

The Valiant Soldier

Valiantly ♩ = 112

As sung by Pete Seeger

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, 6/8 time, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'Valiantly' with a quarter note equal to 112. The score consists of four lines of music. Above the first line, the chords E, F#m, B, and * are indicated. Above the second line, E and B are indicated. Above the third line, E and B are indicated. Above the fourth line, F#m and B are indicated. The lyrics are: 'Tis of a valiant soldier, who lately came from war. He court-ed a bar-on's daughter of honor do compare. He court-ed her for love, and her love he did obtain, And I think that they'd no reason at all to complain.

2. As they had been to church and returning home again,
She met her old father and seven armed men.
Then up stepped the old man and unto her did say,
"Is this your good behavior? Is this your wedding day?"

**3. "And since you've been so foolish as to become a soldier's wife,
Down in this lonesome valley I'll end your pleasant life.

4. Then up stepped the soldier, saying "I do not like your prattle.
Although I am the bridegroom, I am prepared for battle."
He drew his sword and pistol and caus'ed them to rattle,
And the lady held the horse while the soldier fought the battle.

5. Well the first one he came to, he ran him through amain,
The second one he came to, he serv'ed him the same.
"Hold on!", said the old man, "You make my blood run cold!
It's you shall have my daughter and five hundred pounds in gold!"

**6. Then up steps the lady, saying, "The portion is too small.
Fight on and win the battle and you shall have it all!"

7. Then up steps the old man and acknowledged him his heir;
'Twas not because he loved him, 'twas out of dread and fear.
There never was a soldier that was fit to carry a gun,
Who would never flinch or give an inch 'til the battle he had won.

Seeger is very flexible with his rhythms, adjusting them verse to verse to fit the words and for expressiveness.

*Seeger inserts an extra measure here in the first verse, lengthening the note on the word "He".
In the other verses, he performs it as written.

**The 3rd and 5th verses are sung on the 3rd and 4th phrases of the tune.