

# FAREWELL TO TARWATHIE

<http://martindardis.com/id1142.html>

Words vary from edition to edition, singer to singer. The song is traditionally accompanied by the tune 'Kennet's Dream'

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Farewell to Tarwathie'. It consists of two staves of music in a treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. Below each staff are guitar chord diagrams. The first staff has 10 diagrams, and the second staff has 10 diagrams. Some diagrams include a '+' sign, indicating a barre. The diagrams are arranged in two columns of five, corresponding to the two staves of music.

Intro: D-Bm-G-D-Dsus4-D (Dsus4 = XX0233, this chord is optional!)

Fare(D)well tae (Bm)Tarwathie, a(G)dieu Mormond (D)Hill  
And the fair land of (Bm)Crimond, I'll (G)think of you (D)still  
I'm bound out for (Bm)Greenland and (A)ready to (D)sail  
In the hopes to find (Bm)riches in (G)hunting the (D)whale -G-D-Dsus4-D

A(D)dieu to my (Bm)comrades, for a (G)while we must (D)partDownloads

And likewise the (Bm)dear lass who (G)first won my (D)heart  
The cold coast of (Bm)Greenland my (A)love will not (D)chill  
And the longer my (Bm)absence, more (G)loving she'll (D)feel -G-D-Dsus4-D

Our (D)ship is well (Bm)rigged and she's (G)ready to (D)sail  
Our crew they are (Bm)anxious to (G)follow the (D)whale  
Where the icebergs do (Bm)float and the (A)stormy winds (D)blow  
Where the land and the (Bm)ocean are (G)covered in (D)snow -G-D-Dsus4-D

The (D)cold coast of (Bm)Greenland is (G)barren and (D)bare  
No seed-time nor (Bm)harvest is (G)ever known (D)there  
And the birds here sing (Bm)sweetly in (A)mountain and (D)dale  
But there isn't a (Bm)bird that can (G)sing to the (D)whale -G-D-Dsus4-D

There is (D)no habi(Bm)tation for a (G)man to live (D)there  
And the king of that (Bm)country is the (G)fierce Greenland (D)bear  
And there'll be no temp(Bm)tation to(A)tarry long (D)there  
With our ship bumper (Bm)full we will (G)homeward re(D)pair -G-D-Dsus4-D

Fareweel to Tarwathie, adieu Mormond Hill,  
And the dear land of Crimmond, I'll bid you fareweel;  
I'm bound out for Greenland and ready to sail,  
In hopes to find riches in hunting the whale.

Adieu to my comrades, for awhile we must part,  
And likewise the dear lass wha fair won my hairt,  
The cold ice of Greenland, my love will not chill,  
And the longer my absence, more loving she'll feel.

Our ship is well rigged and she's ready to sail,  
Our crew, they are anxious to follow the whale,  
Where the icebergs do float and the stormy winds blow,  
Where the land and the ocean is covered wi' snow.

The cold coast of Greenland is barren and bare,  
No seed-time nor harvest is ever known there,  
While the birds here sing sweetly on mountain and dale,  
But there isn't a birdie to sing to the whale.

There is no habitation for a man to live there,  
And the king of that country is the fierce Greenland bear,  
And there will be no temptation to tarry long there,  
Wi' our ship bumper full, we will homeward repair.

### **FAREWELL TO TARWATHIE Lyrics And Guitar Chords**

Lyrics and chords as used by the *Ian Campbell Folk Group* on the sampler album *Borderlands- The Best of Scottish Folk* (use capo on 3rd fret for a key of Fmajor)

For YouTube-version by Zekley & Hubert use capo on 5th fret or change chords to G. This song was worked out on a guitar by Marc Farabach. This has a beautiful haunting melody and sounds like another song that I just can't think of. The sheet music notes are included.

Today the text is easily available in the first volume of the Greig-Duncan collection (I, No. 15, p. 33, notes p. 501). It is an abbreviated and edited version of a poem - not a song - written by George Scroggie from Strichen, Aberdeenshire (Tarwathie is about two miles north of the village of Strichen) and published in 1857 (see [Copac](#)) in Aberdeen in his book *The Peasant's Lyre, A Collection of Miscellaneous Poems* (pp. 73-75, available at the Internet Archive):

Farewell To Tarwathie" was first recorded by Ewan MacColl for the LP *Thar She Blows!* ([Riverside RLP 12-635](#), 1957) which was reissued in the 60s as *Whaling Ballads* ([Washington WLP 724](#), both links to ewan-maccoll.info, see also [Mainly Norfolk](#)). These were both American releases. This recording is today available in a collection with the title *Ewan MacColl, A.L. Lloyd, Peggy Seeger & John Cole, Whaling Ballads: Master of Mid Century Folk Music* that I have only seen at [iTunes](#). MacColl and Peggy Seeger also published the text and tune of this song in 1960 in their important and influential collection *The Singing Island. A Collection of English and Scots Folksongs* (No. 56, p. 63) and it was also included in MacColls *Folk Songs and Ballads of Scotland* (Oak Publication, 1965) although the latter of course postdates Dylan's recording. A. L. Lloyd only recorded the song in 1967 for the LP *Leviathan! Ballads and Songs of the Whaling Trade* (Topic 12T174, now Topic TSCD497, 1998, see [Mainly Norfolk](#)).