

Minstrel Boy

by Thomas Moore tune: The Moreen, an old Irish air. In remembrance of a number of his friends, who had participated in (and were killed during) the Irish Rebellion of 1798. A favourite of many Irishmen who fought during the American Civil War and gained even more popularity after World War I. The song is notably associated with organisations that historically had a heavy representation of Irish-Americans. During the American Civil War the third verse was written by an unknown author. You can listen to this song here: <https://youtu.be/G4mvmkJOA8gM?si=ev2XzGwfC8WYlku1>

C **Am** **C** **G** **Am**
The minstrel boy to the war is gone;
 F **C** **G** **C**
In the ranks of death you will find him;
 C **Am** **C** **G** **Am**
His father's sword he has girded on,
 F **C** **G** **C**
And his wild harp slung behind him;
Am **G** **Am** **G** **D** **G**
"Land of Song!" cried the warrior bard,
 Am **F** **G** **C**
'Though all the world betrays thee,
 C **Am** **C** **G** **Am**
One sword, at least, thy rights shall guard,
 F **C** **G** **C**
One faithful harp shall praise thee!

The Minstrel fell! But the foeman's chain
Could not bring that proud soul under;
The harp he loved ne'er spoke again,
For he tore its chords asunder;
He said "No chains shall sully thee,
Thou soul of love and bravery!
Thy songs were made for the pure and free
They shall never sound in slavery!

The minstrel boy will return one day,
When we hear the news we all will cheer it,
The Minstrel Boy will return we pray
Torn in body, yet but not in spirit.
Then may he play his harp in peace,
In a world as heaven intended,
That ev'ry quarrel of man might cease,
And ev'ry battle shall be ended.