

Sailor's Delight

A mixtape by Seth Casana July 2022 John Cook Written by Tom Rowe Performed by Schooner Fare

> Oh, John Cook, ye have taken us to hell Locked up in the ice off Baffin Island We've been here for a year, now the water's comin' clear Won't you set for home, John Cook, without the oil?

We sailed her out from Gloucester, to hunt the mighty whale A crew of twenty seasoned whalin' men With Slocum at the helm and me and Drury haulin' sail And the Captain shouting orders at the wind

The Captain's wife had begged to go and Cook could not deny her For Annie Cook was sweet and young and fair She's been this last year down below, a'huddled near the fire The whaler's lot was more than she could bear

With one year gone and one to go we'd less than half the oil Four hundred barrels filled and in the hold The Captain turned her north'ard where he knew we'd find the whale But instead of whales we found the bitter cold

The Atlantic Queen did shudder as she braved the ocean gales But her master would not heed the mate's advice Oh, Captain, turn her south'ard and damn the hellish whale For if you don't we'll soon be trapped in ice

Soon the ice stretched all around the proud Atlantic Queen And nine months gone the food began to spoil The Captain paced the foredeck, tortured, torn between His love for Ann and lusting for the oil

For Annie Cook had begged her John to take her home to Gloucester Or sure it was she'd lose her sanity And the crew of the Atlantic Queen had charged her lord and master To point her south or face a mutiny

The Captain made his choice, he'd not return without the oil His pride was more important than his wife And when there came the mutiny he shot the Steward Boyle To take the Queen they'd have to take his life

Two more weeks, the ice cleared north, we set out the whales to find We took three beasts before the second day Michael Boyle had lost his life and Annie Cook had lost her mind And the Captain's coal black hair had gone to gray **Blow Ye Winds** Traditional Performed by The Kingston Trio

'Tis advertised in Boston, New York and Buffalo A hundred hearty sailors, a whalin' for to go

> Singin' blow, ye winds, o' mornin', blow, ye winds, hi-o Haul away your runnin' gear and blow, boys, blow

They tell you of the clipper ships a-runnin' in and out They say you'll take 500 whales before you're six months out

The skipper's on the afterdeck a-squintin' at the sails When up above the lookout spots a mighty school of whales

Then lower down the boats, my boys, and after him we'll travel But if you get too near his tail, he'll kick you to the Devil

And now that he is ours, my boys, we'll bring him alongside Then over with our blubber hooks and rob him of his hide

When we get home, our ship made fast, and we get through our sailin' A brimmin' glass around we'll pass and hang this blubber whalin'

Botany Bay *Traditional Performed by Noel McLoughlin*

Farewell to your bricks and mortar Farewell to your dirty lime Farewell to your gangways and your gangplanks And to hell with your overtime For the good ship Ragamuffin Is lying at the quay For to take old Pat with a shovel on his back To the shores of Botany Bay

While me way down to the quay Where the ship at anchor lay To command a gang of navvies That I was told to engage I stopped in for to drink a while Before I go away For to take a trip on an immigrant ship To the shores of Botany Bay

Well, the boss came up this morning And he says, "Well, Pat, you know That if you didn't get those navvies out I'm afraid you'll have to go" So I asked him for me wages And demanded all my pay And I told him straight we would all emigrate To the shores of Botany Bay

And when I reach Australia I'll go and search for gold There's plenty there for digging up Or so I have been told Or else I'll go back to me trade And a hundred bricks I'll lay Because I live for an eight-hour shift On the shores of Botany Bay

The Mary Ellen Carter

Written by Stan Rogers Performed by Makem and Clancy

She went down last October in a pouring driving rain The skipper, he'd been drinking and the mate, he felt no pain Too close to Three Mile Rock when she was dealt her mortal blow And the Mary Ellen Carter settled low There was just us five aboard her when she finally was awash We'd worked like hell to save her, all heedless of the cost And the groan she gave as she went down, it caused us to proclaim We'd make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again

