

Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair

Stephen Collins Foster (1826-1864)

NOTE: alternate melody notes are provided to avoid lever changes.

C C/G F/G C Am F

I dream of Jean - ie with the light brown— hair, Borne, like a va - por,
I long for Jean - ie with the day - dawn— smile, Rad - iant with glad - ness,

C D7 G7 C C/G F/G C

on the sum - mer air; I see her trip - ping where the bright streams— play,
warm with win - ning guile; I hear her mel - o - dies like joys gone— by,

G Am G/D D7 G G7

Hap - py as the dai - sies that dance on her way. Ma - ny were the wild notes her
Sigh - ing round my heart— o'er the fond hopes that die; Sigh - ing like the night wind and

C F C E7 Am D7 G7

mer - ry voice would pour, Ma - ny were the blithe birds that war - bled them o'er; I
sob - bing like the rain, Wail - ing for the lost one that comes not a - gain. I

C C/G F/G C Am Am/G F C/G G7 C

dream of Jean - ie with the light brown— hair, Float - ing, like a va - por, on the soft, sum - mer air.
long for Jean - ie and my heart bows— low, Nev - er more to find her where the bright wa - ters flow.

Foster wrote this lovely parlor song for his wife Jane McDowell. It was published in New York in 1854 while Foster was living in Pennsylvania writing music under contract to Christy's Minstrels, an influential and immensely popular blackface troupe. "Jeanie" achieved its greatest American fame as a public domain song broadcast heavily during the ten-month-long ASCAP boycott of 1941. (In an article about the boycott Time magazine remarked, "So often had [this song] been played that she was widely reported to have turned grey".) The song was legitimised in concert halls as a signature encore piece for classical violinist Jascha Heifetz, and has been referenced many times in other popular songs as well as television programs including Bugs Bunny, The Flintstones, The Dick Van Dyke Show, the 139-episode American sitcom I Dream of Jeannie (1965-1970), and a 52-episode Japanese anime series (1992-1993).