

1936

Goodnight Irene

For years this was the theme song of Huddie Ledbetter, better known as Leadbelly, King of the Twelve-String Guitar. The Weavers sang with him many times and learned many songs from him, such as this ballad of the girl who married a rounder and a bounder.

Words and music by Huddie Ledbetter and John Lomax

Chorus *Vigorously sentimental*

Musical notation for the first system of the chorus. The vocal line is in treble clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment is in bass clef, 3/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. The tempo/style is *Vigorously sentimental*. The first system includes the vocal line with lyrics "I - rene, good night; _____ I -" and the piano accompaniment. Chords G and D7 are indicated above the vocal line.

Musical notation for the second system of the chorus. The vocal line continues with lyrics "rene, good night; _____ Good night, I - rene, good". The piano accompaniment continues. Chords G and G7 are indicated above the vocal line.

Musical notation for the third system of the chorus. The vocal line concludes with lyrics "night, I - rene, I'll see you in my dreams. _____". The piano accompaniment concludes. Chords C, D7, and G are indicated above the vocal line. The system ends with a double bar line and the word *FINE*.

Verse

G D7

1. Last Sat - ur - day night I got mar - ried, _____ Me and my
 2. Some - times I live in the coun - try, _____ Some - times I

G G7

wife set - tled down, _____ Now me and my wife _____ are
 live in town, _____ Some - times I take a great

C D7 G D. C. al FINE

part - ed, _____ I'm gon - na take an - oth - er stroll down - town. _____
 no - tion _____ To jump in - to the riv - er and drown. _____

D. C. al FINE

3. She caused me to weep, she caused me to mourn,
 Caused me to leave my home,
 But the very last words I heard her say
 Was, "Please sing me one more song." (Chorus)
4. Stop ramblin', stop your gamblin',
 Stop stayin' out late at night;
 Go home to your wife and your family;
 Stay there by your fireside bright. (Chorus)