Well, the owners wrote her off, not a nickel would they spend She gave twenty years of service, boys, then met her sorry end The insurance paid the loss to us, so let her rest below They laughed at us and said we'd have to go But we talked of her all winter, some days around the clock She's worth a quarter million, afloat and at the dock And with every jar that hit the bar, we swore we would remain And make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again

> Rise again, rise again Let her name not be lost to the knowledge of men All those who loved her best and were with her 'til the end Will make the Mary Ellen Carter rise again

All spring, now, we've been with her on a barge lent by a friend Three dives a day in hard hat suit and twice I've had the bends Thank God it's only sixty feet and the currents here are slow Or I'd never have the strength to go below But we've patched her rents, stopped her vents, dogged hatch and porthole down Put cables to her fore and aft and girded her around Tomorrow, noon, we hit the air and then take up the strain And watch the Mary Ellen Carter rise again

For we couldn't leave her there, you see, to crumble into scale She'd saved our lives so many times, living through the gale And the laughing, drunken rats who left her to a sorry grave They won't be laughing in another day And you, to whom adversity has dealt the final blow With smiling bastards lying to you everywhere you go Turn to, and put out all your strength of arm and heart and brain And like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again

> Rise again, rise again Though your heart may be broken and life about to end No matter what you've lost, be it a home, a love, a friend Like the Mary Ellen Carter, rise again

Nova Scotia Farewell

Traditional Performed by Schooner Fare

> Farewell to Nova Scotia, your sea bound coast Let your mountains dark and dreary be For when I am far away on the briny ocean tossed Will you ever heave a sigh or a wish for me?

The sun was setting in the west The birds were singing on every tree All nature seemed inclined for to rest But still there was no rest for me

I grieve to leave my native land I grieve to leave my comrades all And my parents whom I held so dear And my bonnie, bonnie lassie that I love so well

The drums do beat and the wars do alarm My Captain calls, I must obey So farewell, farewell to Nova Scotia's charms For it's early in the morning, I'll be far, far away

I have three brothers, and they are at rest Their arms are folded on their breast But a poor and simple sailor just like me Must be tossed and driven on the dark blue sea

North Sea Holes *Traditional Performed by The Woods Tea Co.*

Come all you gallant fishermen that plough the stormy sea The whole year round on the fishing grounds On the Northern Minch and the Norway Deeps, On the banks and knolls of the North Sea Holes Where the herring shoals are found

It's there you'll find the Norfolk boys and the lads from Peterhead There's Buckie chiels and men from Shields On the Northern Minch and the Norway Deeps, On the banks and knolls of the North Sea Holes Where the herring shoals are found

From Fraserborough and Aberdeen, from out in Yarmouth Town The fleet's away at the break of day To the Northern Minch and the Norway Deeps, To the banks and knolls of the North Sea Holes Where the herring shoals are found

It's off with a boiler full of steam and your engine spic and span To fish the grounds the North Sea round And fish and knolls and the North Sea Holes And try your luck at the North Shields Gut With a catch of a hundred cran

No need to wait for the wind and tide, you're the master of the sea Come calm or squall, just shoot and haul And fill the hold with the fish to be sold And steam ahead for the curing shed And the buyers on the Yarmouth guay

The Bold Privateer

Traditional Performed by Jeff Warner

Oh, my dearest Molly It's you and I must part Going across the ocean Leave you with my heart Now my ship is sailing Fare thee well, my dear I'm going on board the vessel The Bold Privateer

> Who will go with me? Who will go with me? Who will go with me, my love? Going across the sea

Oh, my dearest Johnny, Great dangers have been brought And many a sweet life By the seas has been lost Better stay at home With the girl that loves you dear Than to venture your sweet life On the Bold Privateer

Oh, my dearest Molly, Your friends do me despise Besides, you have two brothers Who'd freely take my life Come, change your ring with me, my girl Come, change your ring with me And let it be a token When I am on the sea

And when this war is ended Should heaven spare my life I'll return home to My intended wife And now I'll get married To my charming Molly dear And for ever bid adieu The Bold Privateer

