

## Fiddler's Green

*By John Conolly (1966) a Lincolnshire songwriter. Recorded by Tim Hart and Maddy Prior for their album Folk Songs of Olde England Vol. 2 (1968). Fiddler's Green is a legendary imagined afterlife, where there is perpetual mirth, a fiddle that never stops playing, and dancers who never tire. Its origins are obscure. One sailor's tale published in 1832 speaks of Fiddler's Green as being "nine miles beyond the dwelling of his Satanic majesty". In maritime folklore it is a kind of afterlife for sailors who have served at least 50 years at sea, where there is unlimited rum and tobacco. Roud 26370.*

As I walked by the dock-side one evening so fair  
To view the salt water and smell the sea air  
I heard an old fisherman singing a song  
Won't you take me home boys for my time is not long

### Chorus

*Dress me up in me oilskin and jumper  
No more on the docks I'll be seen  
Just tell me old ship mates I'm takin' a trip mates  
And I'll see you some day on Fiddler's Green*

Now Fiddler's Green is a place I heard tell  
Where fishermen go if they don't go to hell  
Where the skies are never cloudy and the dolphins do play  
And the cold coast of Greenland is far, far away

### Chorus

When you get to the docks and the long trip is through  
There's pubs and there's clubs and there's lassies there too  
Where the girls are all pretty and the beer it is free  
And there's bottles of rum growing from every tree

### Chorus

Now I don't want a harp nor a halo, not me  
Just give me a breeze and a good rolling sea  
I'll play me old squeeze box as we sail along  
With the wind in the rigging to sing me a song

### Chorus