

2. Ballads

Geordie 3

Traditional English ballad

This is a famous traditional ballad which has been sung in many variants.

It is about a man condemned to death for poaching, whose beloved pleads for his life.

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| <p>As I walked out over London bridge
one misty morning early
I overheard a fair pretty maid
was lamenting for her Geordie.</p> <p>5 Ah, my Geordie will be hanged in a golden chain,
this is not the chain of many.
He was born of king's royal breed
and lost to a virtuous lady</p> <p>10 Go bridle me my milk white steed,
go bridle me my pony,
I will ride to London's court
to plead for the life of Geordie.</p> <p>Ah, my Geordie never stole nor cow nor calf,
he never hurted any.</p> | <p>15 Stole sixteen of the king's royal deer
and he sold them in Bohenny.</p> <p>Two pretty babies have I born
the third lies in my body.
I'd freely part with them every one
if you'd spare the life of Geordie.</p> <p>20 The judge looked over his left shoulder,
and said fair maid: 'I'm sorry for thee,
my pretty fair maid, you have come too late,
for he's condemned already'.</p> <p>25 Ah, my Geordie will be hanged in a golden chain,
this is not the chain of many.
Stole sixteen of the king's royal deer,
and he sold them in Bohenny.</p> |
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