Greenland Fisheries

Traditional Performed by The Highwaymen

'Twas in 1853 On June the thirteenth day When a whalin' ship her anchor raised And for Greenland sailed away

The lookout on the crosstree stood With a spyglass in his hand "There's a whale! There's a whale! There's a whale-fish!" he cried "She blows at every span"

We struck that whale, and the line paid out But she made a flounder with her tail And the boat capsized, and four men were drowned And we never got that whale

"To lose that whale" the captain cried "It grieves me four times four But to lose four of my gallant men It grieves me ten times more (Brave boys) It grieves me ten times more"

Oh, Greenland is a dreadful place A land that's never green Where there's ice and snow, where whale-fishes blow And daylight seldom seen

Rueben James

Written by Woody Guthrie & Joseph Philbrick Webster Performed by The Kingston Trio

Have you heard of the ship called the good Reuben James? Run by hard fighting men both of honor and of fame She flew the stars and stripes of the land of the free But tonight she's in her grave at the bottom of the sea

> Oh, tell me, what were their names? Tell me, what were their names? Did you have a friend on the good Reuben James?

One hundred men went down to their dark and watery graves When that good ship went down, only forty-four were saved 'Twas the last day of October, they saved the forty-four From the dark icy waters of that cold Iceland shore

It was there in the dark of that cold and watery night They watched for the U-boats and they waited for a fight Then a whine and a rock and a great explosion's roar They lay the Reuben James on that cold ocean floor

Many years have passed since those brave men are gone Those cold, icy waters, they're still and they're calm Many years have passed and still I wonder why The worst of men must fight and the best of men must die Lukey's Boat Traditional Performed by Piper Stock Hill

Lukey's boat is painted green A-ha, me boys Lukey's boat is painted green The prettiest boat that you've ever seen A-ha, me boys, ah-diddle-aye-day

Lukey's boat got a fine fore cutty And every seam is chinked with putty

Lukey's boat got high-stopped sails The sheets were planked with copper nails

Lukey's rolling out his grub One split pea and a ten-pound tub

Now says Lukey, "Me blinds are down — Me wife is dead and she's underground"

Now says Lukey, "I don't care — I'll get me another in the spring of the year"

All For Me Grog

Traditional Performed by Schooner Fare

> And it's all for me grog, me jolly, jolly grog It's all for me beer and tobacco For I spent all me tin With the lassies drinkin' gin Far across the western ocean I must wander

Tell me, where are me boots, me noggin, noggin boots? They've all gone for beer and tobacco For the uppers are wore out And the heels are kicked about And the tongues are lookin' out for better weather

Tell me, where is me shirt, me noggin, noggin shirt? It's all gone for beer and tobacco For the collar is wore out The sleeves are kicked about And the arse is lookin' out for better weather

Tell me, where is me bed, me noggin, noggin bed? It's all gone for beer and tobacco Well, I lent it to a tart And the mattress fell apart And the springs are lookin' out for better weather

Now, I'm sick in the head and I haven't been to bed Since I came ashore with me plunder I've seen centipedes and snakes And I'm full of pains and aches And I thinks I'll make a path for way out yonder

The Wreck Of The Athens Queen

Written and performed by Stan Rogers

We were drinking down to Reedy's house When first we heard the blow It seemed to come from Ripper Rock So boldly forth to go And sure enough the rusty tub Could just be barely seen As her stern was high up in the air We made out Athens Queen O, the lovely Athens Queen

Me boys, I must remind you There's a bottle left inside So let us go and have a few And wait until low tide And if the sea's not claimed her When the glasses are licked clean We will then set forth some dories, lads And see what may be seen On the lovely Athens Queen

Some songs and old tall stories then Came out to pass the time Nor could a single bottle Keep us all until low tide And so it was before we left The house we were at sea So we scarcely can remember How we made the Athens Queen O, the lovely Athens Queen

