

The Fields of Athenry (rye)

Irish Folk Ballad, set during
Great Irish Famine 1845 -1850.
Words and Music *Pete St John* - 1970s
Popular anthem - Irish football.

Intro: C/// | F/// | C// 4 beats to bar

By the lonely prison wall I [F] heard a young girl [C] call-[G]-ing, ²³⁴|¹²³⁴
[C] "Michael they have [F] taken you a-[G]-way. ²³⁴|¹²³
For you [C] stole Trevelyan's [F] corn
So the [C] young might see the [G] morn;
Now a prison ship lies waiting in the [C] bay." ²³⁴|¹²³⁴

CHORUS Low [F] lie the [C] fields of Athen-[Am]-ry,
Where [C] once we watched the [Am] small, free birds [G] fly. ²³⁴|¹²³
Our [C] love was on the [F] wing,
We had [C] dreams and songs to [G] sing
It's so lonely round the fields of Athen-[C]-ry. ²³⁴|¹²³

By the lonely prison wall I [F] heard a young man [C] call-[G]-ing, ²³⁴|¹²³⁴
[C] "Nothing matters, [F] Mary, when you're [G] free. ²³⁴|¹²³
Against the [C] famine and the [F] Crown,
I re-[C]-belled, they cut me [G] down;
now you must raise our child with dig-[C]-nity." ²³⁴|¹²³⁴

CHORUS Low [F] lie the [C] fields of Athen-[Am]-ry,
Where [C] once we watched the [Am] small, free birds [G] fly. ²³⁴|¹²³
Our [C] love was on the [F] wing,
We had [C] dreams and songs to [G] sing
It's so lonely round the fields of Athen-[C]-ry. ²³⁴|¹²³

By the lonely harbour wall she [F] watched the last star
[C] fall-[G]-ing, ²³⁴|¹²³
as the [C] prison ship sailed [F] out against the [G] sky. ²³⁴|¹²³
For she [C] lived to hope and [F] pray,
for her [C] love in Botany [G] Bay
It's so lonely round the fields of Athen-[C]-ry. ²³⁴|¹²³⁴

CHORUS [C] Low [F] lie the [C] fields of Athen-[Am]-ry,
Where [C] once we watched the [Am] small, free birds [G] fly. ²³⁴|¹²³
Our [C] love was on the [F] wing,
We had [C] dreams and songs to [G] sing
It's so lonely round the fields of Athen-[C]-ry. ²³⁴|¹²³

REPEAT CHORUS ²³⁴|¹

