

# Pretty Polly

As sung by  
**Lily Richmond**  
08-23-1946 Lancaster, WI

Oh pret-ty Pol - ly, don't you cry, for your sweet - heart will \_\_\_ come by and by.

3  
Oh pret-ty Pol-ly, don't you cry, for your sweet - heart will come by and by.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with a blank space for a note. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, starting with a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are written below each staff.

## Lyrics

Oh pretty Polly, don't you cry,  
For your sweetheart will come by and by.  
Oh pretty Polly, don't you cry,  
For your sweetheart will come by and by.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by MB and HST.

### HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

*Sung by Aunt Lily Richmond, age 84, Beetown Township, Lancaster, 1946.*

*Aunt Lily Richmond. Sung by a colored lady, the last of the slaves of Wisconsin of the Lancaster vicinity came to Wisconsin from Missouri near the end of civil war pursued by the confederates.*

### Editor's notes:

In contrast to Eryl Levers' "Pretty Polly Oliver," this song is a short ditty with just one repeated line. Newell calls this melody a "17th Century Tune," but does not explain its origins.

Alternate titles: "O Pretty Polly," "Polly Oliver."

### Sources:

Joyce, Patrick Weston. *Old Irish Folk Music and Songs*. New York: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1909. "Pretty Polly," only the tune is similar.

Newell, George. *Girl Scout Song Book: 1929*. Boston: Stanhope Press, 1929.

K.G.