

Admiral Benbow

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"Admiral Benbow" is an English air in 3/4 time and G Major. The parts are played AB.

Walker (**History of Music in England**, 1924) dates the tune to about 1700. He points out that the melody is also known as a religious carol ("The Land o' the Leal" (Church of England, **English Hymnal**, 1906), which is simply "Scots wha hae" sung slowly).

Admiral Benbow was an English admiral who defeated a fleet of French warships in West Indian waters at the turn of the 16th century, the only thing marring the victory was the fact that four of these men-of-war refused to join the fight, instead standing-too to watch. Of the four commanders of those ships, two were executed, one was imprisoned for life and the last died before punishment could be meted out.

The "Admiral Benbow" is the name of the inn in which we first meet Long John Silver in Robert Louis Stevenson's novel **Treasure Island**.

This tune is included in Vaughan Williams' Sea Songs movement of his **English Folk Song Suite** along with "The Bold Princess Royal" and "Portsmouth".

It was printed in Chappell's **Popular Music of the Olden Times vol. 2** (1859).