Wellerman (Soon May The Wellerman Come)
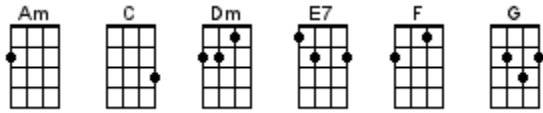
Traditional New Zealand folk song c. 1860-70 (as recorded by The Longest Johns 2018)

Am   C   Dm   E7   F   G

INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2 / [Am] / [Am]

There **[Am]** once was a ship that put to sea
And the **[Dm]** name of the ship was the **[Am]** Billy o' Tea
The **[Am]** winds blew hard, her bow dipped down
[E7] Blow, my bully boys **[Am]**↓ blow, huh!

CHORUS:
[F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

She **[Am]** had not been two weeks from shore
When **[Dm]** down on her a **[Am]** right whale bore
The **[Am]** captain called all hands and swore
He'd **[E7]** take that whale in **[Am]**↓ tow, huh!

CHORUS:
[F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

Be-**[Am]**fore the boat had hit the water
The **[Dm]** whale's tail came **[Am]** up and caught her
All **[Am]** hands to the side, harpooned and fought her
When **[E7]** she dived down be-**[Am]**↓low, huh!

CHORUS:
[F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

No **[Am]** line was cut, no whale was freed
The **[Dm]** Captain's mind was **[Am]** not on greed
But **[Am]** he belonged to the Whaleman's creed
She **[E7]** took the ship in **[Am]**↓ tow, huh!

CHORUS:
[F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

For **[Am]** forty days or even more
The **[Dm]** line went slack, then **[Am]** tight once more
All **[Am]** boats were lost, there were only four
But **[E7]** still that whale did **[Am]**↓ go

CHORUS:
[F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]** go

As **[Am]** far as I've heard, the fight's still on
The **[Dm]** line's not cut and the **[Am]** whale's not gone
The **[Am]** Wellerman makes his regular call
To en-**[Dm]**courage the Captain **[Am]**↓ crew and all

CHORUS:
[F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]**↓ go-**[G]**↓o

[F] Soon may the **[C]** Wellerman come
To **[Dm]** bring us sugar and **[Am]** tea and rum
[F] One day, when the **[C]** tonguin' is done
We'll **[E7]** take our leave and **[Am]**↓ go

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