

NOTHING MATTERS WHEN YOU'RE FREE

Written in 1970 by Pete St. John, this song became world famous in 1990 when it was adopted as an anthem by the Irish National Football team. The song is set during the Great Famine of 1845-1850. "Trevelyan" in the song refers to Charles Edward Trevelyan, a senior British civil servant at Dublin Castle who famously said, "The judgement of God sent the calamity to teach the Irish a lesson." You can hear this song performed by The Dubliners at <https://youtu.be/NlrsmEvv1Q?si=qR9pZ-JrXSyhdW7Y>. Capo II to play along with The Dubliners in D chord shape.

FIELDS OF ATHENRY

D **G** **D A**
By a lonely prison wall, I heard a young girl calling
D **G** **A**
Michael, they have taken you away.
D **G**
For you stole Trevelyan's corn
D **A**
So the young might see the morn.
A7 **D**
Now the prison ship lies waiting in the bay.

CHORUS:

D G D Bm
Low lie the fields of Athenry
D **A**
Where once we watched the small free birds fly.
D G
Our love was on the wing
D A
We had dreams and songs to sing.
A7 **D**
It's so lonely round the fields of Athenry.

By a lonely prison wall, I heard a young man calling
Nothing matters, Mary, when you're free.
Against the famine and the crown,
I rebelled, they cut me down.
Now you must raise our child with dignity.

CHORUS

By a lonely harbor wall, she watched the last star falling
As the prison ship sailed out against the sky.
For she lived to hope and pray for her love in Botany Bay.
It's so lonely round the fields of Athenry.

CHORUS

REPEAT CHORUS