

# My Own Dear Galway Bay

Francis A. Fahy

Air

1.0

A C#m D A C#m D A E<sup>7</sup>

1. It's far a-way I am to - day from scenes I roamed a boy And long a - go the

A D E<sup>7</sup> Bm A D

11

hour, I know I first saw Il - li - nois Not time nor tide nor water wide could wean my

D E<sup>7</sup> A E D A D A

22

heart a - way But straight and true 'twill fly to you my own dear Galway Bay

*Playing Notes: none.*

## **My Own Dear Galway Bay**

*(Francis A. Fahy)*

1. It's far away I am today from scenes I roamed a boy.  
And long ago the hour, I know I first saw Illinois.  
Not time nor tide nor water wide could wean my heart away;  
But straight and true 'twill fly to you my own dear Galway Bay.
  
2. My chosen bride is by my side - her brown hair silver-grey.  
Our daughter Rose, as like her, grows as April, dawn to day.  
Our eldest son, our chosen one - his father's pride and stay.  
With gifts like these, I'd live at ease beside you Galway Bay.
  
3. By shore and creek, both grey and bleak, the rugged rocks abound.  
But sweeter green the grass between, than grows on Irish ground.  
So friendship fond; all else beyond, and love to live always.  
Bless each dear home beside your foam, my own dear Galway Bay.
  
4. Had I youth's blood, and hopeful mood, and heart of fire once more;  
For all the gold the earth could hold, I'd never leave your shore.  
I'd live content whate'er God sent, midst neighbors old and grey.  
And leave my bones 'neath churchyard stones, beside you Galway Bay.
  
5. The blessings of a poor old man be with you night and day.  
The blessings of a poor old man whose heart will soon be clay.  
'Tis all the heaven I ask of God, upon my dying day;  
My soul to soar forever more above you, Galway Bay.

*This song was composed in London by Frank A. Fahy (1845-1935), a native of Kinvara (Co. Galway) on the shores of Galway Bay. It was originally written to the air of 'Skibbereen' but is now better known sung to a different air commonly attributed to Tony Small. (It sounds a bit like 'Tribute to Newfoundland', but, I think, much nicer). One of the most renowned recordings of the later version was by the Irish singer Dolores Keane. It is a beautiful air, and I think we should work this one up too. -wdm-*