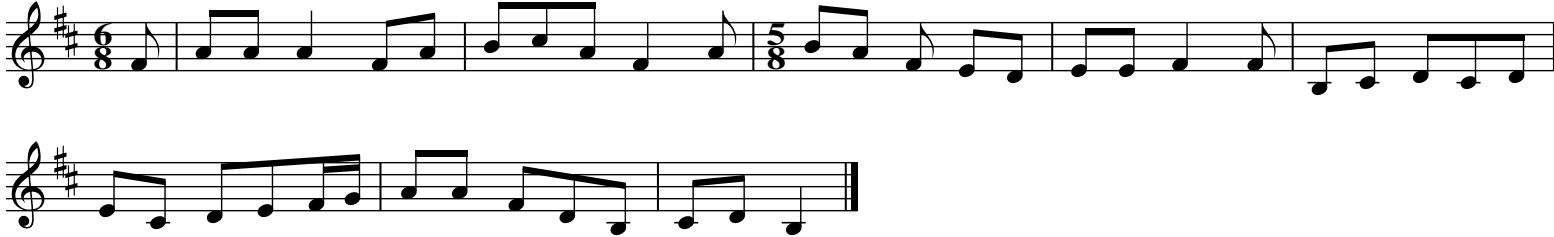


Basket Of Eggs

Collected in Hadleigh Suffolk on 3rd-4th Sept 1907 by Ralph Vaughan Williams
Sung By Mr Jake Willis (Crimean War & Indian Mutiny Veteran)

♩. = 60



Alternative bars 7 & 8



1. There were two sailors set out a-walking
Their pockets being both lined with gold,
As they were walking and fondly talking
A lovely damsel they did behold.
2. With a great big basket standing beside her
She being weary sat down to rest.
I kindly asked her if I should carry it.
The answer she gave, "If you please".
3. "Sailors, sailors, I know nothing of you.
There s eggs in the basket, pray take care;
If you should chance to over walk me,
At the Half-way House pray leave them there".
4. At the half-way house they pass-ed by.
And another ale house they did draw nigh
Landlord landlord bring out some bacon
There's eggs in the basket we'll have a fry.
5. The landlord went unto the basket
Thinking some eggs there he would find
"O jolly sailors you are mistaken.
Instead of eggs there is a child."
6. One of the sailors set out a-fretting.
The other one says not worth a while.
Here's a 100 I will pay down
To any young woman that will take this child.
7. Pretty Nancy standing by the fire
She hears the words the sailor said.
I'll take the child and kindly use it
As soon as the money is laid down.
8. Are you the girl they call pretty Nancy
That I danced with last Easter Day.
Oh yes kind sir and I took your fancy
And now the fiddler you must pay.
9. "Let us go down to yonder chapel
And there the knot it shall be tied
Bells are ringing sailors singing
We will enjoy that happy bride"

Transcribed, as written, from Ralph Vaughan Williams's original manuscript by Maggie Moore and Stan Bloor 2023. A scan of the manuscript is available from the The Vaughan Williams Memorial Library <https://www.vwml.org/record/RVW2/1/7>
nb. No tempo information was recorded so the tempo on this abc file has been arbitrarily set by the transcribers.