bore. The cap - tain called all hands and swore he'd

Chorus

A Bm G D

Blow, my bul - ly boys, in blow. Soon may the Wel - ler - man come to  
take that whale in tow.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has three measures with guitar chords A, Bm, and G. The second system has four measures with guitar chords D, A, Bm (for measures 1-5), and Bm (for measure 6). The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

**System 1:**

- Measure 1: Chord A. Lyrics: bring us sug - ar and
- Measure 2: Chord Bm. Lyrics: tea and rum.
- Measure 3: Chord G. Lyrics: One day when the

**System 2:**

- Measure 4: Chord D. Lyrics: ton - guin' is done, we'll take our leave and
- Measure 5: Chord A. Lyrics: go.
- Measure 6: Chord Bm. Lyrics: 2. She go.

*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 below.  
(To Chorus)*

*No line was cut, no whale was freed,  
The Captain's mind was not of greed,  
But he belonged to the whaler's creed.  
She took the ship in tow.  
(To Chorus)*

*For forty days or even more,  
The line went slack, then tight once more.  
All boats were lost (there were only four),  
But still the whale did go.  
(To Chorus)*

*As far as I've heard, the fight's still on.  
The line's not cut and the whale's not gone.  
The Wellerman makes his regular call  
To encourage the Captain, crew and all.  
(To Chorus)*