

Will Ye No Come Back Again? [trad. arranged DNL circa 1988]

phrase:

D / D (add 9) / D / D (add 9) / [the 9th is achieved by dropping the low third down a step]

♩ = 105

Voice

Low the black-bird's note and long lil-ting wild-ly up th-e glen.
 Aye, to me he sings one song: Will ye no come back a-gain? When-
 e-ver I hear the black-bird sing un-to the eve-ning sink-i-ing down.
 thrush that makes the woods to ring. To me there is no o-ther sound.
 Will ye no come back a-gain? Will ye no come ba-ack a-a-gain?
 Be-ter loved ye can-na be. Will ye no come back-a-gain?

phrase:

Many's the valiant soldier fought
 Many's the valiant chief did fall.
 Death itself was dearly bought
 All for Scotland's king and lord.

Will ye no come back again? etc.

bridge:

D / D (add 9) / D / D (add 9) / G / G (add 9) / G / G (add 9) /
 A / A (add 9) / A / A (add 9) / Bm (add 9) / / / Em (add 9) / / /
 GM13 / / / D / A /

Bonny Charley's now awa'
 safely cross the friendly main.
 Many's the heart will break in twa
 for he'll no come back again.

Will ye no come back again? etc.

repeat bridge and finish with: Bm / G

[PLAYING: phrase, verse, verse, chorus, phrase,
 verse, chorus, bridge, verse, chorus, bridge.]

[NOTE: I first heard the Clancy's swashbuckling version of this song of which, I believe there are several more verses. I don't know who wrote them. I sing the Clancy verses in reverse order. The 1993 K to 4 class at Hot Springs School loved this song. Most of them had had parents who had left never to return. "My Mom's gone," 1st grader Rory cheerfully confirmed, "and she's not coming back." Rory lived with his dad. He was a logger, a nice man, short and usually covered in dirt and sawdust. About a week after Rory's announcement about his mother, his father was killed in a logging accident and Rory went off to live with an aunt he had never met. I think of Rory when I sing this song. The blackbird was Charley's personal symbol.]