Emily Roberts

Scarborough Fair

Scarborough Fair is an English folk song centered around the town of Scarborough, Yorkshire. It centers around a man who tells of a former love in the town and asks the listener to request that she perform several impossible tasks to prove his love. Some renditions feature a woman singing in duet, asking equally undoable tasks in return.

One of the most popular versions of this folk song was performed by Simon & Garfunkel, and as a result many artists across multiple genres have included it in they repertoire. Like many folk songs, the exact lyrics, melody and harmony differ across renditions. However, it is most commonly performed in Dorian mode. Common harmonic changes have been notated on the sheet, but for the sake of rote song teaching have been simplified into just two chords, as demonstrated by the second line of the recorder part.

The most common lyrics to the first two stanzas are as follows:

Are you going to Scarborough Fair?

Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;

Remember me to one who lives there,

For she was once a true love of mine.

Tell her to make me a [cambric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambric) shirt,

Parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme;

Without any seam or needlework,

Then she shall be a true love of mine.

