

LADY WITH A LANTERN

Male/female duet with shared Chorus & Response lines

Steady in 4 With feeling

Words & Music by Bob Watson

Verse



(m) Oh where do you go to, --- La - dy fair, Walk - ing a - lone with a



lan - tern O, Through the wind and rain on a night so drear, As the



storm blows wild on the o - cean O. (f) I'm bound for the rocks where the



wild waves break, Walk - ing a - lone with a lan - tern O, There's a



place to go and a search to make, As the storm blows wild on the

o -- cean O. --- (Both) Lan - tern O, --- Lan - tern --- O, As the

Chorus



storm blows wild on the o - cean O, A ghost - ly glim - mer and a



dim small glow, As the la - dy walks with a lan - tern O. -----

LADY WITH A LANTERN

Male /female duet with shanty-type response lines and intermittent chorus

9-12/1989; rev 7/1997 & 1/1999

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**Background Notes
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1 male Oh where do you go to, Lady fair?
* **Walking alone with a lantern O;**
Through the wind and the rain on a night so drear,
** **As the storm blows wild on the ocean - O.**

1 female I'm bound for the rocks where the wild waves break,
* **Walking alone with a lantern O;**
There's a place to go and a search to make,
** **As the storm blows wild on the ocean - O.**

Chorus:
(Both) **Lantern O, lantern O,**
As the storm blows wild on the ocean - O;
A ghostly glimmer and a dim small glow,
As the lady walks with a lantern - O.

2 male And what do you search for, lady fair,
* **Walking alone with a lantern - O?**
That you'd step to your peril where there's few who'd dare,
** **As the storm blows wild on the ocean - O.**

2 female I'd seek for the child who was lost on a day,
* **Walking alone with a lantern - O;**
That was torn from my arms in the waters away,
** **As the storm blows wild on the ocean - O.**

Chorus:

3 male And where do you come from, Lady fair? *
With your story strange as the clothes that you wear, **

3 female I come from the shade of a turned up stone, *
And a rest unquiet that is all I've known, **

Chorus:

4 male Should I go along with you, Lady fair? *
That your search be safer if we both should share, **

4 female You'd serve me the better if you'd leave me be, *
And you tell no other that you spoke with me, **

Chorus:

LADY WITH A LANTERN

Background Notes

Song based on a legend of the St Ives area, on the north shore of Cornwall.

Once long ago, a ship was wrecked on the rocks close inshore, and passengers and crew were saved by being pulled ashore. One lady passenger was holding a small baby with both hands, but just as she reached out to take hold of the rope cradle which would draw her to safety, a large wave swept the baby out of her other arm.

She came ashore safely, but never got over the loss of her child, and died without revealing her name or anything about herself, and was buried anonymously in a nearby churchyard.

On stormy nights, a flickering light can sometimes be seen, bobbing around by the shore . . . said to be carried by the lady, risen from her grave and still searching for her lost child.

The song **LADY WITH A LANTERN** is a duet between the said lady and a man who meets her on another wild night on her way to the shore for another search; and who engages her in conversation, little realising at first that he is “chatting up” a ghost!