

Camel-ong Cowboy

from "Three Christmas Camels"

Rilla Paterson
1995

Soprano, Alto, Piano
(Alto II optional)
Duration: 3:30

from "Three Christmas Camels":
Camel-ong Cowboy
Come Along Camel Calypso
Gotta Go, Camel

*These songs are also available as picture books with
audio tracks and printed score snippets on every page
to help junior children learn to sight read.
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Further information: <https://rillapaterson.com>

Camel-ong Cowboy

I'm a poor, lonesome cowboy, and my horse lay down and died,
So I got myself a camel for the lonesome cattle ride.
Now I go drivin' dogies* across the prairie trail,
While singin' to my camel as we travel nose to tail.
And things ain't so different from how they used to be;
The world is still a lonesome place for cattle men like me,
But lately I've been learnin' to drive my blues away,
Just thinkin' 'bout my Jesus Saviour born on Christmas Day!

So I will sing:

*Hallelujah! Yippee, I ride a liddle camel,
Hallelujah, Yippee-i-ay,
Hallelujah! Yippee, I ride a liddle camel,
Hallelujah, Yippee all day! Ah-um, Ah-um...*

This camel's none too purdy**, her shape is kinda queer,
But she ain't exactly tardy when she gets to chase a steer – Yahoo!
She may not be attractive, but she's active and beside –
There ain't much else to talk to an' there's nothin' else to ride.
This critter sure is homely*** and on the smelly side,
But she don't mind the thistles and the cactus in her hide,
She don't get cold or hungry, her throat ain't never dry,
My strong, trusty camel will go with me till I die.

So I will sing:

*Hallelujah! Yippee, I ride a liddle camel,
Hallelujah, Yippee-i-ay,
Hallelujah! Yippee, I ride a liddle camel,
Hallelujah, Yippee all day! Ah-um, Ah-um, Ah-um...*

I'm ridin' on my camel, rememberin' the time
Those Three Wise Men in Bethlehem rode camels just like mine!
If Jesus he was born again, I think I'd do the same,
I'd go seek out the manger and I'd magnify his name,
Oh yes, the story of the glory inside that cattle stall
Is tellin' me I needn't be so lonesome after all –
That liddle Child so far from home that sat on Mary's knee
Is way up in that big blue sky and watchin' over me,

So I will sing:

*Hallelujah! Yippee, I ride a liddle camel,
Hallelujah, Yippee-i-ay,
Hallelujah! Yippee, I ride a liddle camel,
Hallelujah, Yippee all day!*

*Ride along, don't dawdle all the dogies all day,
Ride along, don't dawdle all day, Ride along!
Ride along, don't dawdle all the dogies all day,
Ride along, don't dawdle all day! Yeow!*

*dogies = cattle **purdy = pretty ***homely = ugly

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SOPRANO

ALTO

ALTO II
(Optional)

Piano

1.I'm a poor lone some

1.I'm a poor lone some

1.I'm a poor lone some

6

cow boy, and my horse lay down and died, so I got my-self a cam-el for the

cow boy, and my horse lay down and died, so I got my-self a cam-el for the

cow boy, and my horse lay down and died, so I got my-self a cam-el for the

11

**dogies = cattle*

lone-some cat tle__ ride.__

Now I go driv-in' do- gies* a -

lone-some cat tle__ ride.__

Now I go driv-in' do- gies* a -

lone-some cat tle__ ride.__

Now I go driv-in' do- gies* a -

16

cross the prai-rie trail, while sing in' to__ my cam-el__ as__ we trav-el__ nose to

cross the prai-rie trail, while sing in' to__ my cam-el__ as__ we trav-el__ nose to

cross the prai-rie trail, while sing in' to__ my cam-el__ as__ we trav-el__ nose to

21

tail. And things ain't so dif frent_ from how they used to be; The

tail. And things ain't so dif frent_ from how they used to be; The

tail. And things ain't so dif frent_ from how they used to be; The

26

world is still a lone-some place for cat tle_ men like me, But late-ly I_ been

world is still a lone-some place for cat tle_ men like me, But late-ly I_ been

world is still a lone-some place for cat tle_ men like me, But late-ly I_ been

31

learn in'___ to drive my blues aw ay___ just think-in''bout my Je-sus Sav iour

learn in'___ to drive my blues aw ay___ just think-in''bout my Je-sus Sav iour

learn in'___ to drive my blues aw ay___ just think-in''bout my Je-sus Sav iour

The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, all in a B-flat major key signature.

36

(Yelp)

born on Christ-mas Day.___ So I will sing Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip -pee, I ride a lid-dle

born on Christ-mas Day.___ So I will sing Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip -pee, I ride a lid-dle

born on Christ-mas Day.___ So I will sing Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip -pee, I ride a lid-dle

The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand. The lyrics are repeated for three voices.

40

(Yelp)

cam-el, Hal-le-lu-jah, Yip-pee i- ay! Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le

cam-el, Hal-le-lu-jah, Yip-pee i- ay! Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le

cam-el, Hal-le-lu-jah, Yip-pee i- ay! Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le

The musical score for measures 40-43 features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are in a B-flat major key (two flats) and 4/4 time. Each vocal line has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, and a corresponding lyric line. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a simple bass line. The lyrics are: 'cam-el, Hal-le-lu-jah, Yip-pee i- ay! Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le'.

