

Jamaica Farewell

A mento about the beauties of the West Indian Islands, released in 1957. The lyrics for the song were written by Lord Burgess (Irving Burgie). The song first appeared on Harry Belafonte's phenomenally successful album Calypso. Though many, including Belafonte himself, have said that the song was popular in the West Indies since long before Burgess, it is believed that Burgess compiled and modified the song from many folk pieces to make a new song, and it is clear that it was Belafonte who popularised the song outside the Caribbean Islands. Burgess acknowledged his use of the tune of another mento, "Iron Bar".

C F
Down the way where the nights are gay
G7 C
And the sun shines gaily on the mountain top
F
I took a trip on a sailing ship
G7 C
But when I reached Jamaica I made a stop

Strum:

D D U U D U
1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Chorus:

F
But I'm sad to say I'm on my way
G7 C
Won't be back for many a day
F
My heart is down my head is spinning around
G7 C
I had to leave a little girl in Kingston town

→ 3K

F
Sounds of laughter everywhere
G7 C
And the dancing girls swaying to and fro
F
I must declare my heart is there
G7 C
Though I've been from Maine to Mexico

Chorus

F
Down at the market you can hear
G7 C
Ladies cry out while on their heads they bear
F
Ackee rice, salt fish are nice
G7 C
And the rum is good anytime of year

Chorus

