

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Women of Dundee

Women of Dundee  
(Sheena Wellington)

Now the men they werena lazy, but the work was hard tae find  
The Parish and the Means Test they'd to face,  
But a lassie"s hands are nimble, and a lassie's wage is sma  
So the women o Dundee worked in their place.

Cho: And the wailin o the bummer and the clackin o the laims  
Brought the women o Dundee oot o their bed  
And they walked tae mills and factories  
And they rocht frae seevin tae fehv  
And the women kept the bairns o Dundee fed

Now my mither an my granny an my aunties ain and a'  
Went tae the laims the day they left the skail  
They didna work for freedom, independence or the rest  
They jist worked tae get some kitchen tae their kail.

Now the rhythm o their livin was the clackin o the laims  
Their youth an health an strength was lost tae jait  
But the weavers and the spinners and the winders o Dundee  
Had a spirit that the hard times never bait.

Now you may boast a noble lineage and sing of your Highland clan  
And hail some gallant chief who shares your name  
But my line's as good as any and I'm very proud tae say  
It was fae a Dundee weaver that I came.

Glossary; Werena - were not.

Parish, Means Test - much hated forms of poor 'relief'.

sma - small.

Bummer - the mill horn which sounded at morning, midday & 5.30

laims - looms. Brocht- bought. rocht - worked.

fae seevin tae fehv - from seven till five,

a ten hour day. bairns - children. mither - mother.

ain and a - one and all.

skail - school. didna - didn't. jist - just.

kitchen tae their kail - bread with broth, i.e. a bare living

jait - jute. bait- beat.

GP

apr00