

Jamaica Farewell

(written by Irving Burgie)

Verse 1: Down the way where the nights are gay
 And the sun shines daily on the mountain top
 I took a trip on a sailing ship
 And when I reached Jamaica I made a stop

Chorus: *But I'm sad to say I'm on my way*
 Won't be back for many a day
 My heart is down, my head is turning around
 I had to leave a little girl in Kingston town

Verse 2: Sounds of laughter everywhere
 And the dancing girls sway to and fro
 I must declare my heart is there
 Though I've been from Maine down to Mexico

In keeping with the folk tradition, this song is believed to be a compilation of existing lyrics and melodies which were popular at the time, brought together into a new composition by Irving Burgie. This song is about life and romance in the Caribbean, and the sorrow of leaving. Like many mento songs, it is important to many Caribbean people living far away from the islands, such as the Windrush generation in the UK.

VERSE

Down the way where the nights are gay, And the sun shines dai-ly on the moun-tain top

5

I took a trip on a sai-ling ship, And when I reached Ja-mai - ca I made a stop, But I'm

9 CHORUS

Sad to say I'm on my way Won't be back for ma-ny a day My

13

heart is down, my head is turn-ing a-round, I had to leave a lit-tle girl in King-ston town

JAMAICA FAREWELL

Key: C
Time: 4/4

intro

C	C	C	C

verse

C	F	G	C
GGG GG	AB C, BA	G G FFGF	EF G
Down the way where the nights are gay, And the sun shines daily on the mountain top			

C	F	G	C
GGG GG	AB C, CBA	G GF G F	EDC, EG
I took a trip on a sailing ship, And when I reached Jamaica I made a stop, But I'm			

chorus

C	F	G	C
(EG) C CE E	DD F	BBD D	CCCE
(But I'm) Sad to say I'm on my way Won't be back for many a day			

C	F	G	C
GCC E, EEE	DDDF, FFF	EEEE D E	DC C
My heart is down, my head is turning around, I had to leave a little girl in Kingston town			

C Chord: C | E | G
F Chord: F | A | C
G Chord: G | B | D