

HOW THE JOHN B. SAILS

The Bahamian folk song originally published as “The John B. Sails” is known to most of us as the “Sloop John B”. It has been recorded by numerous artist. The Kingston Trio and The Beach Boys have recordings that are well known to many of us. The accompaniment is performed in a Calypso beat (- - - _ _ -), a syncopated rhythm. Here is a link to a recording that may be close to the original style of its performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwcGyvhuMQg>

Or on our website: https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html

THE SLOOP JOHN B

^G
We come on the Sloop John B, my gran father and me.

^D
Around Nassau town w ee did roam,

^G ^{G7} ^C
Drinkin all night, got into a fight,

^G ^D ^G
well I feel so broke up, I wan na go home.

Chorus:

^G
So hoist up the John B sail, see how the mainsail sets,

^D
Call for the cap tain a shore, let me go home.

^G ^{G7} ^C
Let me go home, I wan na go home,

^G ^D ^G
Well I feel so broke up, I wan na go home.

^G
First mate, he got drunk, broke into the capn's trunk,

^D
cons table had to come and take him a way.

^G ^{G7} ^C
Sheriff John Stone, why don't you leave me a lone? yeah yeah

^G ^D ^G
Well I feel so broke up, I wan na go home.

Chorus.

^G
The poor cook he caught the fits, threw away all my grits,

^D
and then he took and ate up all of my corn.

^G ^{G7} ^C
Let me go home, Why don't they let me go home,

^G ^D ^G
this is the worst trip I've ev er been on.

Chorus.