

Home from the Sea

Official anthem of the RNLI. By Phil Coulter - who lost his brother at sea.

On a cold winter's night with a storm at its height
The lifeboat answered the call.
They pitched and they tossed 'til we thought they were lost
As we watched from the harbour wall.
Though the night was pitch black, there was no turning back,
For someone was waiting out there,
But each volunteer had to live with his fear
As they joined in a silent prayer.

*And carry us -
Home, home, home from the sea
Angels of mercy, answer our plea
And carry us home, home, home from the sea
Carry us safely home from the sea.*

As they battled their way past the mouth of the bay,
It was blowing like never before.
As they gallantly fought every one of them thought
Of loved ones back on the shore.
Then a flicker of light and they knew they were right.
There she was on the crest of a wave.
She's an old fishing boat and she's barely afloat.
Please God, there are souls we can save.

And back in the town in a street that runs down
To the sea and the harbour wall,
They'd gathered in pairs at the foot of the stairs
To wait for the radio call.
Then just before dawn when all hope was gone
Came a hush and a faraway sound.
'Twas the coxswain he roared all survivors on board
Thank God and we're homeward bound.