

# There is a Tavern in the Town

1883 by William H. Hills

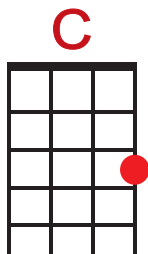


<sup>C</sup> There is a tavern in the town, ...in the town,

And there my dear love sits him down ...sits him down <sup>G7</sup>

And drinks his wine 'mid laughter gay and free, <sup>C</sup> <sup>F</sup>

And never, never thinks of me <sup>G7</sup> <sup>C</sup>



Fare thee well, for I must leave thee, <sup>G7</sup>

Do not let the parting grieve thee, <sup>C</sup>

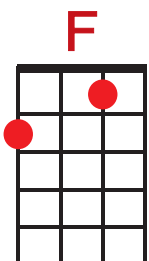
And remember that the best of friends must part, must part <sup>G7</sup> <sup>C</sup> <sup>F</sup> <sup>C</sup>

Adieu, adieu, kind friends adieu ...adieu, adieu <sup>C</sup>

I can no longer stay with you ...stay with you <sup>G7</sup>

I'll hang my harp on a weeping willow tree, <sup>C</sup> <sup>F</sup>

And may the world go well with thee <sup>G7</sup> <sup>C</sup>



Oh! dig my grave both wide and deep, ... wide and deep, <sup>C</sup>

Put tombstones at my head and feet ....head and feet <sup>G7</sup>

And on my breast carve a turtle dove <sup>C</sup> <sup>F</sup>

To signify I died of love <sup>G7</sup> <sup>C</sup>

...and repeat the chorus

SONGS IN THE  
PUBLIC DOMAIN  
UKULELE CLUB OF SANTA CRUZ  
NOVEMBER 2006

There Is A Tavern In The Town first appeared in the 1883 edition of William H. Hill's Student Songs. Some sources attribute its origins to a traditional miners' song from Cornwall, U.K. This is no doubt the case in regard to certain turns of phrase in the text. The melody, however, from the very first measure identifies itself as a late nineteenth-century American "popular" tune. While the lyric is evidently the utterance of an abandoned female, the song itself was, historically speaking, more often sung by young males bonding with the aid of drink.