

MOLLY MALONE (COCKLES AND MUSSELS)

In Dublin's fair city, where the girls are so pretty,
I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone,
As she wheeled her wheel barrow through streets broad and narrow,
Crying "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive oh!"

CHORUS: "Alive, alive, oh, alive, alive, oh," Crying "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh."

She was a fish monger, and it sure was no wonder,
For so were her father and mother before.
They wheeled their wheel barrows through streets broad and narrow,
Crying "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh!"

CHORUS: "Alive, alive, oh, alive, alive, oh," Crying "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh."

She died of a fever, and no one could save her,
And that was the end of sweet Molly Malone.
But her ghost wheels her barrow through streets broad and narrow,
Crying "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh!"

CHORUS: "Alive, alive, oh, alive, alive, oh," Crying "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive, oh."

Per Wikipedia, this song was not recorded earlier than 1876, when it was published in Boston, Massachusetts. It's placement in the section of the book entitled "Songs from English and German Universities" suggests a British origin. It was also published by Francis Brothers and Day in London in 1884 as a work written and composed by James Yorkston, of Edinburgh. The London edition states that it was reprinted by permission of Kohler and Son of Edinburgh, implying that the first edition was in Scotland, though no copies of it have been located. The song, "Widow Malone," published as early as 1809, refers to the title character alternately as "Molly Malone."

See Wikipedia for some fascinating information about the character Molly Malone.