

Gotta Go Camel

from "Three Christmas Camels"

*Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass
with piano accompaniment
or A cappella*

*Also available for
mixed upper voices + piano
Duration: 4:10*

Rilla Paterson 1995
Revised May 2020

*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>*

Gotta Go Camel

from Three Christmas Camels

(Verse 1) I got a call from an angel
About a baby born today
He's lyin' all in a manger,
And there's a star to guide me all of the way.
I'm gonna shake my camel out o' the sand,
I'm gonna take my camel over the land,
I'm gonna make my camel understand
We gotta go!

(Verse 2) I got food for the journey
And water for a week;
I'm in the mood to be early,
'Cos I don't wanna miss his party treat.
We're gonna find that lowly cattle shed,
We're gonna dance all night beside his bed,
So just you take good care of what I said,
We gotta go!

(Chorus) We gotta go, camel,
That's what the angel said;
We do the soft shoe shuffle through the shiftin' sand
'Till we find his manger bed.
So don't be slow, camel,
Follow the distant light!
I'm gonna take that baby all o' my love,
An' I wanna get there tonight!

(Verse 3) Travelling through the night,
Holding my camel tight,
Knowing the wonder of all that I've heard,
Born for me an' you,
Can it be really true?
Keeping the secret is gonna be hard!
I'm gonna meet the people in the story today,
I know what's gonna happen but I shouldn't say:
When the angel claps his wings so bright
The shepherds on the hill get an awful fright - Oooh!

(Verse 4) I bet them Wise Men are gonna surprise 'em
With their incense, myrrh and gold;
We'll gather around and we won't make a sound
As we shelter from the cold.
I wanna front seat with a fabulous view,
An' a place in the circle for my camel, too,
And if that boy should dare to cry,
We'll sing a lullaby.....

(Verse 5) As we go ridin' the dunes
You'll hear me hummin' the tunes
Of all the songs I want to sing,
With hope on my back, a smile in my sack,
And all my joy for the baby King,
I'm gonna keep my camel walkin' tall,
She's gonna lead me to that Holy Stall,
I wanna meet that Saviour of us all,
We gotta go!

(Chorus) We gotta go, camel,
That's what the angel said;
We do the soft shoe shuffle through the shiftin' sand
'Till we find his manger bed.
So don't be slow, camel,
Follow the distant light!
I'm gonna take that baby all o' my love,
An' I wanna get there tonight!

Gotta Go, Camel

from "Three Christmas Camels"

♩ = 120

♩ = $\frac{3}{4}$ (Tenor and Bass vocal parts bars 1-5 optional)

© Rilla Paterson 1995

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *mf*

Bass *mf*

Piano *mf*

Dee-doo-bee-Doo-doo-doo-doo - shoo-bee-doo ah, shoo-bee-doo-bee-doo! Pom-pom-

Dee-doo-bee-doo-doo-doo-doo - shoo-bee-doo ah, shoo-bee-doo-bee-doo! Pom-pom-

5

mf

mf

1. I got a call from an an - gel a-bout a ba - by born to day,

1. I got a call from an an - gel a-bout a ba - by born to day,

pom! Pom, pom, pom, pom, pom, pom,

pom - pom! Pom - pom, pom - pom, pom - pom,

9

He's ly-in' all in a man - ger, and there's a star to guide me

He's ly-in' all in a man - ger, and there's a star to guide me

doo-bee-doo-doo, pom! Pom, pom, pom, pom, pom, pom,

doo - oo! Pom - pom, pom - pom, pom - pom,

13

all of the way, I'm gon-na shake my cam - el out-o' the sand, I'm gon-na take my cam - el

all of the way, I'm gon-na shake my cam - el out-o' the sand, I'm gon-na take my cam - el

pom-pa-dom pom, pom! Shake my cam - el out-o' the sand, take my cam - el

doo - oo! Pom - pom, pom - pom - pom, pom - pom -

17

ov-er the land, I'm gon-na make my cam-el un-der stand_ we got-ta go! 2.I got

ov-er the land, I'm gon-na make my cam-el un-der stand_ we got-ta go! 2.I got

ov-er the land, make my cam-el un-der stand_ we got-ta go! Choo, choo, choo!

mon - pom - pom, make my cam-el un- der-stand, we got-ta go! Choo, choo, choo!

22

food_____ for the jour - ney,_ and wa - ter for a week;_ I'm in the

food_____ for the jour - ney,_ and wa - ter for a week;_ I'm in the

Doo,_ doo, food for the jour - ney! Doo - doo - doo! Pom!

Doo - oo, doo - oo, doo - oo! and wa ter-for me!_ Pom!

