

The Lowlands, Low

I learned this song in the 1960s, but it is very old. A Child Ballad published as early as 1635. My niece used to ask me, "Uncle Bo, sing Lowlands Low". You can listen to the song here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mnTrFaYpF4>, or on the HFMS Audio Archive Page at http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html. Peter, Paul and Mary do it in the key of A, so to play along with them, Capo II.

THE GOLDEN VANITY

G **D** **Em**
There once was a ship that sailed the lowland sea
C **Am** **D**
And the name of our ship was the Golden Vanity
G **D** **Em**
And we feared she would be taken by the Spanish enemy
C **D** **G** **Em**
As she sailed on the lowland, lowland, low- - -
C **D** **Em**
Sailed on the lowland sea

Then up stepped our cabin boy and boldly out spoke he
And he said to our captain, what would you give to me?
If I would swim along side the Spanish enemy
And I sink her in the lowland sea?"

"Oh I will give you silver and I will give you gold
And my own fair daughter your bonny bride shall be
If you'll swim along side the Spanish enemy
And sink her in the lowland, lowland, low..."

Sink her in the lowland sea

Then the boy he made him ready and overboard sprang he
And he swam to the side of the Spanish enemy
With his brace and auger in her side he bored holes three
And sank he her in the lowland sea

Then quickly he swam back to the cheering of the crew
But the captain would not heed him, his promise he did rue
And he scorned his entreatings when loudly he did sue
And left him in the lowland, lowland, low...Left him in the lowland sea

Then round about he turned and he swam to the port side
And up to his messmates full bitterly he cried
O messsmates, draw me up, for I'm drifting with the tide
And I'm sinking in the lowland, lowland, low...

Sinking in the lowland sea."

Then his messmates drew him up, but on the deck he died
And they stitched him in a hammock - which was so fair and wide
And they low'ered him overboard, and he drifted with the tide
And he sank into the lowland (OH-oh-oh)
Sank into the lowland sea

There was a ship that sailed all on the lowland sea
And the name of the ship was the Golden Vanity
And we feared she would be taken by the Spanish enemy
As she sailed on the lowland, lowland, low...

Sailed on the lowland OH-oh- oh
Sailed on the lowland sea