

Some Songs About
Ned Kelly
and the
Kelly Gang



arranged
David Johnson 2010

Songs of the Kelly Gang

My Name is Edward Kelly

C G C G C G F C Am F Dm
C G C Am Dm G C G F C G C

My name is Edward Kelly, I'm honoured vastly well.
I rule supreme, my word is law, wherever I may dwell.
My friends are all united, my mates and army near;
We sleep beneath some shady tree, no danger do we fear.

Now the first of my adventures was through my sister dear,
Who was grossly insulted and put in bodily fear;
And when I came to hear of this it made my heart to ache;
I took to the hills to have revenge, all for my sister's sake.

Oh I am young and in my prime, I'm twenty-four years old.
I spent some time in vanity among young girls so bold;
But now I am a-robbing, and loudly my guns do roar.
'Twas there I shot poor Kennedy, which grieved my heart full sore.

In Mansfield that fair township where I was bred and born,
Oft times have I roamed those hills from dark till early morn,
But now I am a-robbing upon the Queen's Highway;
We fight the traps and rob the banks, and never run away.

Now the troopers they are all sent out to search the country round,
To bring in this notorious gang, but the Kellys can't be found.
The Kellys are in the ridges, the police in ranks abound;
The price upon my head, my boys, is now one thousand pound.

I never would surrender to any coat of blue,
Or any man that wears a crown belonging to the crew.
They're game, there is no doubt of it, when they are on the beat,
But it took ten traps to take Ben Hall when he was fast asleep.

I'd rather die like Donahue, that bushranger so brave,
Than be taken by the Government to be treated like a slave.
I'd rather fight with all my might as long as I'd eyes to see;
I'd rather die ten thousand deaths than die on the gallows tree.

Now all young men take my advice, that's bent on a roving life;
Pray do not roam but stay at home, settle down and take a wife.
For if you go a-robbing upon the Queen's Highway
You'll have to fight with all your might, or else lay down and die.

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Stringybark Creek

The musical score for 'Stringybark Creek' is written in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with an Am chord and contains the melody. The second staff continues the melody with Am and G chords. The third staff continues with C, F, and C chords. The fourth staff concludes the piece with Am, G, F, G, Em, and Am chords. The melody is a simple, rhythmic tune with a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

A sergeant and three constables rode out from Mansfield Town
Near the end of last October for to hunt the Kellys down;
They headed for the Wombat Hills and thought it quite a lark
To be camped along the borders of a creek called Stringybark.

When Scanlon and the sergeant rode away to search the scrub
Leaving MacIntyre and Lonigan in camp to cook the grub,
Ned Kelly and his comrades came to take a nearer look,
For being short of flour they wished to interview the cook.

Both troopers in the camp alone they were well pleased to be
Watching as the billy boiled to make their pints of tea;
They joked and chatted gaily, never thinking of alarm
Till they heard the dreaded cry behind, 'Bail up, throw down your arms!'

The traps they started wildly and Mac then firmly stood
While Lonigan made tracks to gain the cover of the wood,
Ned Kelly muttered sadly as he loaded up his gun,
'Oh, what a flamin' pity that the bastard tried to run.'

'Twas later in the afternoon the sergeant and his mate
Came riding blithely through the bush to meet a cruel fate.
'The Kellys have the drop on you!' cried MacIntyre aloud,
But the troopers took it as a joke and sat their horses proud.

Then trooper Scanlon made a move his rifle to unsling,
But to his heart a bullet sped and death was in its sting;
Then Kennedy leapt from his mount and ran for cover near,
And fought, a game man to the last, for all that life held dear.

The sergeant's horse raced round the camp alike from friend and foe,
And MacIntyre, his life at stake, sprang to the saddle-bow
And galloped far into the night, a haunted, harassed soul,
Then like a hunted bandicoot hid in a wombat hole.

At dawn of day he hastened forth and made for Mansfield town
To break the news that made men vow to shoot the Kellys down.
So from that hour the Kelly gang was hunted far and wide,
Like outlaw dingoes in the wild until the day they died.

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The Ballad of the Kelly Gang

The image shows the musical notation for the first part of the ballad. It consists of four staves of music in a 4/4 time signature, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a treble clef. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, A7, G, D, A7, D on the first staff; D, A7, G, D, A7, D on the second staff; D, A7 on the third staff; and D, A7, G, D, A7, D on the fourth staff. The music is a simple, rhythmic melody consisting of eighth and quarter notes.

