

O' Pretty Girls, Won't You List' and Come?

As sung by
Pearl Jacobs Borusky
08-30-1940 Antigo, WI

4170

Oh Pretty Girl

The image shows a handwritten musical score on aged paper. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes. There are several 'xR' markings above the notes, likely indicating a recording or a specific performance instruction. The paper has some creases and discoloration, suggesting it is an old document.

Oh, pretty girl - won't you list and come Oh pretty girl - won't you list and come, Oh, pretty girl - won't you
list and come And follow the music of the fife and drum, The drum shall beat - and the fife shall play, The
drum shall beat - and the fife shall play, The drum shall beat - and the fife shall play, And merrily on we'll
march a-way O - ver the hill - and a great way off O - ver the hill - and a great way off,
O - ver the hill - and a great way off, Oh don't you hear - that - In-dian call?

Verse 1.

O pretty girls, won't you list' and come?
O pretty girls, won't you list' and come?
O pretty girls, won't you list' and come?
And follow the music of the fife and drum?

Verse 2.

The drum shall beat and the fife shall play,
The drum shall beat and the fife shall play,
The drum shall beat and the fife shall play,
And merrily on we'll march away.

Verse 3.

Over the hill and a great way off,
Over the hill and a great way off,
Over the hill and a great way off,
O, don't you hear that Indian cough?

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Treat, no. 52, and HST

HST notes:

In alphabetized song folders, handwritten:

Sung by Mrs. Pearl Jacobs Borusky, age 39, 1940.

Asher Treat collected this song from Mrs. Borusky and her mother in 1933. [The following is crossed out:] They sang the last lines to rhyme with Over the hill and a great way off ... Oh don't you hear that Indian cough? On the recording made in 1940, Mrs. Borusky sang Oh don't ... call.

Sources:

Treat, Asher E. "Kentucky Folksong in Northern Wisconsin." *The Journal of American Folklore* 52, no. 203 (Jan.-Mar. 1939): 1-51.

K.G.