

The Happy Wanderer

(My Knapsack On My Back)

Words & Music:
Friedrich-Wilhelm Möller

The original title of this was "Der fröhliche Wanderer" (the happy wanderer) or "Mein Vater war ein Wandersmann" (my father was a wanderer). It is also referred to as "Val-Deri, Val-Dera". Contrary to popular belief, it is not a traditional folk song, but a modern composition in the style of one. You can either sing the chorus as written, or use the last half-line of each verse as the final line of the chorus following it. [i.e. "Come join my happy song."]

A E7
I love to go a-wandering along the mountain track.
E7 A D E7 A
And as I go I love to sing, my knapsack on my back!

CHORUS:

E A E A
Val-deri! Val-dera! Val-deri! Val-dera-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!
E A D E7 A
Val-deri! Val-dera! My knapsack on my back.

I love to wander by the stream that dances in the sun.
So joyously it calls to me: "Come join my happy song!"

CHORUS: *[last line can be: "Come join my happy song!"]*

I wave my hat to all I meet and they wave back to me.
And blackbirds call so loud and sweet, from every greenwood tree.

CHORUS: *[last line can be: "...from every greenwood tree."]*

High overhead the skylarks wing, they never rest at home.
But, just like me, they love to sing, as o'er the world we roam.

CHORUS: *[last line can be: "...as o'er the world we roam."]*

Oh, may I go a-wandering until the day I die.
And may I always laugh and sing, beneath the clear blue sky.

CHORUS: *[last line can be: "...beneath the clear blue sky."]*