O, the waves inside me belly Were as high as those outside And though I'm never seasick I lost dinner overside T'was well there was no crew to save For we'd have scared 'em green We could scarcely keep ourselves From falling off the Athens Queen O, the lovely Athens Queen Well, Reedy goes straight down below And comes up with a cow Hello, I said, now what would you Be wantin' with that now? You'll never take the cow home In a dory on such sea Well, me friend, he says, I've always fancied Fresh cream in me tea For the lovely Athens Queen

I headed for the galley then 'Cause I was rather dry And glad I was to get there quick For what should I spy O, what a shame it would have been For to lose it all at sea Forty cases of the best Napoleon Brandy ever seen On the lovely Athens Queen

I loaded twenty cases, boys Then headed for the shore Unloaded them as quick as that And then pulled back for more Smith was pullin' for the shore But he could scarce be seen Under near two hundred chickens And a leather couch of green From the lovely Athens Queen

So here's to all good salvagers Likewise to Ripper Rock And to Napolean brandy of which Now we have much stock We eat a lot of chicken And sit on a couch of green And we wait for Ripper Rock To claim another Athens Queen O, the lovely Athens Queen

Ten Thousand Miles Away

Written by Joseph B. Geoghegan Performed by Dan Milner

Oh, for a brave and a gallant ship And a fair and a fav'rin' breeze With a bully crew and a captain to To carry me o'er the seas To carry me o'er the seas, me boys To me true love far away For I'm takin' a trip on a Government ship Ten thousand miles away

> Then, blow ye winds, heigh-ho! A-rovin' I will go I'll stay no more on Erin's shore To hear the fiddlers play I'm off on the bounding main And I won't be back again For I'm on the move to my own true love Ten thousand miles away

My true love she was beautiful My true love she was young Her eyes were like the diamonds Bright and silvery was her tongue An' Silvery was her tongue, me lads As the big ship left the bay And she said, "Will you remember me Ten thousand miles away?"

It was a dark and a dismal day When last I saw my Peg She'd a Government band around each hand And another one round her leg And another one round her leg, me boys As the big ship left the bay, "Adieu," says she, "remember me Ten thousand miles away"

Oh, the sun may shine through the Dublin fog And the Liffey run quite clear And the ocean brine turn into wine And I forget my beer And I forget my beer, me boys Or the landlord's quarter-day But I'll ne'er forget my own true love Ten thousand miles away

The Great Lakes Song

Written by Shel Silverstein & Pat Dailey Performed by Lee Murdock

> Sweet Mother Michigan, Father Superior Coming down from Mackinaw and Sault St. Marie Blue water Huron rolls down to Lake Erie-o Falls into Ontario and runs out to sea

The Great Lakes are a diamond On the hand of North America A bright shinning jewel On the friendship border ring Fresh water highway Coming down from Canada While all along the coastline You can hear the people sing

Hardy are the seamen On the ships that load the iron ore Sailing out of Thunder Bay Bound for Buffalo And hardy are the fisherman Like their fathers were before They say, "Bury me at sea When it's my time to go"

Down below the quarterdeck The old men mend the fishing nets While up upon the windy bridge The young men curse into the wind Up and down the Windsor Straits The wives, the mothers lie awake They pray Our Lady of the Lake Will bring them home again

If I Had A Ship

Written by Mason Williams Performed by The Kingston Trio

> If I had a ship, I'd sail away If I had a ship, I'd sail away Leave my sorrows where they lay If I had a ship, I'd sail away

Stroll down by the sea Take a stroll down by the bay Sit and ponder the endless waves If I had a ship, I'd sail away

Stroll down by the sea where the wind songs softly play Lean my back on a driftwood tree If I had a ship, I'd sail away

Stroll down by the sea Stand beside her misty spray Though I know 'twill never be If I had a ship, I'd sail away **Row, Bullies, Row** *Traditional Performed by Dan Milner*

When I was a youngster, I sailed with the best On a Liverpool packet bound out to the West We sheltered one day in the harbor of Cork And then we set out for the port of New York

> And it's row, row, bullies row, Your Liverpool Judies has got us in tow And it's row, row, bullies row, Your Liverpool Judies has got us in tow

