

Coast of Malabar



1. Far away across the ocean
Beneath an Indian star
Lives a little dark eyed maiden
On the coast of Malabar
2. In the harbour where we anchored
I could see her shy and sweet
With a blossom on her bosom
And the wild waves at her feet
3. I can see the crowded city
The palm trees green and tall
And the starry night she danced with me
Inside those city walls
4. She gave a little wistful glance
As she looked across the bay
And she whispered if you love me
Why do you sail away?
5. I must go my little dark eyes
I must go my Indian star
But I'll come again and love you
On the coast of Malabar
6. In my dreams I oft-times wander
To that far off Indian sea
And the days we spent together
They come back again to me
7. I can see the crowded city
The palm trees on the shore
But that little dark-eyed maiden
She's there no more no more
8. Fare thee well my little dark eyes
Fare thee well my Indian star
In my dreams I will live forever
On the Coast of Malabar

Paddy Moloney of The Chieftains says:

"My grandmother used to sing this song at traditional house parties in the Sliabh Bloom Mountains of central Ireland. I can still remember her sitting on an old wooden milk churn in a country kitchen singing a version she called 'Little Maid From Malabar'".

The Malabar coast refers to the southern half of the western coast of India facing the Arabian Sea from south of Goa to Kanyakumari at the southern tip.

Frederic Edward Weatherly, KC (1848–1929) was an English lawyer, author, lyricist and broadcaster. He is estimated to have written the lyrics to at least 3,000 popular songs, among the best-known of which are the sentimental ballad "Danny Boy" set to the tune "Londonderry Air", the religious "The Holy City", and the wartime song "Roses of Picardy". He did not consider "Maid of Malabar" significant enough to be included in his list of compositions in his Who's Who entry.

The only recording of this that I have heard is by The Chieftains with Ry Cooder.