

## The Singing Organ-Grinder: Sample Three Hour Programme of Historical English Doggerel

Works as background music for museums, galleries, wedding receptions and the like. Listed here in chronological order.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Artists</b>	<b>~Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
Sumer is icumen in	Anon. / Ezra Pound / Peter Firmin / Oliver Postgate	1250	Round progressing from Wessex Middle English (The bullock stirs, the stag farts, / Merrily sing, Cuckoo!) via old miseryguts (Winter is icumen in, / Lhude sing Goddamm) to the Bagpuss mice (We will fix it)
The cherry tree carol	Trad.	1400s	Based on the Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew and probably basically C15th: When Joseph was an old man, / An old man was he, / He married Virgin Mary, / The Queen of Galilee.
A the syghes that cum from my hart	Anon.	1500?	Farewell, my joy, and welcome pain
The hunt is up	William Gray	1520?	And Harry our king is gone hunting
The willow song	Trad.	1590s?	Desdemona sings it and then her beloved Othello murders her
Sweetest love, I do not goe	John Donne / Ralph Steadman / The Singing Organ-Grinder	1600?	It cannot be / That thou lov'st me, as thou say'st, / If in thine my life thou waste, / That art the best of me.
The three ravens	Trad.	1611	A dead knight's hawks, hounds and girlfriend deny them dinner
A roaring boy's description	Samuel Rowlands	1612	London hooligans, from 'A Paire of Spy-Knaves'
Barbara Allen	Joan Baez / Jim Moray	1660s?	
St. George for England	John Grubb	1688	The story of King Arthur old / Is very memorable, / The number of his valiant knights, / And roundness of his table
The dragon of Wantley	Trad.	1700?	To see this fight, all people then / Got up on trees and houses, / On churches some, and chimneys too, / But these put on their trowses.

Who killed Cock Robin?	Trad.	1744	One of the greatest murder songs in English: Who killed Cock Robin? / I, said the Sparrow, / with my bow and arrow, / I killed Cock Robin.
The patriot's hymn	Samuel Bamford	1815	Parody on God Save the King in response to Waterloo
The Famous Battle of Waterloo	Anon.	1815	Ballad lament
Mary had a little lamb	Sarah Josepha Hale /Lowell Mason /Afferbeck Lauder	1830 / 1965	In 19th century English and then in 20th century Strine: So Mary Header little lamb / With vedgies and mint sauce. / 'Oh dearest lamb,' she cried, 'I am / As hungry as a horse.'
The teetotallers	Rev. John Mason Neale	1843	Neale was a CoE conformist activist and scourge of dissenters
Little Billee	William Makepeace Thackeray	1845	Thackeray's (cannibal) parody of middle-class folkies' enthusiasm for sea shanties.
When Birmingham is a seaport town	Andy Casserley /Trad.	1851?	Set to a lively tune.
Land of my fathers	Evan James/ James James /Private Eye	1856	Phonetic transliteration of the Welsh: My hen laid a haddock on top of a tree / Glad farts and centurions throw dogs in the sea.
The owl and the pussy-cat	Edward Lear/ Mátyás Seiber	1871	Can be performed with a projection of the 1952 Halas and Batchelor cartoon short for which Seiber's music was written
The cummerbund: an Indian poem	Edward Lear	1874	
Th' owd knocker-iup	Henry Yates ( 'Tansy Tuft' )	1880s?	Lancashire dialect song by a cotton worker and amateur poet from Blackburn
Epitaph for James Bosworth, who survived the Charge of the Light Brigade and died, aged 70, a stationmaster at Northam	Ben Trovato	1882	His name was actually John Hacker/Hucker Bosworth and his service overseas in the 1850s doesn't seem to include Balaclava, but still a splendid thing: Though shot and shell flew around fast, / On Balaclava's plain, / Unscathed he passed, to fall at last, / Run over by a train.

Daisy bell	Harry Dacre	1892	Love on a tandem: But you'd look sweet / Upon the seat / Of a bicycle built for two.
The teddy bear's picnic	John Bratton	1907	
England and America. I. On a Rhine Steamer	James Kenneth Stephen	1909	In short it's due to thee, / Thou kind of Western star, / That we have come to be / Precisely what we are. / But every now and then, / It cannot be denied, / You breed a kind of men / Who are not dignified
Ballad of Lydia Pinkham		1914?	
Don Pasquito at the seaside (Façade)	Edith Sitwell/ William Walton	1920	
Lavender cowboy	Harold Hersey /Burl Ives	1923	A gayboy & western classic: He died with his six guns a-smoking / But only two hairs on his chest.
Barnacle Bill the sailor	Hoagy Carmichael /Bix Beiderbecke/ Tex Morton /Betty Boop	1925	It's only me from over the sea / I'm all dressed up like a Christmas tree. With interludes featuring Benny Hill alla turca and the Beautiful blue Danube. <a href="#">Virtual excerpt: (info)</a>
The lonesome road	Nathaniel Shilkret /Gene Austin/ Joan Baez	1927	
Cabaret boys	Douglas Byng /Lance Lister	1928	Camp classic from the Pansy Craze, with numerous double entendres
Tarantella	Hilaire Belloc	1929	Belloc met Miranda Mackintosh at an inn in the Pyrenean hamlet of Canranc on the River Aragon in 1909.
It's only a paper moon	Harold Arlen	1930	
Howling wolfman blues	Wolfman	1930	
Isle of Capri / C'est à Capri	Will Grosz	1930	
My brother makes the noises for the talkies	Albert Whelan /Jack Payne	1931	

