

Pay Me My Money Down

D Chorus G A7

5 D G A7 D

9 D Verse G A7

13 G A7 G A7 D

Chorus:

Pay me, O pay me the money down
 Pay me the money down;
 Pay me, O pay me the money down
 Pay me the money down;

1. I went for a cruise, boys, around the town
 Pay me the money down;
 And there met a young gal called Sally Brown
 Pay me the money down;

2. I put me arm around her waist,
 She says, "Young man, you're in great haste."

3. That fancy girl, she says to me
 "I don't give my love for free."

4. "Oh the price of my love is half a crown
 Pay me, O pay me the money down."

5. That girl she says to me one day,
 "You've had your fun so don't delay."

6. "Oh money, young man, is the object of me
 And you won't get my love for free."

7. She said, "Me son, you'll rue the day
 The girls have worn your pride away."

A calypso work song, "Pay Me My Money Down" originated among the Negro stevedores working in the Georgia Sea Islands. It was collected by Lydia Parrish and published in her 1942 book, **Slave Songs of the Georgia Sea Islands**. It is included in the Roud **Index** as #21449.

Also known as "Pay Me" or "Pay Me, You Owe Me", it was performed by The Weavers during their influential 1955 Carnegie Hall concerts. It was further popularized by The Kingston Trio on tour starting in 1957. Capitalizing on the Weavers' folk success with the song, Robert Nemiroff and Burt D'Lugoff appropriated the melody unchanged for their pop song "Cindy, Oh Cindy", originally recorded in 1956 by Vince Martin and The Tarriers. More recently it has been recorded by The Hardtackers.

I learned it first from The Kingston Trio.