

The Sheffield Apprentice

Jonny Dyer - Vocal, Guitar, Accordion
Vicki Swan - Vocal, Nyckelharpa

Lyrics Trad Arr. Jonny Dyer
Melody - Jonny Dyer

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a Dm chord and contains the lyrics 'I was brought up in Shef - fled but not of high deg - ree My'. The second staff starts with an F chord and contains 'pa - rents dot - ed on me they had no child but me, I'. The third staff begins with a Gm chord and contains 'rolled a - round in man - y pleas - ures where 'ere my fan - cy led. 'Till'. The fourth staff starts with an F chord and contains 'I was bound ap - prentice and there myjoys they fled. and there myjoys they fled.' Chord changes are indicated by letters (Dm, C, Bb, F, Gm) above the notes.

I was brought up in Sheffield, but not of high degree,
My parents doted on me, they had no child but me,
I rolled around in many pleasures, were 'ere my fancy led
'Till I was bound apprentice, and there my joys they fled,
and there my joys they fled.

I did not like my master, he did not use me well,
and I took a resolution not long with him to dwell,
Unknown to my poor parents, from him I ran away,
And steered my course to London, oh curs-ed be that day. (sim)

A handsome lovely damsel, from Holland she was there,
She offered me great wages to serve her for a year,
And after great persuasion, with her I did agree,
To go with her to Holland, which proved my destiny.

BRIDGE

I had not been in Holland, years but two or three
Until my lovely mistress grew very fond of me
She said her gold and silver, her houses and her land
If I'd consent to marry her, should be at my command

I said "Dear honoured lady, I cannot wed you both,
 And lately I have promised and made a solemn oath,
 To wed with none but Polly, your pretty chambermaid
 Excuse me my dear mistress, for she has my heart betrayed"

Then in an angry passion, away from me she's gone
 Swearing that she'll be avenged on me before to long
 For she was so incensed that she could not be my wife
 That soon she laid a project to take away my life. BRIDGE

One day when I was walking all in the garden green
 The flowers they were springing delightful to be seen
 A gold ring from her fingers, as she was passing by
 She slipped into my pocket, and for that I must die

Now just a few days after, in haste then I was called
 To stand before the justice, to answer for that fault
 though long I pleaded innocent, it was to no avail
 She swore so sore against me, that I was sent to Jail.

My mistress swore I robbed here, which ne'er was my intent
 Because I would not marry her, she did it from contempt
 From that place of confinement, she brought me to this tree
 Oh woe be to my mistress, for she has ruined me.

All you that stand around me, my wretched fate to see
 Don't glory in my downfall, but rather pity me,
 Don't blame me, I am innocent, I bid this world adieu
 Farewell my dearest polly, I die for love of you.