

Camel-ong Cowboy

from "Three Christmas Camels"

Rilla Paterson
1995

*Three-part song (TBB)
for young male voices (restricted range)
with Piano accompaniment
Duration: 3:30*

*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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SAA arrangement available on request
<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

Camel-ong Cowboy

from "Three Christmas Camels"

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♩ = 170

Tenor

Baritone

Bass

Piano

♩ = 170

7

8

1.I'm a poor lone some cow boy, and my

horse lay down and died, so I got my self a cam-el for the lone-some cat tle ride.

13

*dogies = cattle

8

Now I go driv-in' do gies* a-cross the prai-rie trail, while sing in' to my cam-el as we

The musical score is written for four parts: Tenor, Baritone, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 170 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first two verses of the song. The second system contains the third verse. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The piano accompaniment is written on grand staves. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines. The lyrics are: '1.I'm a poor lone some cow boy, and my horse lay down and died, so I got my self a cam-el for the lone-some cat tle ride.' and 'Now I go driv-in' do gies* a-cross the prai-rie trail, while sing in' to my cam-el as we'.

20

trav-el_ nose to tail. And things ain't so dif frent_ from how they used to be; Theworld is still a

trav-el_ nose to tail. And things ain't so dif frent_ from how they used to be; Theworld is still a

trav-el_ nose to tail. And things ain't so dif frent_ from how they used to be; Theworld is still a

27

lone-some place for cat tle_ men like me, But late-ly I_ been learn in'_ to drive my blues aw ay

lone-some place for cat tle_ men like me, But late-ly I_ been learn in'_ to drive my blues aw ay

lone-some place for cat tle_ men like me, But late-ly I_ been learn in'_ to drive my blues aw ay

33

— just think-in''bout my Je- sus Sav iour born on Christ-mas Day._ So I will sing Hal-le-lu- jah,

— just think-in''bout my Je- sus Sav iour born on Christ-mas Day._ So I will sing Hal-le-lu- jah,

— just think-in''bout my Je- sus Sav iour born on Christ-mas Day._ So I will sing Hal-le-lu- jah,

39

(Yelp)

Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle 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-

(Yelp)

Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle 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-

(Yelp)

Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle 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 - um. 2. This

lu-jah, Yip-pee all day! Ah - um, Ah - um. 2. This

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

50

***purdy = pretty*

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

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

her shape is kind-a queer, when she gets to chase a

57 (Shout)

steer! Ya-hoo! She may not be at-trac tive, but she's ac-tive and be side, There ain't much else to

steer! She may not be at-trac tive, but she's ac-tive and be side, There ain't much else to

steer! There ain't much else to

(Shout)

64 *** homely = ugly

talk to and I've noth-in' else to ride. This crit-ter sure is home - ly***, and on the smel-ly

talk to and I've noth-in' else to ride. This crit-ter sure is home - ly***, and on the smel-ly

talk to and I've noth-in' else to ride. Yuk!

(Shout)

70

side, (Shout) But she don't mind the this-tles and the cac-tus in her hide; She don't get cold or

side; Poo! She don't mind the cac-tus in her hide,

But she don't mind the cac-tus, the cac-tus in her hide!

76

hung-ry, Mystrong, trust-y cam-el will go with me till I die, So I will
 herthroat ain't ne ver_ dry; Mystrong, trust-y cam-el will go with me till I die,
 Herthroat ain't ne ver_ dry; Mystrong, trust-y cam-el will go with me till I die,

83

(Yelp) sing Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip-pee I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip-pee-i - ay, Hal-le - lu - jah, Yip-pee, I
 (Yelp) Sing Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip-pee, I ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le-lu - jah, Yip-pee-i - ay, Hal-le - lu - jah, Yip-pee, I
 Sing! Sing! Sing!

88

ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le - lu - jah, Yip-pee all day! Ah - um, Ah - um
 ride a lid-dle cam-el, Hal-le - lu - jah, Yip-pee all day! Ah - um, Ah - um
 Sing! Yip-pee all day! Ah - um, Ah - um

94

Ah - um. Ah, Hal - le

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

Ah - um. Ah Hal - le -

101

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

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

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

108

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

Je-sus he was born a- gain, I think I'd do the same, I'd go seek out the man-ger an' I'd mag-ni fy his

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

115

jah! Oh yes, the sto-ry of the glo-ry in - side that cat-tle stall is tel lin' me I

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

jah! Oh yes, the sto-ry of the glo-ry in - side that cat-tle stall is tel lin' me I

121

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

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

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

127

jah! Ah, Hal - le - lu - me, So I will sing Hal-le-lu - jah

knee is way up in that big blue sky an' watch-in' ov - er me, So I will sing Hal-le-lu - jah

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

133 (Yelp)

Yip-pee I ride a lid-dle 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-

Yip-pee I ride a lid-dle 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-

Sing Sing!

138

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

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

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

142

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

145

The musical score consists of four staves. The top three staves are for voices (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) and the bottom staff is for piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "day, ride a - long! Ride a - long don't daw - dle all day! Yeow!" for the Soprano and Alto parts, and "dog - ies all day, ride a - long, don't daw - dle all day! Yeow!" for the Bass part. The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic structure with chords and single notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

(Shout)

day, ride a - long! Ride a - long don't daw - dle all day! Yeow!

(Shout)

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

(Shout)

daw - dle all the dog - ies all day! Don't daw - dle all day! Yeow!