

# The Nightingale Song

## Traditional

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The musical score is written for guitar in 3/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily composed of open strings (0) and simple fretted notes (2, 0, 0, 2). Chords are indicated by letters G and D above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with more complex fretting, including slurs and grace notes (SI, 7, 9, 10, 10, 1, 3). Chords A7 and D are indicated. The third staff features a sequence of notes including 14, 12, and 14, with a slur over the first two. Chords G and D are indicated. The fourth staff continues with notes 16, 14, 16, 14, 17, 12, and 14, with a slur over the first four notes. Chords A7 and D are indicated. The fifth staff concludes the piece with notes 10, 12, 12, 14, 12, 14, and 0, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0, ending with a double bar line. Chords A7 and D are indicated.

This is a tune brought to my attention by fiddler Ralph Roberts of Braxton County, West Virginia. This elegant waltz is the melody to an old English folk song which has a lot of other titles also, including One Morning in May and The Bold Grenadier. It tells the story of a chance encounter on the road of a soldier and a beautiful lady. It turns out the soldier plays the fiddle:

They hadn't been standin' a minute or two,  
When out of his knapsack a fiddle he drew.  
And the tune that he played made the violin ring,  
Made the waters go glidin', and made the nightingale sing.