

Strawberry fair

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Strawberry fair is an English folk song collected in Broadstone, Devon. The text, a rather saucy one, was rewritten for 'Songs of the West' published in 1891 by Sabine Baring Gould and Fleetwood Sheppard.

It is this version that was sung in schools as I did in the 1950s.



Musical notation for the song "Strawberry fair" in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, with chord symbols (G, D7, D, C, Dm, Am) placed above the notes. The lyrics are: As I was go-ing to Straw-ber-ry Fair, Sing-ing, sing-ing but-ter-cups and dai-sies! I met a mai-den ta-king her ware, Fol-de-dee! Her eyes were blue and gol-den her hair, As she went on to Straw-ber-ry Fair, Ri-fol, Ri-fol, Tol-de-rid-dle-li-do, Ri-fol, Ri-fol, Tol-de-rid-dle-dee.

As I was going to Strawberry Fair,
Singing, singing, buttercups and daisies!
I met a maiden taking her ware, *Fol-de-dee!*
Her eyes were blue and golden her hair,
As she went on to Strawberry Fair,
Chorus: Ri-fol, Ri-fol, Tol-de-riddle-li-do,
Ri-fol, Ri-fol, Tol-de-riddle-dee.

"Kind Sir, pray pick of my basket!" she said,
Singing, singing, buttercups and daisies!
"My cherries ripe, or my roses red, *Fol-de-dee!*
My strawberries sweet, I can of them spare,
As I go on to Strawberry Fair." *Chorus*

The price I offer, my sweet pretty maid,
Singing, singing, buttercups and daisies!
A ring of gold on your finger displayed, *Fol-de-dee!*
So come, make over to me your ware,
In church today at Strawberry Fair. *Chorus*