Song for the New Year

Words and Music © 1983 by Ian Robb
Musical transcription and rendering by Patty Rogers

One evening so silent as I was a-walking I spied an old woman sat down by a tree; And as I drew nigh her I could hear her soft talking These wishes she made for the child on her knee. For the child on her knee, for the child on her knee; These wishes she made for the child on her knee.
One evening so silent as I was a-walking
I spied an old woman sat down by a tree;
And as I drew nigh her I could hear her soft talking
These wishes she made for the child on her knee.

**REFRAIN:** For the child on her knee, for the child on her knee;
These wishes she made for the child on her knee.

First I’ll wish that in peace you may always be living,
Oh never to kill at a sergeant’s command;
For King and for country’s no reason for giving
Your life and your blood in some far away land.

**REFRAIN:** Some far away land etc..

May you be your own master; let no man control you,
Whether tyrant of government, factory or farm.
No matter the wages they’ll pay to console you,
To slavery’s order ne’er lift a strong arm.

**REFRAIN:** Ne’er lift a strong arm etc..

Good health be your fortune, no gift can excel it
But guard it from those who would take it away;
In mills, mines and factories they’ll force you to sell it;
For industry’s profit most dearly you’ll pay.

**REFRAIN:** Most dearly you’ll pay etc..

And the last of my hopes is for friendship and kindred,
For the love of companions is our greatest need;
And though you may live to the age of a hundred,
It’s young you’ll remain, while friendships succeed.

**REFRAIN:** While friendships succeed etc..

(Last verse optional)

So now lads and lasses, come fill up your glasses
And drink a good health to our children so dear;
To peace free from classes, while history it passes;
To friends and to loved ones, a happy new year.

**REFRAIN:** A happy new year etc..