Part 1

1. Sure, Paddy dear, and did you hear the news that's going round?
On the head of bold Ned Kelly they have placed five thousand pound;
For Dan, Steve Hart and Joey Byrne a thousand each they'll give,
But if the sum was double, sure, the Kelly boys would live.
2. It's sad to think such plucky hearts in crime should be employed,
But by the police persecution they've all been much annoyed.
Revenge is sweet, and in the bush they can defy the law:
Such sticking-up and plundering, colonials never saw!
3. 'Twas in November '78 the Kelly Gang came down,
Just after shooting Kennedy near famous Mansfield Town.
Blood horses rode they all upon, revolvers in their hands;
They took Euroa by surprise, and gold was their demand.
4. Into the bank Ned Kelly walked, and 'Bail up!' he did say,
'Unlock the safe, hand out your cash, be quick and don't delay!'
Without a murmur they obeyed the robber's bold command,
Ten thousand pounds in gold and notes they gave into his hand.
5. 'Now hand out all the arms you have,' the audacious scoundrel said;
'And all your ammunition, or – a bullet thro' your head.
Your wives and children too must come, just make them look alive!
Jump into these conveyances, we'll take you for a drive.'
6. They drove them to a station about five miles away,
Where twenty men already had been bailed up all the day;
A hawker also shared their fate as everybody knows.
He came in handy to the gang, supplying them with clothes.
7. They next destroyed the telegraph by cutting down the wire,
And of their cast-off clothing they made a small bonfire.
Throughout the whole affair, boys, they never fired a shot:
The way they worked was splendid and will never be forgot.

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Part II

8. O Paddy dear, do shed a tear, I can't but sympathize!
These Kellys are a terror, and they've made another rise:
This time across the billabong, on Morgan's ancient beat,
They've robbed the bank of thousands and in safety did retreat.

9. They rode into Jerilderie town at twelve o'clock at night,
And rose the troopers from their beds all in a dreadful fright.
They took them in their nightshirts, ashamed am I to tell;
They covered them with revolvers, and locked them in a cell.

10. Next morning being Sunday, of course they must be good;
They dressed themselves in troopers' clothes and Neddy chopped some wood.
Nobody there suspected them; for troopers all they pass;
And Dan, the most religious, took the Sergeant's wife to Mass.

11. They spent the day most pleasantly, had plenty of good cheer,
Beef steaks and onions, tomato sauce and beer.
The lady in attendance indulged in pleasant talk,
And just to ease the troopers' wives they took them for a walk.

12. On Monday morning early, still masters of the ground,
They took their horses to the forge and got them shod all round.
Then back they brought and mounted them, they planned the raid so well,
And in company with the troopers they stuck up the Royal Hotel.

13. They shouted freely for all hands and paid for all they drank;
Then two of them remained in charge and two went to the bank.
They bailed up all the bankers' clerks and robbed them of their gold,
And caught the manager in his bath, all blue with funk and cold.

14. They destroyed communication by telegraph at last.
Of robberies and plunderings they had a perfect fast.
Where they have gone's a mystery, the police they cannot tell,
So until we hear from them again I'll bid you all farewell.

Songs of the Kelly Gang

Ned Kelly's Farewell to Greta

Musical notation for the song 'Ned Kelly's Farewell to Greta'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is on the top staff, and the bass line is on the bottom staff. Chord symbols are placed above and below the staves to indicate the harmonic structure.

|G |G D |EmG |D7 |

|D7 |Em |D7 |G ||

Ned:

Farewell my home in Greta, my sister Kate farewell;
It grieves my heart to leave you, but here I cannot dwell.

The brand of Cain is on my brow, the bloodhounds on my trail,
And for the sake of golden gain my freedom they assail.

But should they cross my chequered path, by all I hold on earth,
I'll give them cause to rue the day their mothers gave them birth.

I'll shoot them down like kangaroos that roam the forests wide,
And leave their bodies bleaching upon some woodland side.

Kate:

Oh Edward, dearest brother you know you must not go
And risk to be encountered by such a mighty foe!

It's duly North lies Morgan's Tower, and pointing to the sky
South-east and East the mighty range of Gippsland mountains lie.

You know the country well, dear Ned, go take your comrades there,
And profit by your knowledge of the wombat and the bear.

And let no petty quarrels part the union of our gang,
But stick to one another, Ned, and guard our brother Dan.