

# Jimmy Grove and Barbara Ellen

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POPULAR SONGS.



BARBARA ALLAN

It fell about the Martinmas day,  
When the green leaves where falling,  
Sir James the Graham in the west country,  
Fell in love with Barbara Allan.

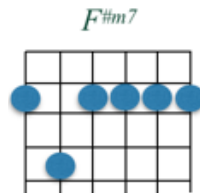
She was a fair and comely maid,  
And a maid nigh to his dwelling,  
Which made him to admire the more,  
The beauty of Barbara Allan.

# Jimmy Grove and Barbara Ellen

The New Christy Minstrel interpretation of a traditional ballad

*D*                    *G*   *A7*   *D*  
 In Scarlett Town long time ago,  
*D*                    *G* *A7*   *D*  
 There was a fair maid dwellin'.  
*D*                    *Bm*                    *F#m*  
 She was the fairest of the all,  
                          *G* *A7*                                    *D*  
 And her name was Barbara Ellen.

} Intro



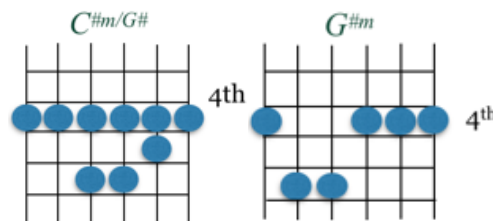
*D*                    *G* *A7*                    *D*  
 All in the merry month of May,  
*D*                    *G* *A7*                    *D*  
 When the green buds were swellin';  
*D*                    *Bm*                    *F#m*  
 Then all the boys for miles around,  
                          *G* *A7*                                    *D*  
 Came to call on Barbara Ellen.

*D*                                    *G*   *A7*                    *D*  
 Don't want you land, don't want you gold,  
*D*                                    *G* *A7*                                    *D*  
 Nor all the sweet words you're tellin'.  
*D*                    *Bm*                                    *F#m*  
 My heart belongs to to Jimmy Grove;  
                          *G* *A7*                                    *D*  
 He's comin' home to Barbara Ellen.

Key change D to E *D* → *D* → *B*



*E*                    *A*   *B7*                    *E*  
 Don't be a fool, don't waste you life.  
*E*                                    *A* *B7*                    *E*  
 You know that fortune has denied him.  
*E*                    *C#m/G#*                                    *G#m*  
 He has no land, he has no gold.  
                          *A*   *B7*                                    *E*  
 You'll have to work and slave beside him.





# History

"**Barbara Allen**" is a traditional ballad originating in England and Scotland, which immigrants introduced to North America, where it became a popular folk song. Roud and Bishop described it as, "...far and away the most widely collected song in the English language — equally popular in England, Scotland and Ireland, and with hundreds of versions collected over the years in North America."

"Barbara Allen" has been published and spread under many different titles. The ballad and its heroine have in conjunction been called "The Ballet of Barbara Allen", "Barbara Allen's Cruelty", "Barbarous Ellen", "Edelin", "Hard Hearted Barbary Ellen", "Sad Ballet Of Little Johnnie Green", "Sir John Graham", "Bonny Barbara Allan", "Barbry Allen" among others.

Although renditions of the song can vary considerably in plot, they generally follow a common narrative. A young man lies dying for the love of Barbara Allen; he has a servant summon her to his bedside for solace, but she does little but scorn him. Denied his true love, the hero succumbs to illness; in some versions, he leaves her an inheritance before dying.

Upon hearing the church bells of his funeral, Barbara Allen regrets her decision and senses that her own death is near. She too dies of heartbreak, and they are buried beside one

another. The song often concludes with a "rose-briar motif" of several stanzas describing floral growth on the lovers' neighboring graves, symbolizing fidelity in love even after death. This motif is shared with other ballads, including "Lord Thomal and Fair Annet", "Lord Lovel", and "Fair Margaret and Sweet William".

The New Christy Minstrel version is much kinder to Barbara Ellen than earlier renderings.

A diary entry by Samuel Pepys on January 2, 1666 contains the earliest extant reference to the song. In it, he recalls the fun and games at a New Years party: "...but above all, my dear Mrs Knipp whom I sang; and in perfect pleasure I was to hear her sing, and especially her little Scotch song of Barbary Allen."

*Wikipedia and Rick Larson*

