

## Gower Wassail

The musical score for 'Gower Wassail' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff contains two measures with chords Am and G. The second staff contains four measures with chords Am, Em, Am, and G. The third staff contains four measures with chords Am, Em, Am, and Em. The fourth staff contains five measures with chords C, G, C, G, and Dm. The fifth staff contains two measures with chords Am and Em, ending with a double bar line.

1. A-wassail, a-wassail throughout all the town  
 Our cup it is white and our ale it is brown  
 Our wassail is made of the good ale and cake  
 Some nutmeg and ginger, the best we could bake

### Chorus

Fol dedol dol dedol Dol dedol dol de dol  
 Fol de de ro Fol de da ri  
 Sing too ra li o

2. Our wassail is made of the elderberry bough  
 And so my good neighbors we'll drink unto thou  
 Besides all on earth, you have apples in store  
 Pray let us come in for it's cold by the door  
 Chorus

3. We hope that your apple trees prosper and bear  
 So that we may have cider when we call next year  
 And where you have one barrel we hope you'll have ten  
 So that we may have cider when we call again  
 Chorus

4. There's a master and a mistress sitting down by the fire  
 While we poor wassail boys stand here in the mire  
 Come you pretty maid with your silver headed pin  
 Pray open the door and let us come in  
 Chorus

5. It's we poor wassail boys so weary and cold  
 Please drop some small silver into our bowl  
 And if we survive for another new year  
 Perhaps we may call and see who does live here  
 Chorus

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This wassail was collected by A. L. Lloyd from Mr. Phil Tanner in Gower, Wales in 1947. He published it in his book **Folk Song in England** (1967). The song takes its tune and structure from the Irish traditional song "Here's A Health".

It is included in **The New Oxford Book of Carols** (#156).