

LOCK MY HEART IN A BOX OF GOLDEN

I first learned this song either from Pete Seeger's record, *How to Play the Five-String Banjo*, or from his book, *American Favorite Ballads* in about 1961. You wouldn't expect a slow love ballad like this to be performed on the banjo, but Pete makes it work. I have transcribed the chords in the key of G. I think Pete plays it on the banjo in G tuning with the capo at the second fret, so capo II if you want to play along. Someone has thoughtfully uploaded the track I learned it from to YouTube, and it can be found here: <https://youtu.be/9nijBZyuxTM?si=evFiINcBGxr7FgUb>

COME ALL YOU FAIR AND TENDER LADIES

Traditional

G Capo II

G **Am D** **G** **Am D** **Em**
Come all you fair and tender ladies, take warning how you court your man.

D **G** **C** **G**
They're like the stars of a summer's morning –

C **Bm**
First they'll appear, and then they're gone.

If I'd have known before I courted. I never would have courted none.
I'd a locked my heart in a box of golden.
And fastened it up with a silver pin.

Do you remember our days of courtin'? When your head lay upon my breast.
You could make me believe by the fallin' of your arm
That the sun rose in the west.

I wish I were a tiny sparrow, and I had wings, and I could fly.
I'd fly away to my false-true lover.
And whate'er he'd ask, I would deny.

But I am not a tiny sparrow, I have no wings, neither can I fly.
So I'll sit down here to weep in sorrow
And try to pass my troubles by.