For forty-two days, we were hungry and sore The winds were agin us, the gales they did roar Off Battery Point, we anchored at last With our jibboom hold to and the canvas all fast

Them boarding house masters was off in a trice They were shoutin' and sellin' all that was nice And one fat old crimp, he cottoned to me He says, "You're a fool, lad, to follow the sea"

He says, "There's a job, lad, just waitin' for you With a lashins o' liquor and nothin' to do" He says, "What ya think, lad? Will you jump her, too?" Says I, "Ye ol' bastard, I'm damned if I do"

But the best of intentions, they never gets far After forty-two days on the floor of the bar I tossed off me liquor and what do you think? The lousy ol' bastard did drugs in me drink

The next I remembers, I woke in the morn On a three-skysail yarder bound south round Cape Horn With an old suit of oilskins and a-three pairs of socks A bleedin' big head and a dose of the pox

Now all ye young sailors, take warnin' by me Watch out for the drinks when the liquor is free Pay no attention to runner or whore Your head'll be sick, your knob'll be sore **The Wellerman** *Traditional Performed by Jesse Ferguson*

There once was a ship that put to sea And the name of the ship was the Billy o' Tea The winds blew up and her bow dipped down O blow, my bully boys, blow

> Soon may the Wellerman come To bring us sugar and tea and rum One day when the tonguin' is done We'll take our leave and go

She had not been two weeks from shore When down on her, a right whale bore The captain called all hands and swore He'd take that whale in tow

Before the boat had hit the water The whale's tail came up and caught her All hands to the side, harpooned and fought her When she dived down low

No line was cut, no whale was freed The Captain's mind was not on greed But he belonged to the Wellerman's creed She took that ship in tow

For forty days or even more The line went slack and tight once more All boats were lost, there were only four But still that whale did go

As far as I've heard, the fight's still on The line's not cut and the whale's not gone The Wellerman makes his regular call To encourage the Captain, crew, and all **The Royal Tar** Written by Tom Rowe Performed by Schooner Fare

On cold and dark October nights when northwest gales do blow, You can see the Royal Tar off Coomb's Point all aglow A sidewheel sailin' ship, she was, a packet of renown She sailed from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, down to Boston town The cargo was a circus, horses, lions, camels, too A leopard and an elephant, a tiger and one old gnu Aboard her were threescore and twelve and a crew of twenty-one And thirty-three would perish 'were that fateful night was done

> "There's a fire!" someone shouted, "Fire in the hole!" And a northwest wind across the deck to chill the very soul Their courage would be tested 'ere that fateful night was through Of cowards there were many, of heroes just a few

With only six months service she was just off Isle Au Haut The Captain looked for shelter when the gale commenced to blow Captain Reed dropped anchor in the lee of Haven's shore He said we'll be protected here 'til morning light for sure Then came the call of fire and a mad rush for the boats There being only two seaworthy and one that would not float The crew abandoned first with just three men from below The Captain took the jolly boat and two more for to row

Seventy-two were left aboard in the fire and the gale Captain Waite, a passenger, slipped chain and set the sails He hoped to beach the Royal Tar and save all those aboard But the sails then caught afire and she helpless drifted seaward Then from North Haven harbor came Dyer and his crew Aboard the Schooner Veto, close by the Tar they drew They took off forty souls from the listing, burning wreck And then could take no more as the fire consumed the deck

Twelve women died that night and eleven children too Just ten men died in all and only three of them were crew The folks out on Matinicus say they watched the Royal Tar As she drifted out to sea 'til she looked to be a star Of the animals that lived it's said they swam to shore And to this day on stormy nights you'll hear the lions roar The elephant was found washed up on far off Brimstone Isle And none who lived to tell the tale would 'ere forget the trial

Old Fat Boat

Written and performed by Gordon Bok

Here I am, man, all alone again Anchored away the hell and gone again Another mile from another town Wind Northeast and the rain coming down Home is the sailor, home from the sea A home for the mildew, friend to the flea

