

Swansea Town

Verse

Oh! Fare - well to you, my Nan - cy, Ten
thou - sand times - a - dieu, I'm bound to cross the
oc - ean girl, Once - more to part from you; Once -
more to part from - you, fine girl! You're the
girl that I - a - dore, But - still I live in
hopes to see, Ol' - Swan - sea Town - once - more. Ol' -
Swan - sea Town - once - more, fine girl, You're the
girl that I - a - dore, But still I live in
hopes to see, Ol' - Swan - sea Town - once - more.

Chorus

1. Oh! Farewell to you, my Nancy,
Ten thousand times adieu,
I'm bound to cross the ocean girl,
once more to part from you;
Once more to part from you, fine girl!
You're the girl that I adore,
But still I live in hopes to see,
Ol' Swansea Town once more.

Chorus:

Ol' Swansea Town once more, fine girl,
You're the girl that I adore,
But still I live in hopes to see,
Ol' Swansea Town once more.

2. Oh, it's now that I am out at sea
And you are far behind.
Kind letters I will write to you
Of the secrets of my mind.
Of the secrets of my mind, fine girl,
You're the girl I do adore,
But still I live in hopes to see
Ol' Swansea Town once more.

Chorus:

3. Oh, it's now the storm is coming.
I can see it coming on.
The night as dark as anything
We can not see the moon.
We can not see the moon, fine girl,
Our rigging is all tore,
But still I live in hopes to see
Ol' Swansea Town once more.

Chorus:

4. Oh, it's now the storm is over
And we are safe and ashore.
We'll drink some drinks of brandy to
The girls that we adore
To the girls that we adore, fine girls!
We'll make the tavern roar
And when there is no money left
We'll go to sea once more.

Chorus:

We'll go to sea once more, fine girl,
You're the girl I do adore,
But still I live in hopes to see
Ol' Swansea Town once more

"Swansea Town", also known as "Old Swansea Town Once More" is the widespread version in Wales of the sea shanty "Fine Girl You Are", also known as "The Holy Ground" and was collected in Hampshire in 1905 by George Gardiner (sung by William Randall of Hursley); even if there are many variations of the text, here is the version similar to the Irish one: the protagonist probably embarks on a whaler and thinks with nostalgia to the girl left behind. A very hard life that of the whale fishermen who were many months in the open sea at the mercy of the weather. The tune was originally a windlass and capstan shanty - a song sung as sailors turned the capstan to raise the anchor.

Gustav Holst's **Second Suite in F for Military Band** (Op. 28, No. 2), Movement 1 contains a Morris dance ("Glorishears"), "Swansea Town" and "Claudy Banks".