

PARTS: **Soprano** **Alto** **Tenor** **Bass** All **Harmony** **Solo**

KEY: **bold** = first beat of bar ^ = rest Underline = triplet backing vocal = [text]

211 - The Wellermen

Words and music Traditional

Wellerman Tune <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jnvsuc6s1aM>

Wellerman Harmony 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTVhIFmVF9c>

Wellerman Harmony 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oDvg1lcVJQ>

Verse 1

(SOLO) There **once** was a ship that **put** to sea
The **name** of that ship was the **Billy o' Tea**
The **winds** blew hard, her **bow** dipped down
Blow, me bully boys, **blow** (huh)

Chorus (B+T) **Soon** may the **Wellerman** come
To **bring** us sugar and **tea** and rum
One day, when the **tonguin'** is done
We'll **take** our leave and **go**

Verse 2

(B+T) She **had** not been two **weeks** from shore
When **down** on her, a **right** whale bore
The **captain** called all **hands** and swore
He'd **take** that whale in **tow** (huh)

(ADD ALTO harmony)

Soon may the **Wellerman** come
To **bring** us sugar and **tea** and rum
One day, when the **tonguin'** is done
We'll **take** our leave and **go**

Verse 3

(ALL) **Before** the boat had **hit** the water
The **whale's** tail came **up** and caught her
All **hands** to the side, har**pooned** and fought her
When she dived down **low** (huh)

(ADD ALTO harmony)

Soon may the **Wellerman** come
To **bring** us sugar and **tea** and rum
One day, when the **tonguin'** is done
We'll **take** our leave and **go**

Verse 4

(S+A) **No line** was cut, no **whale** was freed
The **captain's** mind was **not** on greed
But **he** belonged to the **Wellerman's** creed
She **took** that ship in **tow** (huh)

(ADD ALTO and SOPRANO harmony)

(ALL) **Soon** may the **Wellerman** come
To **bring** us sugar and **tea** and rum
One day, when the **tonguin'** is done
We'll **take** our leave and **go**

Verse 5

(ALL) For **forty** days or **even** more
The **line** went slack then **tight** once more
All **boats** were lost, there were **only** four
And **still** that whale did **go**

(ADD ALTO and SOPRANO harmony)

(ALL) **Soon** may the **Wellerman** come
To **bring** us sugar and **tea** and rum
One day, when the **tonguin'** is done
We'll **take** our leave and **go**

Verse 6

(B+T) **Far** as I've heard, the **fight's** still on
The **line's** not cut, the **whale's** not gone
The **Wellerman** makes his **regular** call
To **encourage** the captain, **crew** and all

Chorus (B+T) **Soon** may the **Wellerman** come
To **bring** us sugar and **tea** and rum
One day, when the **tonguin'** is done
We'll **take** our leave and **go**

CHORUS REPEAT Full harmony. **Last line repeat x2**