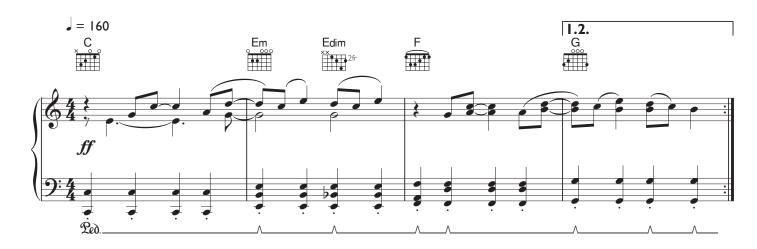
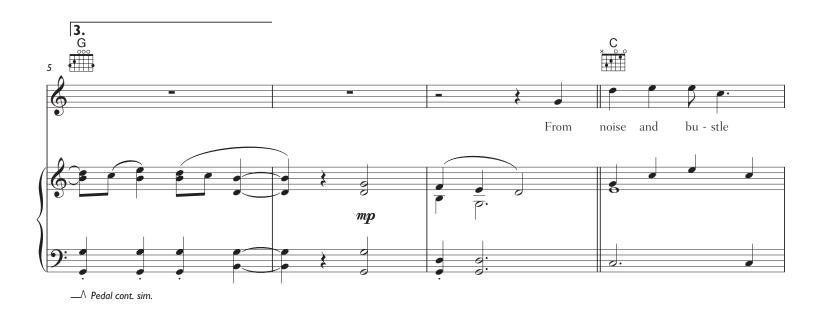
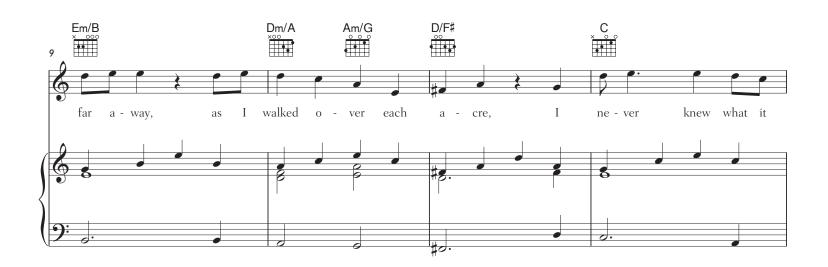
Betsy Baker

Words Traditional Music by Pete Flood







Roll The Woodpile Down

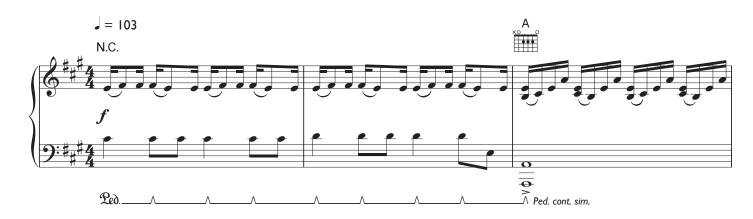
Roud 4443

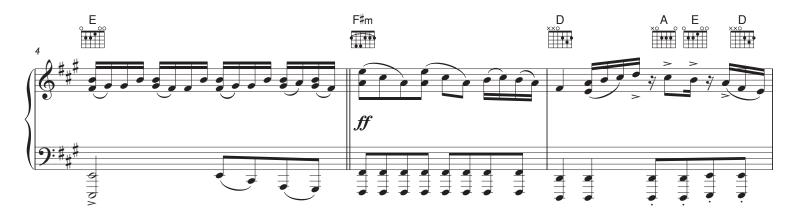
In his seminal collection Shanties from the Seven Seas (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., ▲1961) editor, historian, singer and seaman Stan Hugill notes that this pumping or capstan shanty was obtained from a West Indian seaman and "it is fairly obvious that it originated in either the West Indies or the Southern States of America, most probably the latter, being, perhaps one of the many rivermen songs that reached deep water". Theories abound as to the meaning of the title and function of the song and its variant 'Haul The Woodpile Down'. The rollers may be logs used to launch a vessel; 'woodpile' may refer to the ship itself which, if becalmed would be hauled by a rowboat; it may refer to woodpiles on the banks of the Mississippi which early paddle-steamers utilised; or it could originate from wood-fired steam vessels when orders were given for more fuel. The issue is confounded by non-orally transmitted manifestations of the song, for according to Meade, Guthrie T. with Spottswood, Dick & Meade, Douglas S., Country Music Sources: A Biblio-Discography of Commercially Recorded Traditional Music (Chapel Hill: Southern Folklife Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries, in association with the John Edwards Memorial Forum, 2002), 'Haul The Woodpile Down' written by Edward Harrigan and Tony Hart in 1887 was printed in Merchant's Gargling Oil Songster (Buffalo, New York: G. H. Dunston, Lith., 1890), p. 23. Furthermore, it occurs on a very early wax cylinder recording to be found at http://cylinders.library.ucsb.edu/search.php?queryType=@attr%201=1020&num=1&start=1&query=cylinder8103. This 1894 rendition by Charles Asbury, who accompanies himself on banjo, is in a minstrel rather than shanty style.



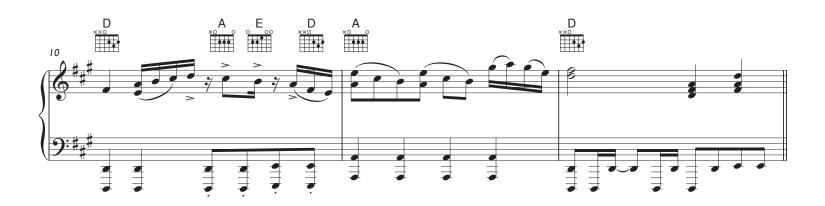
Roll The Woodpile Down

Words and Music Traditional Arranged by Jon Boden









Sloe Gin

Music by Jon Boden and John Spiers

