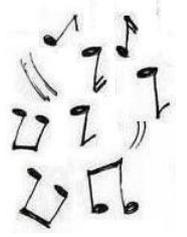


Jamaica farewell

<https://riverofsong.uk/>



A popular mento sung by Harry Belafonte in the 1960s. Written by Irving Burgie possibly inspired by existing words and music of the time. Calypsos of all sorts had a place in my heart in the 70s especially this one as many of the parents of the children I taught in Birmingham were part of the Windrush generation from Jamaica. Can be found in Singing Together, Summer 1974, BBC Publications.

E A E B7 E

Down the way where the nights are gay And the sun shines dai - ly on the moun - tain top

E A E B7 E

I took a trip on a sail - ing ship, And when I reach'd Ja - mai - ca I made a stop. But I'm

E A B7 E

Sad to say I'm on my way, Won't be back for ma - ny a day, My

E A E B7 E

heart is down, My head is turn - ing a - round, I had to leave a lit - tle girl in King - ston Town.

Down the way where the nights are gay
 And the sun shines daily on the mountaintop
 I took a trip on a sailing ship,
 And when I reached Jamaica I made a stop.
Chorus: But I'm sad to say I'm on my way,
 Won't be back for many a day,
 My heart is down,
 My head is turning around,
 I had to leave a little girl in Kingston town.



Down at the market you can hear,
 Ladies cry out while on their heads they bear,
 Ackee, rice, saltfish are nice
 And the rum is fine any time of year. *Chorus*

Sounds of laughter everywhere
 And the dancing girls swing to and fro,
 I must declare my heart is there,
 Though I've been from Maine to Mexico. *Chorus*

