

# The Witches Reel

*Traditional*

*This song dates all the way back to 1591 and is the first written record of a reel in Scotland. It was written during a time in Scotland's history when people were very superstitious and women were often accused of being a witch. The words of the song describe a dance or a spell.*

Em Bm Em Bm D Em  
Cum-mer go ye a-fore, cum-mer go ye If ye will-na go a-fore, cum-mer let me -

5 C D  
Ring a ring a wid - der - shins Lin - kin, lithe - ly wid - der - shins -

7 C D Bm Em  
Cum - mer, car - lin, crone and queen - Roon' go we

## Lyrics

Cummer go ye afore, cummer go ye  
If ye willna go afore, cummer let me  
Ring a ring a widdershins  
Linkin, lithely widdershins  
Cummer, carlin, crone and queen  
Roon' go we

Cummer go ye afore, cummer go ye  
If ye willna go afore, cummer let me  
Ring a ring a widdershins  
Loupin' lightly widdershins  
Kilted coats and fleein' hair  
Three times three

Cummer go ye afore, cummer go ye  
If ye willna go afore, cummer let me  
Ring a ring a widdershins  
Whirlin', skirlin', widdershins  
De'il tak the hindmost, Wha e'er she be!

## Words

cummer - woman/girl/witch  
afore - before/ahead  
widdershins - wrong way round/anti-clockwise (implies bad luck or disaster)  
linkin' - move fast/skip  
lithely - athletic/graceful  
carlin & crone - old woman  
loupin' - jump/spring  
whirlin' - moving in a circle, with speed  
skirlin' - screech/scream  
hindmost - last/at the back

[Listen to Track 24](#)