

## May Day Carol

C G7

I've been a - - ramb - ling all the night And the

C Am

best part of the day. And now re - turn - ing

C G7 C

home a - - gain I bring you a branch of May

A Revels Garland of Song, page 86

<http://www.mudcat.org/@displaysong.cfm?SongID=3917>

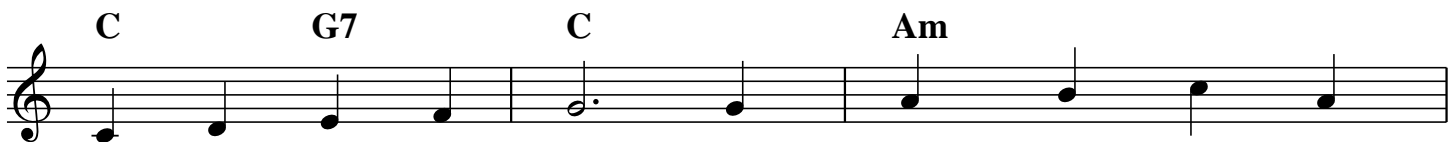
<http://www.joe-offer.com/folkinfo/songs/383.html>

A bunch of flowers at the end of a stick was carried about by children. It was customary in England for a lover on May morning to take a green bough to the house of the beloved. If she opened the door and took it in, this was a token of acceptance. At the Puritan epoch this custom was altered, and the song was converted into a carol with a moral to it.

The melody is a very early one in the Dorian mode, and resembles that of the carol "The moon shines bright," Broadwood's "County Songs" p. 108. The carol is still sung in Cornwall.



1. A branch of May I brought you here And  
 2. A - - - wake, a - wake, O pretty, pretty maid Out  
 3. If not a bowl of yel - - low cream A  
 4. Through - - out the night, be - - fore the light, There  
 5. The heav'n - ly gates are op - - en wide To  
 6. The life of man is but a span, He  
 7. My song is done and I must be gone I



at your door I stand. There's not a sprout un - -  
 of your drow - sy dream, And haste to dair - - y  
 cup to bring us cheer. For who knows when we shall  
 fell the dew or rain, It twin - - kles bright on  
 let es - cape the dew, And heav'n - ly grace falls  
 blos - soms as a flower. We come to stay, here  
 can no long - er stay. O bless you all both



-bud - ded out And of - fered\_\_ by my hand.  
 house and fetch for us a\_\_ bowl of cream.  
 meet a - - gain To go May - ing a - noth - er year.  
 (chorus)  
 May bush white, It spar - kles\_\_ on the plain.  
 on each place. It drops on\_\_ me and you.  
 (chorus)  
 for a day, and van - ished\_\_ in an hour.  
 great and small I wish you a joy - ful May.  
 (chorus)