

There lived a lady by the North Sea shore
(Lay the bent to the bonnie broom)
Two daughters were the babes she bore
(Fa la la la la la la la la la). **I sing 6th higher**

As one grew bright as is the sun,
So coal black grew the elder one.
(Fa la la la la la la la la la). **I sing 6th higher**

A knight came riding to the lady's door,
(Lay the bent to the bonnie broom)
He'd traveled far to be their wooer.
(Fa la la la la la la la la la). **I sing 6th higher**

He courted one with gloves and rings,
But he loved the other above all things.

Soft Bass

Oh sister will you go with me
(Lay the bent to the bonnie broom). **I sing**
To watch the ships sail on the sea?
(Fa la la la la la la la la la). **I sing 6th higher**

She took her sister by the hand
And led her down to the North Sea strand.

And as they stood on the windy shore
The dark girl threw her sister o'er.

Hard bass solo

Sometimes she sank, sometimes she swam,
Crying, "Sister, reach to me your hand!

"Oh Sister, Sister, let me live,
And all that's mine I'll surely give."

"(It's) your own true love that I'll have and more,
But thou shalt never come ashore."

Soft bass

And there she floated like a swan,
The salt sea bore her body on.

Two minstrels walked along the strand

And saw the maiden float to land.

They made a harp of her breastbone,
Whose sound would melt a heart of stone.

They took three locks of her yellow hair,
And with them strung the harp so rare.

They went into her father's hall
To play the harp before them all,

Guitar alone

But when they laid it on a stone
The harp began to play alone.

Plus harp

The first string sang a doleful sound:
"The bride her younger sister drowned."

Plus guitar

The second string as that they tried,
In terror sits the black-haired bride.

Hard bass

The third string sang beneath their bow,
"And surely now her tears will flow."