

# In London's Fair City (Villikins and his Dinah)

Albert Beale

Recorded by Peter Kennedy and Maud Karpeles, Kenardington, 14 January 1954

BBC recording 21156

Roud 271

The musical score is written on four staves in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or bars.

In Lon- don fair ci- ty a mer- chant did dwell, He  
had a brave daugh- ter, an un- com- mon nice girl Her  
name it was Din- ah, scarce six- teen years old, She  
had a large for- tune of sil- ver and gold.

1. In London fair city a merchant did dwell,  
He had a brave daughter, an uncommon nice girl  
Her name it was Dinah, scarce sixteen years old,  
She had a large fortune of silver and gold.
2. As Dinah was a-walking in the garden one day  
Her papa came to her, and thus he did say,  
Go dress yourself Dinah in brightest array  
I have found you an husband both gallant and gay.
3. Oh papa, oh papa, I don't feel inclined,  
For to marry just yet, I've not made up my mind  
But that my large fortune I'd gladly give o'er,  
If you let me remain single just one year or more.

4. Go go, dearest daughter the father replied,  
If you'll not consent to be this young man's bride,  
I'll give your large fortune to the nearest of kin,  
And you sha'n't reap the benefit of one single pin.
5. As Villikins was a-walking in the garden one day  
He saw his dear Dinah lay dead on the clay.  
With a cup of cold poison that laid by her side,  
Says Villikens to himself, It's of poison she died.
6. He sipped up the poison as a man man did oe'r [?]  
As Villikins and his Dinah they are no more  
When the people they saw him, they laid down and cried  
And Villikins and his Dinah lay both in one grave.