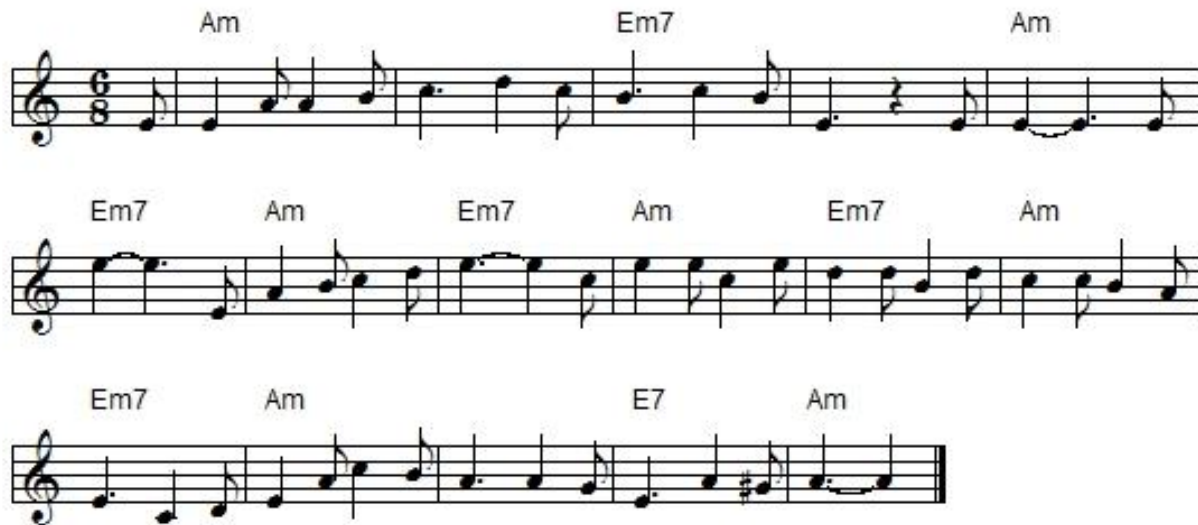


High Barbaree



1. There were two lofty ships
From old England came,
Blow high, blow low
And so sail we,
One was the Prince of Luther
And the other Prince of Wales
Cruisin' down the coast
Of the High Barbary.
 2. "Aloft there, aloft",
Our jolly bosun cried,
Blow high, blow low
And so sail we,
"Look ahead, look astern,
Look the weather look a-lee"
Look down the coast
Of the High Barbary.
 3. There's naught upon the stern,
There's naught upon our lee,
Blow high, blow low
And so sail we,
But there's a lofty ship to wind'ard
An' she's sailin' fast and free
Down along the coast
Of the High Barbary.
 4. "Oh hail her, oh hail her",
Our gallant captain cried,
Blow high, blow low
And so sail we,
"Are you a man-o-war
A privateer, a merchant ship?" cried he,
Cruisin' down the coast
Of the High Barbary.
 5. "I am not a man-o-war,
A privateer", said he,
Blow high, blow low
And so sail we,
"But I am a salt sea pirate
A-looking for me fee"
Down along the coast
Of the High Barbary.
 6. For Broadside, for broadside
A long time we lay,
Blow high, blow low
And so sail we,
Until the Prince of Luther
Shot the pirate's mast away,
Down along the coast
Of the High Barbary.
- "For quarter, for quarter",
The pirates they did cry,
Blow high, blow low
And so sail we,
But the answer that we gave them,
We sunk them in the sea,
Cruisin' down the coast
Of the High Barbary.

"High Barbaree" is an English ballad.

An earlier version is included in Child's **English and Scottish Popular Ballads** as "The George Aloe and the Sweepstake" (#285) that dates back to 1595.

The term Barbary Coast or High Barbaree was used by Europeans from the 16th century to the early 19th century to refer to the coastal regions of North Africa, specifically the modern nations of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. The name derives from the Berber people who populated the region.

Hugill states that this minor mode melody was a "forebitter", a song sung by sailors while off shift. Different tunes were used for chanty jobs.

It was recorded by Peter Bellamy on **Both Sides Then** (1979), Bob Robert on **Folk Song Today** (anthology, 1955).

It is included in the **Roud Folk Song Index** as #134.

It was printed in Ives' **Burl Ives Songbook** (1953), Hugel's **Shanties from the Seven Seas** (1994) and Shay's **Iron Men & Wooden Ships** (1924).