

Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye

Joseph B. Geoghegan



1. While goin' the road to sweet Athy, hurroo, hurroo,
While goin' the road to sweet Athy, hurroo, hurroo,
While goin' the road to sweet Athy,
A stick in me hand and a drop in me eye,
A doleful damsel I heard cry,
Johnny I hardly knew ye.
2. With your drums and guns and drums and guns, hurroo, hurroo,
With your drums and guns and drums and guns, hurroo, hurroo,
With your drums and guns and drums and guns,
The enemy nearly slew ye.
Oh my darling dear, Ye look so queer,
Johnny I hardly knew ye.
3. Where are your eyes that were so mild, hurroo, hurroo,
Where are your eyes that were so mild, hurroo, hurroo,
Where are your eyes that were so mild,
When my heart you so beguiled?
Why did ye run from me and the child?
Oh Johnny, I hardly knew ye.
4. Where are your legs that used to run, hurroo, hurroo,
Where are your legs that used to run, hurroo, hurroo,
Where are your legs that used to run,
When you went for to carry a gun?
Indeed your dancing days are done,
Oh Johnny, I hardly knew ye.
5. I'm happy for to see ye home, hurroo, hurroo,
I'm happy for to see ye home, hurroo, hurroo,
I'm happy for to see ye home,
All from the island of Sulloon;
So low in flesh, so high in bone.
Oh Johnny I hardly knew ye.

6. Ye haven't an arm, ye haven't a leg, hurroo, hurroo,
Ye haven't an arm, ye haven't a leg, hurroo, hurroo,
Ye haven't an arm, ye haven't a leg,
Ye're an armless, boneless, chickenless egg.
Ye'll have to put with a bowl out to beg.
Oh Johnny I hardly knew ye.
7. They're rolling out the guns again, hurroo, hurroo,
They're rolling out the guns again, hurroo, hurroo,
They're rolling out the guns again,
But they never will take our sons again,
No they never will take our sons again,
Johnny I'm swearing to ye.

"Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye" (also known as "Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye" or "Johnny I Hardly Knew Ya") is a popular song, sung to the same tune as "When Johnny Comes Marching Home". First published in London in 1867 and written by Joseph B. Geoghegan, a prolific English songwriter and successful music hall figure, it remained popular in Britain and Ireland and the United States into the early years of the 20th century.

The song was recorded by Tommy Makem on **The Newport Folk Festival, Vol. 1**, The Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem on their first album in 1961, Bud & Travis on their **In Concert** album (1960), The Chad Mitchell Trio (1961), The Irish Rovers on their album **Live In Concert** (2003), Janis Ian on her **Essential Janis Ian** album (2009) and others.