

Barbara Allen

England

Source: John Pierce Songbook 1974 / earliest date: 1740, mentioned 1666 (Ballad Index)

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Am G Am G Am

1. It was round and a-bout last Mar-tin-mas time, when the green buds they were swelling, when young

Am G Am G Am

Jim - my Groves of the West Coun-try fell in love with Bar - ba - ra Al - len. He

C G Am G C Am G F

sent his ser - vant to the town to the house where she did dwell in, cry - ing,

C G Am G C F G Am

"Mas - ter bids you, come to him if your name be Bar - b'ra Al - len."

2. So slowly, slowly up she got, and slowly she's come nigh him,
and when she's pulled the curtain back, it's "Young man, I think you're dying."
"Oh, yes, I'm sick, I'm deadly sick, and death is in me dwelling,
and there's just one cure that will avail, it's the love of Barbara Allen."
3. But she's walked out all through the fields, and she's heard his death bell knelling,
and at every stroke it seemed to cry, "Hard-hearted Barbara Allen!"
"Oh, father, father, dig me my grave, go dig it long and narrow,
for young Jimmy died for me this day, I'll die for him tomorrow."
4. The buried her in the old churchyard and Jimmy in the choir,
and from his heart grew a blood red rose and from her heart a briar.
Oh, they grew and they grew o'er the old church wall till they couldn't grow no higher,
and there they twined a true lovers' knot, the red rose and the briar.