

# Girl I Left Behind, The

[www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is written in eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff is a guitar chord diagram with two lines: the top line has a '3' and the bottom line has a '4'. The fret numbers for the six strings are: 2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 5, 2, 2, 5, 5, 2, 4, 1, 2, 2, 2.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody. The fret numbers for the six strings are: 2, 2, 0, 2, 0, 5, 2, 5, 2, 5, 0, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2.

The third system of musical notation continues the melody. The fret numbers for the six strings are: 2, 2, 0, 2, 0, 0, 5, 2, 5, 2, 5, 0, 2, 2, 2, 2.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The fret numbers for the six strings are: 2, 2, 2, 2, 0, 5, 2, 2, 2, 5, 5, 2, 4, 1, 2, 2.

There was a wealthy old farmer, who lived in the country nearby,  
 He had a lovely daughter, on whom I cast an eye.  
 She was pretty, fair, the fairest one; indeed so very fair  
 There was no other girl in the country with her I could compare.

I asked her if she would be willing for me to cross over the plain  
 She said it would make no difference so I returned again.  
 She said that she would prove true to me, till death should prove unkind  
 We kissed, shook hands and parted. I left my girl behind.

Out in a western city, boys, a town we all know well  
 Where everyone was friendly and to show me all around  
 Where work and money was plentiful, and the girls to me proved kind  
 But the only object on my mind was the girl I left behind.

As was rambling around one day all down on the public square  
The mail coach had arrived, and I met the mail-boy there  
He handed to me a letter, that gave me to understand  
That the girl I left in old Texas had married another man.

I turned myself all around and about, not knowing what else to do  
I read on down a piece farther to see if those words proved true  
It's drinking I throw over, card playing I resign  
For the only girl that I ever loved was the girl that I left behind

Come all you rambling, gambling boys, and listen while I tell  
If it does you no good, kind friends, I'm sure it will do you no harm,  
If ever you court a fair young maid just marry her while you can  
For if ever you cross over the plains she'll marry another man.