The Shores of the Night

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Dedicated to Cordwainer Smith

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C                        G7     C  G6            C
One night on my homeworld, adrift on a warm little sea,
  C     F  C                 G7               G6   G7  C
I sailed in a small boat, the wind in her sails blowing free.
C                              F     C   F    C          G7
With a pale star above me to guide me past island and shoal,
  C            G7 C  G6              C            F   C
I never intended to sail with a star for my goal.

  C                F    C    G7                G6  G7    C
  Now my bright sails of silver have caught the sun's light,
  C          F   C       G7       G6         C            F   C
  And I sail the wide ocean past the shores of the night.
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I once met a sailor, her eyes they were distant and gay.
She spoke like a girl, though I saw that her hair had turned grey.
She spoke of her home, far away in both distance and time,
And she spoke of the stars that had stolen the years of her prime.

She told me my home-world was an island in flight,
And the blue skies above me, the shores of the night.

Now alone on my ship, in the starlight the long watch I keep,
Endless the sea without harbor, the night without sleep.
My youth with my loves and my sorrows falls light-years behind;
Silver sails in the wind from the stars fill my vision and mind.

And somewhere past the darkness, I long for the sight
Of blue skies above me, the shores of the night.

Loosely inspired by "The Lady Who Sailed *The Soul*" byCordwainer Smith.

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