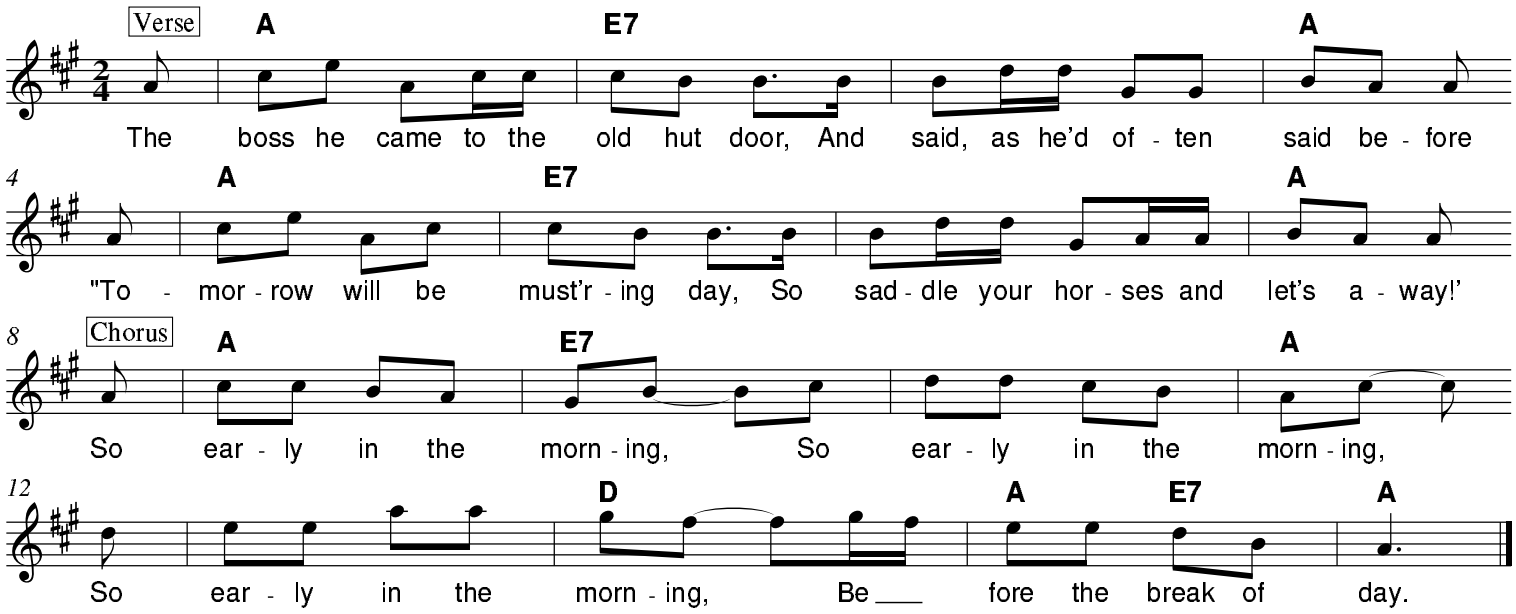
Mustering Day

Collected by Miranda Manifold from Mrs J Allingham from Ingham Qld and based on the popular song 'Early in the Morning'



The morning star was in the sky
When up we jumped and rubbed an eye
We got our horses in command
And jumped upon them, whip in hand.

Across the plain we jog along
Over gully, swamp and billabong;
On every side from far and near
The crack of the stockwhip loud and clear.

We found a mob not far away
And started them off without delay;
A baldy cow ran over the track,
And the boss he went to fetch her back.

But the horse he rode was rather free
And ran him into a blue gum tree;
Threw the old man on his head,
Broke his neck and killed him dead.

That night I took the old draught horse
To carry home the old man's corpse.
But then, in the pale moonlight,
I got the most tremendous fright!
(no chorus)
For, there I saw the old man's ghost
Sitting on top of the stockyard post,
Smoking still the same old clay
He always smoked on mustering day!

Wherever I go, wherever I stray,
I'll never forget that mustering day;
I'll never forget the old man's ghost
Sitting on top of the stockyard post.