26

mood to be ear - ly, 'cos I don't wan-na miss his par - ty treat! We're gon-na find that low-ly

mood to be ear - ly, 'cos I don't wan-na miss his par - ty treat! W're gon-na find that low-ly

Doo, doo, doo, 'cos I don't wan-na miss his par - ty treat! Pom! Pom - pom,

Doo - oo, doo - oo! I don't wan-na miss his par - ty treat! Pom! Pom - pom -

31

cat - tle shed, We're gon-na dance all night be - side his bed, so just you take good care of

cat - tle shed, We're gon-na dance all night be - side his bed, so just you take good care of

cat - tle shed. Pom - pom - pom! Be - side his bed, just take good care of

pom - pom - pom - pom - pom - pom - pom! Just take good care of

35

(Chorus)

what I said: We got-ta go! Choo! Choo! Choo! We got-ta go, cam-el!

(Chorus)

what I said: We got-ta go! Choo! Choo! Choo! We got-ta go, cam-el!

(Chorus)

what I said: We got-ta go! Choo! Choo! Choo! We got-ta go, cam-el!

(Chorus)

what I said: We got-ta go! We got-ta go, cam-el, cam-el!

40

That's what the an - gel said! We do the soft shoe shuf-fle through the shift in' sand till we

That's what the an - gel said! We do the soft shoe shuf-fle through the shift in' sand till we

Pom, pom, pom-pom-pom Ah

Pom, pom, pom-pom-pom! Ah Ah

44

find his man ger_ bed!_ So don't be slow, cam - el! Fol low_ the dis-tant

find his man ger_ bed!_ So don't be slow, cam - el! Fol low_ the dis-tant

— So don't be slow, cam - el! Fol low_ the dis tant

Ah_____ Ho-ho-ho - ho - ho! cam-el, cam-el! Ah!

49

light! I'm gon-na take that ba-by all o' my love, an' I wan-na get there to night!_

light! I'm gon-na take that ba-by all o' my love, an' I wan-na get there to night!_

light! I'm gon na take that ba by all o' my love, an' I wan na get there to night!_

Pom-pom-pom! Ah_____ Ah_____ Ah_____ Pom-pom!

3. Trav - ell-ing through the night, hold-ing my cam-el tight, know-ing the won-der_ of all that I've heard,

3. Ah Ah Ah

3. Ah ah!

3. Ah! Ah!

The musical score for measures 54-57 features a vocal melody in G major with a key signature of one flat. The melody is characterized by eighth-note runs and a final half-note resolution. The lyrics are: "3. Trav - ell-ing through the night, hold-ing my cam-el tight, know-ing the won-der_ of all that I've heard,". Below the vocal line, there are three staves for vocal harmonies. The first staff has lyrics "3. Ah Ah Ah", the second "3. Ah ah!", and the third "3. Ah! Ah!". The piano accompaniment consists of a simple bass line with eighth notes and rests.

Born for me_ an' you! Can it be real - ly true? Keep-in' the se - cret_ is gon-na be hard! I'm

Ah Ah Ah

Ah! Ah!

Ah! Ah!

The musical score for measures 58-61 continues in G major. The vocal melody includes a triplet of eighth notes and a half-note ending. The lyrics are: "Born for me_ an' you! Can it be real - ly true? Keep-in' the se - cret_ is gon-na be hard! I'm". Below the vocal line, there are three staves for vocal harmonies. The first staff has lyrics "Ah Ah Ah", the second "Ah! Ah!", and the third "Ah! Ah!". The piano accompaniment features a more active bass line with eighth notes and chords.

62

gon-na meet the peo-ple in the stor-y to day, I know what's gon-na hap-pen but I should n't say! When the

Ah Ah Ah!

Ah! Ah! When the

66

(Clap!) *p* an - gel claps his wings so bright... Ooh! 4. I

(Clap!) *p* Ah... Ooh! 4. I

(Clap!) ...the shep-herds on the hill get an aw-ful fright! Ooh!

(Clap!) an - gel claps his wings so bright... ...the shep-herds on the hill get an aw-ful fright! Ooh!

bet them Wise Men are gon-na sur prise'em with their in-cense, myrrh and gold; We'll

bet them Wise Men are gon-na sur prise'em with their in-cense, myrrh and gold; We'll

p 4. Pom, pom, pom, pom, With their myrrh and gold; Pom!

p 4. Pom, pom pom pom, With their myrrh and gold; Pom!

gath-er a- round, an' wewon't make a sound as we shel-ter from the cold; I

ga-ther a- round, an' wewon't make a sound as we shel-ter, an' I wan-na, wan na, wan-na, wan-na,