> I don't care, man, I'm happy I got an old fat boat, she's slow but handsome Hard in the chine and soft in the transom I love her well, she must love me But I think it's only for my money

No more tobacco, no more cheese I'm sprung in the back and lame in the knees It's a damned good thing I'm easy to please There ain't nothing in town on a Sunday

You know, I got milk and I got ice I got home-made bread, a little old, but nice Everybody puts their cooking hat on When you tell 'em you're leaving in the morning

Yes, I got coffee, I got tea I got the beans and the beans got me I got tuna fish, I got rum I got a two-pound splinter in my thumb. So I'll take my toddy and my vitamin C And the radio for my company Oh, me! I got the hydrogen peroxide blues

Well mercy, mercy, I do declare If half the fun of going is the getting there Mercy, Percy, you better start rowing 'Cause the other half of getting there is going

Across The Sea

Written by Charles Mackay Performed by The Brothers Four

Up a loft amid the rigging Swiftly blows the favoring gale Soft as springtime in each blossom Filling out each bending sail

> Rolling home, rolling home Rolling home across the sea Rolling home to dear old England Rolling home, dear land to thee

Six long years since I've seen Dover Now we're nearing England's shore Six more days to ride the west wind And I'll ride the wind no more

Dawn you welcome light of morning Shine you summer sun above Blow you gentle winds from westward Guide us home to those we love

Straight And True

Written and performed by Stan Rogers

At Lincoln Center, a freak o' weather brought a taste of sea And I was back in Nova Scotia and all my friends were there with me And they were drinkin' Diamond, singin' Carter and passin' them from mouth to mouth It sounded like "goodbye" and I knew that I was headed South The bitter South

In my uncle's kitchen the songs are bitchin' or some Hank Williams' blues And I can hear my cousin's voices singing the very best that they can do And it doesn't matter what we're drinking, the ocean brings the flavor through And if none of this is fancy, the love is always straight and true Straight and true

> There's something about it, I can't live without the Coast The rhythmic ocean, the clean wholesome motion of most of my friends there Swaying by the trees, singing of the sea, now City streets, they can't hold me when I'm most alone I'm going on home

I think I'm ready, my hands are steady, 'though that's something I've not always known And even if the West rejects me, there's some place I hold for my own And I soon will be there; do I love it? Yes, I guess that you could say I do Cause I'll be picking with my people where the music's always straight and true Straight and true Salt Water Farm Written by Tom Rowe Performed by Schooner Fare

He was well into his sixties when I first heard Grampa's dream A farmhouse by the sea and some roots in the land He never got the farm, what he got was a machine In a factory at the edge of town and broken, calloused hands It stole away his years and the music from his ears And left him so he couldn't even hear the factory horn Still he said someday he knew he'd get his way And end up his days on a salt water farm

> Salt water farm, my salt water farm A little bit of heaven, just a house and a barn Mornin's we'd go fishin', work the fields in the afternoon And as the evening tide rolls in, there'd be songs beneath the moon And later I would take you in my arms And listen to the sounds of our salt water farm

He said he'd have a cow, some chickens, and a hog A barn filled up with hay and a boat down in the cove Later in the fall, we'd go hunting with the dog Winter nights, we'd sit around and read beside the stove Well, he was always kind of poor and he could have dreamed for more Than a place where he would still have to work with his hands But that never was his way and I can still hear him say "Son, a man is at his best between the sea and the landschooner"

Western Boat

Written by Otto P. Kelland Performed by Gordon Bok

Take me back to my Western boat Let me fish off Cape St. Mary's Where the hagdowns sail and the foghorns wail With my friends, the Browns and the Clearys In the swells off old St. Mary's

Let me feel my dory lift To the broad Atlantic cumbers Where the tide-rips swirl and the wild ducks furl And the ocean calls the numbers In the swells off old St. Mary's

Let me sail up golden bays With my oilskins all a-streaming From the thunder squall where I hauled my trawl And the old "Cape Ann" a-gleaming In the swells off old St. Mary's