

Gotta Go Camel

from "Three Christmas Camels"

*Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass
Piano accompaniment*

*Also available for
mixed upper voices + piano*

Rilla Paterson 1995
Revised May 2020

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

*From 2025 these songs are available as picture books
with audio tracks accessed via a QR code in the book*

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.....

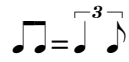
(Verse 5) As we go ridin' the dunes
You'll hear me hummin' the tunes
Of all the songs I want to sing,
With hope on my back, a smile in my sack,
And all my joy for the baby King,
I'm gonna keep my camel walkin' tall,
He's gonna lead me to that Holy Stall,
I wanna meet that Saviour of us all,
We gotta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



(Tenor and Bass vocal parts bars 1-5 optional)

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Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

mf

Dee-doo-bee - Doo-doo - doo - doo - shoo-bee-doo ah, — shoo-bee-

mf

Dee-doo-bee - doo - doo - doo - doo - shoo-bee-doo ah, — shoo-bee-

mf

4 *mf*

1.I got a call from an an - gel a-bout a

mf

1.I got a call from an an - gel a-bout a

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

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

8

ba-by born to day, He's ly-in' all in a man - ger, and there's a

ba-by born to day, He's ly-in' all in a man - ger, and there's a

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

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

12

star to guide me all of the way, I'm gon-nashake my cam-el out-o' the sand, I'm gon-na

star to guide me all of the way, I'm gon-nashake my cam-el out-o' the sand, I'm gon-na

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

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

16

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

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

8 take my cam-el ov-er the land, make my cam-el un-der stand_ we got-ta

pom - pom - mon - pom - pom, make my cam-el un- der- stand, we got-ta

20

go! 2.I got food for the jour - ney, and

go! 2.I got food for the jour - ney, and

go! Choo, choo, choo! Doo, doo, food for the jour - ney!

go! Choo, choo, choo! Doo - oo, doo - oo,

24

wa-ter for a week; I'm in the mood to be ear - ly, 'cos I

wa-ter for a week; I'm in the mood to be ear - ly, 'cos I

Doo - doo - doo! Pom! Doo, doo, doo, 'cos I

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

28

don't wan-na miss his par - ty treat! We're gon-na find that low - ly

don't wan-na miss his par - ty treat! W're gon-na find that low - ly

don't wan-na miss his par - ty treat! Pom! Pom - pom,

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

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

cat - tle shed. Pom - pom - pom! Be - side his bed, just

pom - pom - pom - pom - pom - pom - pom! Just

34

(Chorus)

take good care of what I said: We got-ta go! Choo! Choo! Choo! We got-ta

take good care of what I said: We got-ta go! Choo! Choo! Choo! We got-ta

take good care of what I said: We got-ta go! Choo! Choo! Choo! We got-ta

take good care of what I said: We got-ta go! We got-ta

38

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

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

go, cam-el! Pom, pom, pom-pom-pom

go, cam-el, cam-el! Pom, pom, pom-pom-pom!

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

Ah

Ah Ah Ah

This block contains measures 42, 43, and 44 of a musical score. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are 'soft shoe shuf fle through the shift-in' sand till we find his man ger bed!'. The first two vocal staves have identical lyrics and melody. The third vocal staff has a long 'Ah' note. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

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

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

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

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

This block contains measures 45, 46, 47, and 48 of a musical score. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are 'So don't be slow, cam - el! Fol low_ the dis-tant'. The first three vocal staves have identical lyrics and melody. The fourth vocal staff has a long 'Ho - ho - ho - ho - ho!' note. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple harmonic pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

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

53

3. Trav-ell-ing through the night, hold-ing my cam-el tight,

3.Ah Ah

3.Ah

Pom-pom! 3.Ah!

know-ing the won der_ of all that I've heard, Born for me_ an' you! Can it be real-ly true?

Ah Ah Ah

ah! Ah!

Ah! Ah!

Musical score for measures 56-59. The system includes a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and three vocal harmony parts. The vocal line features a melodic phrase with lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. The vocal harmony parts include 'Ah' and 'ah!' exclamations.

