

High Barbaree

This spirited song is sometimes attributed to Charles Dibdin (1745-1814), a noted British song writer. Over the years, however, it has found its way into the folk tradition, easily adopted by English and American sailormen as well as shore-side people. It has been classified as a forecandle chantey and describes the encounter between a British frigate, *The Prince of Wales*, with one of the Barbary pirate ships off the coast of North Africa.

Medium tempo, robust style

The piano introduction consists of two staves in 6/8 time. The right hand features a rhythmic melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with chords. A 'slower' marking is placed above the final two measures of the introduction.

This section contains the first two lines of the song. The vocal line is written in a single staff with lyrics below it. The piano accompaniment is in two staves. Chord symbols Gm, F, and D7 are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are:

1. There were two loft - y ships from old Eng - land came, Blow

2. "A - loft! a - loft!" our jol - ly bos - 'n cries, Blow

This section contains the final line of the song. The vocal line is written in a single staff with lyrics below it. The piano accompaniment is in two staves. Chord symbols Gm, D7, Gm, Eb, and D are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are:

high, blow low, And so sailed we; One

high, blow low, And so sailed we; Look a

B \flat F Gm Cm D7

was the Prince of Lu - ther, and the oth - er Prince_ of Wales, Cruis - ing
head, look a - stern, look a - weath - er and_ a - lee, Look_ a -

Gm Cm D7 Gm D7 1.-6. Gm 7. Gm

down a-long the coast of the High Bar - ba - ree. ree.
long_ down the coast of the High Bar - ba - ree.

3. "There's nought upon the stern, there's nought upon the lee,"
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we;
"But there's a lofty ship to windward, and she's sailing fast and free,
Sailing down along the coast of the High Barbaree."
4. "O hail her, O hail her," our gallant captain cried,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we;
"Are you a man-o'-war or a privateer," said he,
"Cruising down along the coast of the High Barbaree?"
5. "O, I am not a man-o'-war nor privateer," said he,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we;
"But I m a salt-sea pirate a-looking for my fee,
Cruising down along the coast of the High Barbaree."
6. O, 'twas broadside to broadside a long time we lay,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we;
Until the *Prince of Luther* shot the pirate's masts away,
Cruising down along the coast of the High Barbaree.
7. "O quarter, O quarter," those pirates then did cry,
Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we;
But the quarter that we gave them—we sunk them in the sea,
Cruising down along the coast of the High Barbaree.