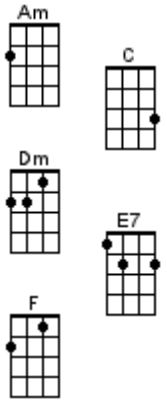
Wellerman (Sea Shanty) v2

Traditional New Zealand folk song c. 1860-70



<Optional: Verses done with soloist and club tapping>

<tapping only> There **[*]** once was a ship that **[*]** put to sea
And the **[*]** name of the ship was the **[*]** Billy o' Tea
The **[*]** winds blew up, her **[*]** bow dipped down
[*] Blow, my bully boys, **[*]** blow,

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done, We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

<Verse 1> She **[Am]** had not been two **[Am]** weeks from shore
When **[Dm]** down on her a **[Am]** right whale bore
The **[Am]** captain called all **[Am]** hands and swore
He'd **[E7]** take that whale in **[Am]** tow

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done, We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

<Verse 2> Be-**[Am]**fore the boat had **[Am]** hit the water
The **[Dm]** wha-ale's tail came **[Am]** up and caught her
All **[Am]** hands to the side, har**[Am]**-pooned and fought her
When **[E7]** she dived down be-**[Am]-**low,

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done, We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

<Verse 3> No **[Am]** line was cut, no **[Am]** whale was freed
The **[Dm]** Captain's mind was **[Am]** not on greed
But **[Am]** he belonged to the **[Am]** Whaleman's creed
She **[E7]** took the ship in **[Am]** tow,

CHORUS: [F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done, We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

<Verse 4> For **[Am]** forty days or **[Am]** even more
The **[Dm]** line went slack, then **[Am]** tight once more
All **[Am]** boats were lost, there were **[Am]** only four
But **[E7]** still that whale did **[Am]** go

<tapping only> [*] Soon may the **[*]** Wellerman come
To **[*]** bring us sugar and **[*]** tea and rum
[*] One day, when the **[*]** tonguin' is done, We'll **[*]** take our leave and **[*]** go