

# Come all you fair and tender ladies

<https://riverofsong.uk/>

Or 'Little sparrow' A classic folksong I sang in the 1960s as a young lady, at an age when hearts got broken; a complaint ages old of the fickleness of love!

It has been widely collected in America; Cecil Sharp found eighteen versions.

Find many here: [mudcat.org](http://mudcat.org): [Origins: Fair and Tender Ladies / Little Sparrow](#)

Musical score for the song 'Come all you fair and tender ladies'. The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff contains the first line of the melody with lyrics: 'Come all ye fair and tender ladies, Take warn-ing how'. The second staff contains the second line of the melody with lyrics: 'you court your men, They're like the stars on a sum-mer's'. The third staff contains the third line of the melody with lyrics: 'morn-ing, First they ap-pear and then they're gone.' Chords are indicated above the notes: G, Am, G7, C, Am, G, Am, G, G, C, Am, C, Em, F, C, G.

Come all ye fair and tender ladies,  
Take warning how you court your men.  
They're like the stars on a summer's mornin'  
First they appear and then they're gone.

If I had known before I courted,  
That love had been so hard to gain,  
I'd have locked my heart in a box of golden,  
Fastened down with a silver chain.

I wish I were a little sparrow,  
And I had wings, and I could fly.  
I'd fly away to my own true lover  
And all he'd ask I would deny.

But I am not a little sparrow,  
I have no wings nor can I fly.  
And on this Earth, in grief and sorrow,  
I'll let my troubles pass me by.

Come all ye fair and tender ladies,  
Take warning how you court your men.  
They're like the stars on a summer's mornin'.  
First they'll appear and then they're gone.

