

## The Maid on the Mourne Shore

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-6, with chords Em, Am, D, Em, Am, and a first ending bracket over Em. The second staff starts at measure 5 with chords Em, G, D, Em. The third staff starts at measure 9 with chords Am, Em, Am, D, G, Em, Am, Em.

1. Ye hills and dales and flowery vales that lie around Mourne shore  
 Ye winds that blow over Martin's Hills will I ever hear you more  
 Where the primrose grows and the violet blows  
 And the sporting trout there plays  
 With line and hook delight I took to spend my youthful days.
2. Last night I went to see my love, to hear what she would say;  
 Thinking she would pity me lest I should go away.  
 She said: 'I love a sailor;  
 He's the lad that I adore;  
 And seven years I'll wait on him; so trouble me no more.'
3. 'Perhaps your sailor may be lost when crossing o'er the main,  
 Or otherwise has fixed his mind upon some comely dame.'  
 'Well, if the sea proves false to me,  
 No other I'll enjoy;  
 For ever since I saw his face I loved my sailor boy.'
4. Farewell now to Lord Edmund's groves, likewise the Bleaching Green,  
 Where the linen webs lie clean and white, pure flows the crystal stream  
 Where many's the happy day I spent;  
 But, now, alas! they're o'er,  
 Since the lass I loved has banished me, far, far from Mourne Shore.
5. Our ship she lies off Warren's Point, just ready to set sail,  
 May all Goodness now protect her with a sweet and pleasant gale,  
 Had I ten thousand pounds in gold,  
 Or had I ten times more,  
 I would freely share with the girl I love - the Maid of Mourne Shore.

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"The Maid on the Mourne Shore", in Gaelic "*An Traigh Múghdhorna*", also known as "The Moorlough Shore", "Banks of the Moorlough Shore" or "The Maids of the Mountain Shore" is an Irish lyric song. There have been many transcriptions made of this melody in various keys (mostly Bb minor or E minor).

Some transcribers find similarities between this air and the one to which Yeats' poem 'Down by the Sally Gardens' is generally set though lately it has been more often set to the air known as "The Foggy Dew". There are also some similarities to the melody usually used for "The Star of County Down" which is a member of the "Dives and Lazarus" family.

While there is no Mourne Shore in Northern Ireland there is a Mourne River (Irish: *An Mughdhorn*) in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland (between Strabane and Newtownstewart), that is a tributary of the River Foyle. There are also the Morne Mountains, south of Belfast near the coast (the subject of "The Mountains of Mourne" by Percy French).

The melody is also used for a version usually called "The Foggy Dew" about the Easter Week Rising of 1916.

It is #2742 in the **Roud Index**.