

# Nelly, the Milkmaid

Roud no: 1606

**Words & tune** Traditional, **arranged by** Carolyn Robson

1 Nelly was a milkmaid bonny, brisk and gay,  
Always took delight with young Roger for to play.  
One day she decided some pleasure for to take  
And asked her missus leave for to go to the wake.

## *Chorus*

*Nelly to-ra-loo, Nelly to-ra-loo,  
Oh sweet lovely Nelly, to the wake she did go.*

2 Oh Nelly,' said her missus, 'I'd have you to take care  
And of that young Roger I'd have you beware.  
So Nelly, you may go but this promise you must make,  
Don't frolic with young Roger coming home from the wake.'

3 So dressed in her best, young Nelly did repair  
And as the expected young Roger he was there.  
And they danced and they sang, they had beer, ale and cake,  
And Nelly were the prettiest that they had at the wake.

4 The day being over, they homeward went their way,  
Until they had come to the new cocks of hay.  
And Roger kissed young Nell and her promise she did break,  
She frolicked with young Roger coming home from the wake.

5 When seven months were over and nine being come,  
Young Nelly was the mother of a fine lovely son.  
'I will call it,' she said, 'I will call it for his sake,  
I'll call it young Roger coming home from the wake.'