

# The Origin Of The Harp - song lyrics

American Old-time song lyrics from [www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

THE ORIGIN OF THE HARP.

'Tis believed that this harp, which I wake now for thee,  
Was a siren of old, who sung under the sea,  
And who often at eve through the bright waters roved,  
To meet on the green shore a youth whom she loved.

But she loved him in vain, for he left her to weep,  
And in tears all the night her gold tresses to steep;  
Till heaven looked with pity on true love so warm,  
And changed to this harp the sea-maiden's form.

Still her bosom rose fair, still her cheeks smiled the same,  
While her sea-beauties gracefully formed the light frame;  
And her hair, as let loose o'er her white arm it fell,  
Was changed to bright chords uttering melody's spell. -

Hence it came that this soft harp so long hath been known  
To mingle love's language with sorrow's sad tone;  
'Till thou didst divide them and teach the fond lay,  
To speak love when I'm near thee, and grief when away.