

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Sir William Gower

Sir William Gower

I am a sailor, both stout and strong  
To a goodly vessel I do belong  
Well guard and anchored and well equipped  
Sir William Gower and a very fine ship

Our captain in his cabin lay  
When a dreadful voice to him did say  
"This night with me in the deep you'll be  
So prepare yourself and your company"

The sky grew dark and the sea grew still  
Though the men were fearful and the air was chill  
Sir William rose to meet his men  
Saying "Hear me now for I'll not speak again"

"I loved my mother when she was alive  
And to my sister I gave babies five  
I killed my wife and her children three  
So I now must face what has come for me"

"You'll lash a timber close to my side  
And throw me out on the water wide  
And if I swim then let me be  
But if I sink then pray for me"

So we tied his head and we tied his feet  
And around his middle a winding sheet  
At every knot the sea did stir  
Grew ready for the murderer

And then we saw his open grave  
The likeness of a single wave  
That swept our ship from her stern to her bow  
And bore away Sir William Gower

Recorded by Fairport Convention on Angel Delight  
JY