44

lu - jah, Yip-pee all day! Ah - um, Ah -

lu - jah, Yip-pee all day! Ah - um, Ah -

lu - jah, Yip-pee all day! Ah - um, Ah -

The musical score for measures 44-47 continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal parts have a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, and a corresponding lyric line. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a simple bass line. The lyrics are: 'lu - jah, Yip-pee all day! Ah - um, Ah -'.

um. 2.This cam-el's_ none too pur - dy**, her shape is kind-a

um. 2.This cam-el's_ none too pur - dy**, her shape is kind-a

um. 2.This cam-el's_ none too pur - dy**, her shape is kind-a

queer, But she ain't ex-act-ly tar - dy when she gets to chase a steer!

queer, But she ain't ex-act-ly tar - dy when she gets to chase a steer!_____

queer, But she ain't ex-act-ly tar - dy when she gets to chase a steer!_____

58

(Shout)

Ya-hoo! She may not be at - trac tive, but she's ac-tive and be- side, There

— She may not be at - trac tive, but she's ac-tive and be- side, There

— She may not be at - trac tive, but she's ac-tive and be- side, There

63

ain't much else to talk to and I've noth-in' else to ride. This crit-ter sure is

ain't much else to talk to and I've noth-in' else to ride. this crit-ter sure is

ain't much else to talk to and I've noth-in' else to ride. this crit-ter sure is

68

***homely = ugly

home - ly***, and on the smel-ly side, But she don't mind the

home - ly***, and on the smel-ly side, But she don't mind the

home - ly***, and on the smel-ly side, But she don't mind the

72

this-tles and the cac-tus in her hide; She don't get cold or hung-ry, her

this-tles and the cac-tus in her hide; She don't get cold or hun-gry, her

this-tles and the cac-tus in her hide; She don't get cold or hun-gry, her

77

throat ain't nev er_ dry;_ Mystrong, trust-y cam-el will go with me till I die,

throat ain't ne ver_ dry;_ Mystrong, trust-y cam-el will go with me till I die,

throat ain't ne ver_ dry;_ Mystrong, trust-y cam-el will go with me till I die,

82

(Yelp)

So I will sing Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip-pee I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le-lu - jah,

Sing Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le-lu - jah,

Sing Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le-lu - jah,

(Yelp)

Yip-pee-i - ay, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee all

Yip-pee-i - ay, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee all

Yip-pee-i - ay, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee all

The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, following the harmonic structure of the vocal lines.

day! Ah - um, Ah - um Ah-

day! Ah - um, Ah - um Ah-

day! Ah - um, Ah - um Ah-

The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, supporting the vocal lines.

95

um. Ah Hal - le -

um. 3.I'm rid-in' on my cam-el rem

um. Ah, Hal - le

101

lu - jah! Ah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal-le-

em-ber- in' the time those Three Wise Men in Beth-le hem rode cam-els just like

lu - jah! Ah, Hal - le - lu -

lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah! Ah Hal - le - lu -

mine. If Je-sus he was born a - gain, I think I'd do the same,

- jah! Ah Hal - le - lu -

jah! Ah, Hal - le - lu - jah! Oh yes, the

I'd go seek out the man-ger an' I'd mag-ni-fy his name, Oh yes, the

jah! Ah, Hal - le - lu - jah! Oh yes, the

116

sto-ry of the glo-ry in - side that cat-tle stall is tel lin' me I

sto-ry of the glo-ry in - side that cat-tle stall is tel lin' me I

sto-ry of the glo-ry in - side that cat-tle stall is tel lin' me I

121

need-n't be so... Oh, so lone-some! Ah Hal - le-

need-n't be so lone-some af-ter all; That lit-tle Child so far from home that

need-n't be so... Ah Hal - le-

126

lu - jah! Ah, Hal - le - lu - -

sat on Ma - ry's knee is way up in that big blue sky an' watch-in' ov - er

lu - jah! Ah, Hal - le - lu - -

131

(Yelp)

jah! Sing Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip-pee I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le-lu - jah,

me, So I will sing Hal-le-lu - jah Yip-pee I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le-lu - jah,

jah! Hal-le-lu - jah Yip-pee I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le-lu - jah,

135

(Yelp)

Yip-pee-i - ay, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le lu-jah, Yip-pee all

Yip-pee-i - ay, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee all

Yip-pee-i - ay, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le - lu-jah, Yip-pee all

The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand, primarily on the bass line.

139

day! Ride a-long, don't daw-dle all the dog-ies all day, Ride a-long don't

day! Ride a - long, don't daw-dle all the dog-ies all day, Ride a -

day! Ride a-long, don't daw-dle all the dog-ies all

The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand.

Musical score for measures 142-144. The score is written for three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "daw-dle all day, Ride a - long, Ride a-long, don't daw-dle all the dog-ies all long don't daw-dle all day, Ride a - long, don't daw-dle all the day, Ride a-long, don't daw-dle all day! Ride a-long, don't". The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic structure with chords and single notes.

daw-dle all day, Ride a - long, Ride a-long, don't daw-dle all the dog-ies all
long don't daw-dle all day, Ride a - long, don't daw-dle all the
day, Ride a-long, don't daw-dle all day! Ride a-long, don't

(Shout)

Musical score for measures 145-147. The score is written for three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "day, ride a-long! Ride a - long don't daw-dle all day! Yeow! dog-ies all day, ride a - long, don't daw-dle all day! Yeow! daw-dle all the dog-ies all day! Don't daw-dle all day! Yeow!". The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic structure with chords and single notes. The word "Shout" is written above the vocal lines in measures 145, 146, and 147.

day, ride a-long! Ride a - long don't daw-dle all day! Yeow!
dog-ies all day, ride a - long, don't daw-dle all day! Yeow!
daw-dle all the dog-ies all day! Don't daw-dle all day! Yeow!