	/Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band		
Love is the sweetest thing	Al Bowlly /Ray Noble	1932	
To The Tabulating Machine Division (IBM Songbook)	IBM employees	1935	Punch a card for every sale that's made. / There's a record which will never fade. / Sort them out by man and state - / Speedily we tabulate. Etc. etc.
Cool water	Bob Nolan /Hank Williams /Sons of the Pioneers	1936	In a gloss on <a href="#">Psalms 42:1</a> , I and my mule, Dan, are crossing the desert when we see a mirage: Can you see that big green tree / Where the water's running free / And it's waiting there for you and me?
Leaning on a lamp-post	George Formby	1937	
With her head tucked underneath her arm	Rudy Vallee	1937	Comic Anne Boleyn ghost song
London is the place for me	Lord Kitchener	1948	Sung by Lord Kitchener as he came off the Windrush at Tilbury Docks on June 21, 1948
Enjoy yourself (it's later than you think)	Guy Lombardo /Prince Buster /Specials	1949	Because when you kiss a dollar bill, it doesn't kiss you back.
Bananas	Machito	1950	The mambo king takes the piss out of himself. Available in English, Catalan or Dutch.
How much is that doggie in the window	Bob Merrill/ Patti Page	1953	The one with the waggly tail. Lita Roza's version was Maggie Thatcher's favourite song.
I hold your hand in mine, dear	Tom Lehrer	1953	I press it to my lips / I take a healthy bite / From your dainty fingertips.
Tea samba	ET Mensah	1956	Ghanaian tea ad from the 50s.
Sunday Mirror	ET Mensah	1956	Highlife ad for a newspaper, 1950s.
Nellie the elephant	Ralph Butler/ Peter Hart	1956	Nellie the Elephant packed her trunk / And said goodbye to the circus / Off she went with a trumpety-trump / Trump, trump, trump

The abominable snowman	Ogden Nash	1956	I've never seen an abominable snowman, / I'm hoping not to see one, / I'm also hoping, if I do, / That it will be a wee one.
Tulips from Amsterdam	Ralf Arnie /Van Aleda /Max Bygraves	1956	Waltz. <a href="#">Virtual excerpt: (info)</a>
The super supper march	Dr. Seuss /Dean Elliott	1957 / 1971	Hungry, hungry, I am hungry / Table, table, here I come. <a href="#">Virtual excerpt: (info)</a>
Till there was you	Meredith Willson /Beatles /Peggy Lee	1957	Sophie Tucker never sang it.
Inflation calypso	ET Mensah	1958?	Pidgin English highlife from post-independence Ghana, now with extra verse about deflation
Crazy	Patsy Cline	1960	För Sveriges största gitarrist, Tom Coskeran.
Puff, the magic dragon (Puff, el drac màgic)	Leonard Lipton /Peter Yarrow /Peter, Paul and Mary	1960	
Rhythm of the rain	The Cascades /Rob de Nijs	1962	Also on the soundtrack of Quadrophenia.
The slow train	Flanders & Swann	1964	A nostalgic look at the Beeching cuts.
Good morning, how are you, shut up!	Ivor Cutler	1967	Don't give me the small talk, give me the big talk. <a href="#">Virtual excerpt: (info)</a>
I'm going in a field	Ivor Cutler	1967	Green grass, yellow flowers / My lover's eyes are blue.
The bare necessities (The Jungle Book)	Terry Gilkyson	1967	
Lily the pink		1968	See also the Ballad of Lydia Pinkham
King of Rome	Dave Sudbury /June Tabor /The Unthanks	1970s?	A pigeon race from Rome to England in 1913: On the day o' the big race a storm blew in / A thousand birds were swept away and never seen again.
The Floating Bridge	Drs. P (Heinz Polzer)	1970	Translation from the Dutch, in which the proprietor of a tropical floating bridge tells of the good times and the bad: We stand here

			on the shoreline of a river swift and hot / The other shore is over there and this one here is not.
Postman Pat	Bryan Daly /Ken Barrie	1970	In English or Norwegian. <a href="#">Virtual excerpt: (info)</a>
Brave Sir Robin	Monty Python	1975	Packing it in and packing it up / And sneaking away and bugging off / And chickening out and pissing off home / Yes, bravely he is throwing in the sponge. See also John Grubb, St. George for England.
Appellation contrôlée	Fay Lovsky	1990	Chanson pseudo-française: nostalgia for bad French wine.
George is my horse	Fay Lovsky	1992	George says he don't like these cars / These stone trails, where's the grass?
Wonderful	Cate Le Bon	2016	From her fourth album, Crab Day
Sleeping Beauty	George Szirtes	2016	