

The Minstrel Boy

C F C Am
The Minstrel Boy to the war is gone,
F C G7 C
In the ranks of death you'll find him,
C F C Am
His father's sword he has girded on,
F C G7 C
And his wild harp slung behind him,
Am F Em G
Land of Song said the warrior bard,
Am C F C
Though all the world betrays thee,
C F C Am
One sword at least thy rights shall guard,
F C G7 C
One faithful harp shall praise thee.

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The Minstrel fell but the foeman's chain  
Could not bring his proud soul under,  
The harp he loved never spoke again  
For he tore its chords asunder,  
And said no chains shall sully thee,  
Thou soul of love and bravery!  
Thy songs were made for the pure and free  
They shall never sound in slavery.

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Additional verse

This is an additional verse, not written by Thomas Moore but probably added by an unknown author at the time of the American Civil War.

The song had been brought to the United States by Irish immigrants and became very popular with American Army regiments.

The Minstrel Boy will return we pray
When we hear the news we all will cheer it,
The minstrel boy will return one day,
Torn perhaps in body, not in spirit.
Then may he play on his harp in peace,
In a world such as Heaven intended,
For all the bitterness of man must cease,
And every battle must be ended.

The lyrics to The Minstrel Boy tell the story of young man with no military experience who goes to fight for his country's freedom. It's a stirring, idealistic song that can evoke a sense of patriotism in people of all nationalities across the world.

The lyrics are by Irish writer Thomas Moore and the melody is the Irish traditional tune, The Moreen.

The chords are presented here in the C Major, the key used by Shane MacGowan in his version of the song.

Danny Quinn plays the Minstrel Boy in E Flat. Place a capo on the third fret of your guitar and play the chords printed here if you would like to play the song in E Flat.

Use our key converter if you would like to play the chords in other keys.

For more information about The Minstrel Boy, and videos of various performers, visit <http://www.irishmusicforever.com/minstrel-boy>

Chord Converter



Our chord converter enables you to play this song in any key.

There's lots of information about changing chords, dominant sevenths advanced use of capo, and more to make playing your favourite songs easier. Find it here:

<http://www.irishmusicforever.com/key-converter>