

## The Thresher and the Squire

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The first line of music corresponds to the first line of lyrics, and so on.

'Tis of a bold \_\_\_\_\_ thresh-er man lived \_ down the coun-try side,  
Who for his wife \_\_and fa - mi - ly \_\_\_\_\_ dai - ly did \_pro - vide.  
He'd six-teen in \_his \_ fa - mi - ly and most of them \_were small;  
And \_ by his dai - ly la - bour he pro \_ vid - ed \_\_\_\_\_for \_them all

'Tis of a bold thresherman lived down by the country side,  
Who for his wife and family daily did provide,  
He'd sixteen in his family, and most of them were small;  
And by his daily labour he provided for them all.

As this poor man was returning from his labour one day.  
He met a wealthy squire who thus to him did say;  
"O thresherman! O thresherman! will you kindly tell to me  
How you maintain your wife, and your large family?"

"I arise, Sir, every morning, at the break of the day,  
I work like a slave, all for the smallest of pay,  
And from hedging or from ditching to the milking of a cow,  
There's nothing comes amiss to me from the harrow to the plough.

"When I go home at night, Sir, as tired as can be,  
The youngest of my family he sits upon my knee;  
And all the rest come prattling round me as I sing with joy,  
And this is all the comfort that a poor man can enjoy.

"There's my wife, gentle creature, as faithful as can be,  
We live like two turtledoves and never disagree.  
But still the times grow harder, and I am very poor,  
I hardly know how to keep the wolf from the door."

"Now since you have spoken so well of your wife,  
I'll make you live happy the rest of your life,  
Here's sixty acres of good land I'll freely give to thee,  
To maintain your wife and your large family."