

Not Far from Ballston

As sung by Lawrence Older
Tune: Variant of Sweet Betsy from Pike

Moderately, in 1 \downarrow = 60

C G⁷ C

1. Not far from Ball - ston and on a small knoll Was the
2. His hips, they stuck up and his bones, they were bare; It
3. One day when Ben had him out on the pike, Ben
4. Of old Ned Twee - zer there's no - thing to fear; He

G⁷

fine res - i - dence of a man named Joe Cole. And at
took him all sum-mer to shed win - ter's hair. He
o - pened him up just to see what 'twas like. He got
spends all his mon - ey on whis - key and beer. And at

C F C

sell - ing old hors - es he's not a bit slack For he
loaned him to Jake Carr, which turned out a sin, For he
go - in' so fast his speed could not check; He flew
go - ing to Ball - ston, he's not a bit slack, For he's

G⁷ C

sold a ben old - er than an old hat rack.
plowed him and plowed him 'til he plowed off his skin.
off in the ditch and the poor steed broke his neck.
sure to get a jag on be - fore he gets back.

F

REF: Sing whack flar - a - led, de whack flar - a - lay.

C G⁷ C

If you don't like my shan - ty, pass out the back way.

Notes on rhythm and pitch changes in the verses:

Vs. 2: 'summer' is sung with eighth and dotted quarter notes, on the beat, on C

Vs. 3: Older begins the third verse on a C; 'day' is sung on a half note C; 'up' is sung on a half note C

Vs. 4: 'Ned' is sung on an E; the first syllable of 'money' is sung as an eighth note C

In general, one must go with the natural flow of the words for each verse, as the rhythm changes with the text.