

## GOODBYE FAIR LADIES

I first heard the Kingston Trio's spirited recording of this song in 1962 – the year I graduated from high school. I was already well on my way to being a hard-core folkie. *Away Rio* is a traditional capstan shanty – dating to the 1860s or before. The “Rio Grande” of this song is almost certainly not the river of southwestern North America, but rather the province Rio Grande do Sul of southern Brazil. You can hear a traditional rendering of the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04qI3n8cBTc> or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at: [http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS\\_Audio\\_Archive.html](http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html). Every version I have heard has different verses, or the lyrics in a different order.

## AWAY, RIO

**D** **A D**  
O say, were you ever in Rio Grande? Away, Rio!  
**G D A D**  
It's there that the river runs down golden strand;  
**D A D**  
And we're bound for the Rio Grande  
**G D G D**  
And away... Rio! Away... Rio!  
**G D A Bm**  
So fare you well, my pretty young girl  
**D A D**  
We're bound for the Rio Grande!

Oh, Galveston town is no place for me! Away...  
So I'll pack up me sea chest and go back to sea!

And we're... CHORUS

We'll man the good capstan and run her around. Away...  
We'll haul up the anchor from out in the sound.

And we're... CHORUS

The anchor is weighed and the sails they are set. Away...  
The girls that we're leavin' we'll never forget.

And we're... CHORUS

So goodbye fair ladies we know in this town. Away...  
We've left you enough to buy a silk gown.

And we're... CHORUS

Our ship went a-sailin' out over the bar. Away...  
We've pointed her bow to the Southern Star.

And we're... CHORUS