

The Gypsy Rover

(a.k.a. "The Whistling Gypsy", "Gypsy Laddie", "Johnny Faa",
"Gypsy Davy", "Down By The Clyde" and others)

Words & Music:
Traditional

The original song dates from the 1600s in Scotland and was set to the then widely known tune "Lady Cassillis' Lilt". There are easily a dozen versions of this song circulating, including a modernized version for 20th century Aussies by Alan Foster. Note that "The Wraggle, Taggle Gypsies, O!" is a different song. The most common modern version is Leo Maguire's adaptation.

G C G Em D
The gypsy rover came over the hill, down through the valley so shady,
G Em G C G C G
He whistled and he sang 'til the greenwoods rang, and he won the heart of a la--dy.

Chorus:

G C G Em D
Ah-de-do, ah-de-do-da-day, ah-de-do, ah-de-da-ay
G Em G C G C G
He whistled and he sang 'til the greenwoods rang, and he won the heart of a la--dy.

She left her father's castle gates, she left her own fine lover
She left her servants and her state to follow the gypsy rover.

CHORUS:

Her father saddled up his fastest steed and roamed the valleys all over
Sought his daughter at great speed and the whistling gypsy rover.

CHORUS:

He came at last to a mansion fine, down by the river Claydee
And there was music and there was wine, for the gypsy and his lady.

CHORUS:

"He is no gypsy, my father" she said, "but lord of these lands all over,
And I shall stay 'til my dying day with my whistling gypsy rover."

CHORUS: