

Barbry Allen

D A D

Child Ballad # 84

T'was in the Mer - ry month of May

When green buds all were swel - lin' Sweet Wil - liam

on his death bed lay For the love of

Bar - bry Al - len.

He sent his servant to the town
to the place where she was dwellin'
Sayin' "You must come to my master dear,
If your name be Barbry Allen"

And slowly, slowly she got up
And slowly she drew nigh him
And the only words to him did say
"Young man, I think you're dyin'"

He turned his face unto the wall
And death was in him wellin'
"Farewell, farewell to my friends all
Be kind to Barbry Allen"

When he was dead and in his grave
She heard the death bells knellin'
And every stroke to her did say
"Hard hearted Barbry Allen"

"Oh, mother, Oh mother go dig my grave
Dig it both long and narrow
Sweet William died for love of me
And I will die of sorrow"

"Oh, Father, Oh Father go dig my grave
Dig it both long and narrow
Sweet William died on yesterday
And I will die tomorrow"

Barbry Allen was buried in the old church yard
Sweet William was buried beside her
From sweet Williams heart there grew a rose
From Barbry Allen's a briar

They grew and grew in the old church yard
Till they could grow no higher
At the end they formed a true lover's knot
And the rose grew round the briar.

Dulcimer Arr. S. Stevens '07 There are over 100 versions of this ballad.
This is the version I have sung for 40+ years.