Ah Ah Ah as we shel-ter, an' I wan-na, I wan-na, I

Ah - ah - ah - ah - ah - ah! I wan-na, I wan-na,

78 *f*

wan-na front seat with a fab-u-lous view... an'

wan-na front seat with a fab-u-lous view... an'

8 wan-na front seat with a fab-u-lous view, an' a place in the cir-cle for my cam-el too, yeah?

wan-na, a seat, a fab-u-lous view, an' a place in the cir-cle for my cam-el too, yeah?

f

82

if that boy should dare to cry, We'll sing a lul - la - by... (No swung rhythm for this bar)

if that boy should dare to cry, We'll sing a lul - la - by, sing a lul - la -

8 Ah We'll sing a lul - la - by. (No swung rhythm for this bar) (Resume swung rhythm)

Ah We'll sing a lul - la - by. (No swung rhythm for two bars)

87 *mf*

5. As we go rid - in' the dunes, you'll hear me hum-min' the tunes of all the songs I want to sing;

(Resume swung rhythm) *mf*

-by. 5. Doo - bee doo doo, - Doo-bee-doo doo - bee - doo, Barp! Barp!

mf

5. Barp - barp! Barp-barp! Barp! Barp!

mf

5. Doo - doo, doo - doo. Barp! Barp!

(Resume swung rhythm) *mf*

91

With hope on my back, a smile in my sack, an' all my joy for the

Bee-doo-bee-doo-bee-doo! Barp! Barp! an' all my joy for the

Bee-doo ah! Pom, pom! Barp! Pom, pom! Barp! all my joy for the

Bee-doo-bee-doo-bee-doo! Pom, pom! Barp! Pom, pom! Barp! all my joy for the

95

ba - by King! I'm gon-na keep my cam - el walk - in' tall, she's gon-na lead me to that

ba - by King! I'm gon-na keep my cam - el walk in' tall, she's gon-na lead me to that

ba - by King! keep my cam - el walk - in' tall, she'll lead me to that

ba - by King! keep my cam - el walk - in' tall! she'll lead me to that

99

Ho ly stall, I wan-na meet that Sav-iour of us all, we got-ta go! We got-ta go! (Chorus)

Ho ly stall, I wan-na meet that Sav-iour of us all, we got-ta go! We got-ta go! (Chorus)

Ho ly stall! Andmeet that Sav-iour of us all, we got-ta go! Choo! Choo choo!

Ho ly stall! Andmeet that Sav-iour of us all, we got-ta go! Choo! Choo-choo!

go-woh woh-woh-woh, cam-el! That's what the an-gel said! We do the

go-woh woh - woh, cam-el! That's what he said! We do the

Go- woh - woh! cam-el! That's what he said! The

Go - - woh! cam-el, cam-el! That's what the an-gel said! We do the

soft shoe shuf-fle through the shift-in' sand till we find his man-ger bed,

soft shoo - shoo-bee - doo - bee - doo-bee-doo- ah, till we find his man-ger bed,

shoo-bee-doo- ah! The shoo-bee-doo- ah, till we find his

shoo-bee-doo- ah! The shoo-bee-doo- ah, till we find his

111

so don't be slow woh woh-woh-woh, cam-el! Fol low the dis-tant

so don't be slow - woh woh-woh-woh, cam-el!

bed, so don't be slow woh woh-woh-woh, cam-el! Cam el!

bed, so don't be slow-woh woh-woh-woh, cam-el! Cam-el!

115

light! I'm gon-na take that ba-by all o' my love, Ah

Fol-low the light! Ah I'm gon-na take that ba-by

Fol-low the light! Ah - - - - -

Fol-low the light! Ah

119

I'm gon - na take that ba - by all o' my love, an' I

all o' my love, I'm gon - na take that ba - by all o' my love, an' I

ah! I'm gon - na take that ba - by all o' my love, an' I

I'm gon - na take that ba - by all o' my love, an' I

(L.H.) (L.H.)

This musical system contains measures 119 through 121. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment with separate staves for the right and left hands. The lyrics are: "I'm gon - na take that ba - by all o' my love, an' I" repeated in different vocal parts. The piano part includes markings for the left hand (L.H.) in measures 119 and 120.

122

f wan - na get there to - night! Oh yeah!

f wan - na get there to - night! Oh yeah!

f wan - na get there to - night! Oh yeah!

f wan - na get there to - night! Oh yeah!

This musical system contains measures 122 through 124. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment with separate staves for the right and left hands. The lyrics are: "wan - na get there to - night! Oh yeah!" repeated in different vocal parts. The piano part includes a forte (*f*) marking in measure 122 and a key signature change to D major (indicated by two sharps) in measure 124.