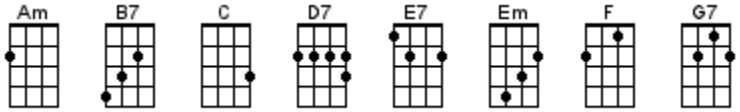
He Played His Ukulele As The Ship Went Down

Arthur Le Clerq 1932



< SINGING NOTE: G >

INTRO: / 1 2 / 1 2

Yo **[G7]**↓ ho, me lads! Yo **[G7]**↓ ho!
Yo **[C]**↓ ho, me lads! Yo **[C]**↓ ho!

I'll **[G7]** tell you the tale of a **[C]** sailor
Who **[Em]** sailed the Bay of **[Em]** Biscay-o
As the **[B7]** captain of a **[Em]** whaler
Of his **[G7]** gallant deed you all should know

Yo **[G7]**↓ ho, me lads! Yo **[G7]**↓ ho!

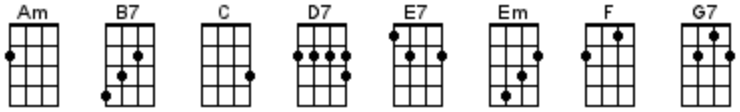
I'll **[C]** tell the tale of the **[F]** Nancy Lee
The **[G7]** ship that got ship-**[C]**wrecked at **[G7]** sea
The **[C]** bravest man was **[F]** Captain Brown
For he **[G7]** played his ukulele as the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ went **[C]**↓ down
[Am] All the crew were **[F]** in des-**[E7]**pair
[Am] Some rushed here and the **[D7]** others rushed **[G7]** there
But the **[C]** Captain sat in the **[F]** Captain's chair
And he **[G7]**↓ played the ukulele as the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ went **[C]**↓ down

Yo **[G7]**↓ ho, me lads! Yo **[G7]**↓ ho!

The **[C]** pets on board, were **[F]** all scared stiff
The **[G7]** cats meowed and the **[C]** monkeys **[G7]** sniffed
The **[C]** old green parrot hung **[F]** upside down
Saying **[G7]** "Scratch-a Polly Polly" as the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ went **[C]**↓ down
The **[Am]** crow's nest fell and it **[F]** killed the **[E7]** crow
The **[Am]** starboard watch was **[D7]** two hours **[G7]** slow
But the **[C]** Captain sung fal-**[F]**doh-dee-oh-doh
And he **[G7]**↓ played the ukulele when the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ went **[C]**↓ down

Yo **[G7]**↓ ho, me lads! Yo **[G7]**↓ ho!

The **[C]** skipper shouted **[F]** fore and aft
"I'll **[G7]** have no slackers a-**[C]**board this **[G7]** craft
So **[C]** understand" said **[F]** Captain Brown
"I want **[G7]** everybody's presence when the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ goes **[C]**↓ down!
The **[Am]** cook's gone mad and the **[F]** bosun's **[E7]** lame
The **[Am]** rudder has gone and the **[D7]** deck's a-**[G7]**flame
My **[C]** G string's flat but **[F]** all the same
I shall **[G7]**↓ play the ukulele when the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ goes **[C]**↓ down"



They **[C]** struggled on a-**[F]**gainst the storm
The **[G7]** cold, cold wind was **[C]** far from **[G7]** warm
So **[C]** all the crew and **[F]** Captain Brown
Played **[G7]** ring-a-ring-a-roses then the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ fell **[C]**↓ down
They **[Am]** shouted, "Women and **[F]** children **[E7]** first!"
The **[Am]** engine near came **[D7]** up their **[G7]** skirts
Then **[C]** all of a sudden his **[F]** boiler burst
So he **[G7]**↓ played the ukulele and the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ went **[C]**↓ down

Yo **[G7]**↓ ho, me lads! Yo **[G7]**↓ ho!

"Have **[C]** faith in me!" the **[F]** captain cried
To **[G7]** this remark the **[C]** crew re-**[G7]**plied
[C] "You can trust us **[F]** Captain Brown
To **[G7]** finish off the rum before the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ goes **[C]**↓ down"
The **[Am]** skipper shouted **[F]** back "No **[E7]** chat!
I'll **[Am]** do my best, then **[D7]** after **[G7]** that
D'you **[C]** mind if I pass **[F]** round the hat
As I **[G7]**↓ play me ukulele as the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ goes **[C]**↓ down?"

The **[C]** mate said, "It's o-**[F]**kay with me
The **[G7]** shipwreck suits me **[C]** to a **[G7]** T
I **[C]** owe ten bob to **[F]** Captain Brown
And I'll **[G7]** never have to pay him if the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ goes **[C]**↓ down"
The **[Am]** pessimistic **[F]** cook said **[E7]** he
Was **[Am]** sure the crew very **[D7]** soon would **[G7]** be
[C] Playing a harp, said **[F]** Brown, "Not me!
I shall **[G7]**↓ play me ukulele as the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ goes **[C]**↓ down"

Yo **[G7]**↓ ho, me lads! Yo **[G7]**↓ ho!

The **[C]** captain's wife was **[F]** on the ship
And **[G7]** he was glad she'd **[C]** made the **[G7]** trip
As **[C]** she could swim, she **[F]** might not drown
So he **[G7]** tied her to the anchor as the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ went **[C]**↓ down
They **[Am]** sprung a leak just **[F]** after **[E7]** dark
And **[Am]** through the hole came a **[D7]** hungry **[G7]** shark
It **[C]** bit the skipper near the **[F]** water mark
As he **[G7]**↓ played his ukulele when the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ went **[C]**↓ down

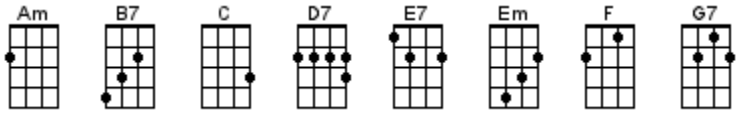
When they **[C]** reached the lifeboat **[F]** how they cursed
The **[G7]** second mate had **[C]** got there **[G7]** first
The **[C]** cook said, "I'll be **[F]** last to drown
'Cause I'm **[G7]** climbin' up the riggin' as the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ goes **[C]**↓ down"
[Am] Soon it was a **[F]** total **[E7]** wreck
The **[Am]** captain stood on the **[D7]** burning **[G7]** deck
The **[C]** flames leapt up all a-**[F]**round his neck
And **[G7]**↓ burnt his ukulele as the **[C]**↓ ship **[F]**↓ went **[C]**↓ down

Yo **[G7]**↓ ho, me lads! Yo **[G7]**↓ ho!

And **[C]** that is the tale of the **[F]** Nancy Lee
The **[G7]** ship that got ship-**[C]**wrecked at **[G7]** sea
And **[C]** Captain Brown who was **[F]** in command
Now **[G7]**↓ plays a ukulele in the **[C]**↓ mer-**[F]**↓maid **[C]**↓ band

[G7] Plays a ukulele in the **[C]**↓ mer-**[F]**↓maid **[C]**↓ band

Yo **[G7]**↓ ho, me lads! Yo **[G7]**↓ ho! Yo **[C]**↓ ho!



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