Wellerman (Traditional "Sea Song" Ballad) (Am)
Wellerman by The Longest Johns (2018) – Wellerman by Nathan Evans (2022)

4/4 Time

Intro

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       F              C              E7           Am
       One day, when the tonguin' is done, we'll take our leave and go.
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       Am                           Dm             Am
There once was a ship that put to sea, and the name of the ship was the *Billy of Tea.*
       Am           C              E7             Am
The winds blew hard, her bow dipped down.  Oh blow, my bully boys, blow  (*Hup!*)
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Chorus

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       F              C              Dm           Am
       Soon may the Wellerman come to bring us sugar and tea and rum.
       F              C              E7           Am
       One day, when the tonguin' is done, we'll take our leave and go.
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       Am                           Dm           Am
She had not been two weeks from shore when down on her a right whale bore.
       Am           C              E7             Am
The captain called "all hands" and swore he'd take that whale in tow  (*Hup!*)  **Chorus**
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Am                            Dm           Am
Before the boat had hit the water, the whale's tail came up and caught her.
       Am           C              E7             Am
All hands to the side, har-pooned and fought her when she dived down below (*Hup!*)  **Chorus**
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       Am                           Dm           Am
No line was cut, no whale was freed; the Captain's mind was not of greed
       Am           C              E7             Am
But he belonged to the whaleman's creed; she took the ship in tow  (*Hup!*)  **Chorus**
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       Am                           Dm           Am
For forty days, or even more, the line went slack, then tight once more.
       Am           C              E7             Am
All boats were lost (there were only four) but still that whale did go   (Hup!)  **Chorus**
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       Am                           Dm           Am
As far as I've heard, the fight's still on; the line's not cut and the whale's not gone.
       Am           C              E7             Am
The Wellerman makes his regular call to encourage the Captain, crew, and all.  **Chorus** (2x)
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Outro (*Ritard.*)

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E7           G           Am
Take- our - leave - and – Goooooooo-oh!
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For a "cups" rhythm see Wellerman Cups Practice Video.