

# I'LL TAKE YOU HOME AGAIN KATHLEEN

Thomas P. Westendorf; 1876

When is an Irish tune not an Irish tune? When it is written by a public school music teacher from Plainfield, Indiana, and contains no direct reference whatsoever to the “*Emerald Isle*”. In 1875 George W. Persley, a successful songwriter, wrote a song entitled “*Barney, Take Me Home Again*” and dedicated it to his friend Thomas P. Westendorf. The words, sung by Barney's wife, tell of her longing to return to her home beyond the sea.



“*I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen*” is Westendorf's imaginary response to that.

Westendorf was a beginner as a songwriter, while Persley was an old pro, but it was “*Kathleen*”, which became the successful song. It inspired several answer songs during the period. This song launched Westendorf's career, though none of his further efforts ever quite reached the same popularity or longevity. “*Kathleen*” has survived through the years into pop culture, and has been recorded by such disparate performers as the Sons of the

Pioneers, Johnny Cash, Marty Robbins, Slim Whitman, Elvis Presley, and one of my favorites, Lieutenant Pigeon.

There are a few essential chromatic notes required to play the melody, and the easiest way to find those out of D-A-d tuning is to capo at the 3rd fret (key of G), and make use of both the 6 and 6+ frets.

~Tull