

# Boatman's Dance

sheet music key: F

sung by the Virginia Minstrels • 1845



The boat - man dance and the boat - man sing, the boat - man up to ev - 'ry - thing, And  
I went on board the oth - er day to hear what the boat - man had to say,  
I've come this time, I'll come no more, let me loose, I'll go on shore.



when the boat - men come on shore, they spend their money and they work for more.  
There I left my pas - sion loose, they clapped me in the cal - a - boose.  
Say the old boy, "We're a bul - ly crew with a Hoo - sier mate and cap - tain, too.



Dance, the boat - man dance, oh, dance, the boat - man dance. We



dance all night till broad day - light, go home with the gals in the morn - in'.



Hi, ho, the boat - man row, float - in' down the riv - er of the O - hi - o.



Hi, ho, the boat - man row, float - in' down the riv - er of the O - hi - o.

When you go to the boatmen's ball,  
Dance with my wife or don't dance at all.  
Sky blue jacket, tarpaulin hat,  
Look out, boys, for the nine-tail cat.

When the boatman blows his horn,  
Look out, old man, your hog is gone.  
He stole my sheep, he stole my shoat,  
Then put 'em in the bag and tote 'em to the boat.

Over the mountain, slick as an eel,  
The boatman slide down on his heel.  
The wind did blow, the waves did toss,  
I believe to my soul, the boatman's lost.