

Ten Thousand Miles Away

Verse C



Sing Ho! for a brave and a val - iant bark, And a



brisk and live - ly breeze, A - jov - ial crew and a



Cap - tain too, To car - ry me o - ver the seas, To



car - ry me o - ver the seas, my boys, To -



my true love so gay, She has tak - en a trip on a

Chorus



gal - lant ship Ten thous - and miles a way. So



blow the winds, Heigh ho; A - rov - ing I will



go, I'll stay no more - on - Eng - land's shore, So



let the mus - ic play - ay - ay - ay! I'll -



start by the mor - ning train, To - cross the rag - ing



main, For I'm on the move - to my own true love, Ten



thou - sand miles a way.

1. Sing Ho! for a brave and a valiant bark,
And a brisk and lively breeze,
A jovial crew and a Captain too,
To carry me over the seas,
To carry me over the seas, my boys,
To my true love so gay,
She has taken a trip on a gallant ship
Ten thousand miles away.

Chorus

So blow the winds, Heigh-ho;
A roving I will go,
I'll stay no more on England's shore,
So let the music play!
I'll start by the morning train,
To cross the raging main,
For I'm on the move to my own true love,
Ten thousand miles away.

2. My true love, she is beautiful,
My true love she is young;
Her eyes are as blue as the violet's hue,
And silvery sounds her tongue
And silvery sounds her tongue, my boys,
But while I sing this lay,
She is doing the grand in a distant land,
Ten thousand miles away.

Chorus

3. Oh! that was a dark and dismal day
When last she left the strand
She bade good-bye with a tearful eye,
And waved her lily hand -
And waved her lily hand, my boys,
As the big ship left the bay
"Adieu" says she, "remember me,
Ten thousand miles away."

Chorus

4. Oh! if I could be but a bo' s'n bold,
Or only a bombadier,
I'd hire a boat and hurry afloat,
And straight to my true love steer
And straight to my true love steer, my boys,
Where the dancing dolphins play,
And the whales and the sharks are having
their larks,
Ten thousand miles away.

Chorus

5. Oh! the sun may shine through a London fog
And the Thames run bright and clear,
The oceans' brine be turned to wine,
And I may forget my beer -
And I may forget my beer, my boys,
And the landlord's quarter-day;
But I'll never part from my own sweetheart,
Ten thousand miles away!

Chorus

"Ten Thousand Miles Away", also known as "Blow ye Winds Hi-O", is a sea shanty whose writing and composition are attributed to Joseph B. Geoghegan.

In his **Shanties from the Seven Seas** Hugill says that this was originally a shore ballad sung by street singers in Ireland in the early nineteenth century. Later it became a popular music hall number. **The Scottish Student's Song Book** gives the author as "J. B. Geoghegan". This is Joseph Bryan Geoghegan (c. 1816 – 1889) who was manager of the Star and Museum Music Hall in Bolton, Lancashire.

The chorus beginning "Blow ye winds, heigh-ho" is very similar to the chorus of the more familiar "Capital Ship" which is also in this section.

The song is #1778 in the **Roud Folk Song Index** and it has been passed from singer to singer as a traditional shanty. The figure of "ten thousand miles" could well refer to the distance between England and Australia, and the separation of the lovers arises because the singer's lover has been transported.

It was printed in Stan Hugill's **Shanties from the Seven Seas** (1961).