

The Rio Grande

Hugill lists half a dozen variants of Rio Grande. We sing Rye-oh. For 'away' Hugill says fancy trills or warbles are in order. Collected by Cecil Sharp 1904 and Percy Grainger 1907. Roud 317.

O say was you ever in Rio Grande?
Way, down Rio
It's there that the river runs down golden sand
And we're bound for the Rio Grande

Chorus
And away boys, away
Way down Rio
Sing fare thee well my pretty young girl
And we're bound for the Rio Grande

Oh, New York town is no place for me
I'll pack up my bag and go out to sea

So it's pack up your donkey and get under way
The girls we are leaving can take half our pay

We'll sell our salt cod for molasses and rum
And we'll get back home 'fore thanksgiving has come

Sing goodbye to Nellie and goodbye to Sue
And you who are listening, goodbye to you

And goodbye fare you well all you ladies of town
We've left you enough for to buy a silk gown

Our good ship's a-going out over the bar
And we'll point her nose for the South-er-on Star

<Repeat 1st verse>