Keep-in' the se - cret_ is gon-na be hard! I'm gon-na meet the peo-ple in the

Ah Ah

Ah!

Ah! Ah!

Musical score for measures 60-63. The system includes a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and three vocal harmony parts. The vocal line features a melodic phrase with lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. The vocal harmony parts include 'Ah' and 'Ah!' exclamations.

63

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

Ah

Ah!

Ah! When the

66

an - gel claps his wings so bright... (Clap!) Ah. (Clap!)...the shep-herds on the hill get an

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

69

p

Ooh! 4. I bet them Wise Men are gon-na sur prise 'em with their

p

Ooh! 4. I bet them Wise Men are gon-na sur prise 'em with their

p

aw- ful__ fright! Ooh! 4. Pom, pom, pom, pom,

p

aw- ful__ fright! Ooh! 4. Pom, pom pom pom,

p

72

in- cense, myrrh and__ gold;__ We'll gath-er a- round, an' we

in- cense, myrrh and__ gold;__ We'll ga-ther a- round, an' we

With their myrrh and gold; Pom! Ah__ Ah__

With their myrrh and gold; Pom! Ah - ah -

75

won't make a sound as we shel-ter from the cold; I

won't make a sound as we shel-ter, an' I wan-na, wan na, wan-na, wan-na,

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

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

78

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

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

f wan-na front seat with a fab-u-lous view, an' a place in the cir-cle for my

f wan-na, a seat, a fab-u-lous view, an' a place in the cir-cle for my

81

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

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

cam-el too, yeah? Ah We'll sing a

cam-el too, yeah? Ah We'll sing a

(No swung rhythm for two bars)

85

by... (No swung rhythm for this bar) 5. As we go

by, sing a lul - la - by. (Resume swung rhythm)

lul - la - by. (No swung rhythm for this bar)

lul - la - by. (Resume swung rhythm)

(No swung rhythm for two bars) (Resume swung rhythm)

88

mf

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

mf

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

mf

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

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

91

— With hope on my back, a smile in my sack, an'

Bee-doo-bee-doo-bee-doo! Barp! Barp! an'

Bee-doo ah! Pom, pom! Barp! Pom, pom! Barp!

Bee-doo-bee-doo-bee-doo! Pom, pom! Barp! Pom, pom! Barp!

all my joy for the ba - by King! I'm gon-na keep my cam el walk - in' tall, he's gon-na

all my joy for the ba - by King! I'm gon-na keep my cam-el walk in' tall, he's gon-na

all my joy for the ba - by King! keep my cam el walk - in' tall, he'll

all my joy for the ba - by King! keep my cam-el walk - in' tall! he'll

lead me to that Ho-ly stall, I wan-na meet that Sav-iour of us all, we got-ta

lead me to that Ho-ly stall, I wan-na meet that Sav-iour of us all, we got-ta

lead me to that Ho-ly stall! And meet that Sav-iour of us all, we got-ta

lead me to that Ho-ly stall! And meet that Sav-iour of us all, we got-ta

102

(Chorus)

go! We got-ta go woh-woh-woh-woh, cam-el!

(Chorus)

go! We got-ta go woh-woh - woh, cam-el!

go! Choo! Choo choo! Go woh - woh! cam-el!

go! Choo! Choo-choo! Go - - woh! cam-el, cam-el!

106

That's what the an-gel said! We do the soft shoe shuf-fle through the

That's what he said! We do the soft shoo-shoo-bee-doo-bee

That's what he said! The shoo-bee-doo ah!_ The

That's what the an-gel said! We do the shoo-bee-doo ah!_ The

shift - in' sand till we find his man ger bed, so don't be slow

doo-bee-doo ah, till we find his man ger bed, so don't be slow

shoo-bee-doo ah, till we find his bed, so don't be

shoo-bee-doo ah, till we find his bed, so don't be

woh - woh-woh-woh, cam-el! Fol-low the dis-tant

woh - woh-woh-woh, cam-el!

slow woh - woh-woh-woh, cam-el! Cam el!

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.)

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!