

Gotta Go Camel

from "Three Christmas Camels"

*Four-part song
for unaccompanied male voices (restricted range)
Also available for SATB and for
mixed upper voices + piano*

Rilla Paterson 1995
Revised 2020 and 2026

*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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<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!

cont/

/contd...

(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!

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Gotta Go, Camel

from "Three Christmas Camels"

♩ = 120



A

5 © Rilla Paterson 1995

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Baritone

Bass

mf

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

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

1.I got a

mf

1.I got a

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Baritone

Bass

call from an an- gel a-bout a ba-by born to day, He's ly-in' all in a man

call from an an- gel a-bout a ba-by born to day, He's ly-in' all in a man

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

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

10

Tenor 1

Tenor 2

Baritone

Bass

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

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

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

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

15

20

Tenor 1
take my cam-el ov-er the land, I'm gon-na make my cam-el un-der stand__ we got-ta go!

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

Baritone
take my cam-el ov-er the land, make my cam-el un-der stand__ we got-ta go! Choo,

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

B

25

Tenor 1
Doo, food for the jour-ney! Doo, Pom!

Tenor 2
Doo, Doo, Doo, and wa-ter-for me! Pom!

Baritone
choo, choo! 2.I got food__ for the jour - ney, and wa-ter for a week; I'm in the

Bass
choo, choo! 2.I got food__ for the jour - ney, and wa-ter for a week; I'm in the

30

Tenor 1
Doo - doo - doo - doo! I don't wan-na miss his par - ty treat! Pom! Pom - pom,

Tenor 2
Doo, doo, doo, 'cos I don't wan-na miss his par - ty treat! Pom! Pom - pom,

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

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

Tenor 1 Pom pom, pom! Pom - pom - pom! Pom - pom-pom! Just take good care of

Tenor 2 cat - tle shed, pom! Pom - pom, be - side his bed! Just take good care of

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

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

35 C

(Chorus)

Tenor 1 what I said: We got-ta go! Choo! Choo! Choo! We got-ta go, cam-el!

Tenor 2 what I said: We got-ta go! Choo! Choo! Choo! We got-ta go, cam-el!

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

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

40

Tenor 1 That's what the an - gel said! We do the soft shoe shuf-fle through the shift in' sand till we

Tenor 2 That's what the an - gel said! We do the soft shoe shuf-fle through the shift in' sand till we

Baritone Pom! Pom, pom! Ah, Ah,

Bass Pom! Pom, pom! Ah Ah

45

Tenor 1
find his man ger_ bed!_ So don't be slow, cam - el! Fol low_ the dis-tant

Tenor 2
find his man ger_ bed!_ So don't be slow, cam - el! Fol low_ the dis-tant

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

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

50

Tenor 1
light! I'm gon-na take that ba-by all o' my love, an' I wan-na get there to night!_

Tenor 2
light! I'm gon-na take that ba-by all o' my love, an' I wan-na get there to night!_

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

Bass
Pom-pom-pom! Ah,_____ Ah,_____ an' I wan na get there to night!_ Pom-pom!

D 55

Tenor 1
3.Trav - ell ing through the night, hold-ing my cam - el tight, know-ing the won - der_ of all that I've heard,

Tenor 2
3.Ah Ah Ah

Baritone
3.Ah Ah!

Bass
3.Ah! Ah!

60

Tenor 1 Ah Ah

Tenor 2 Born for me an' you! Can it be real - ly true? Keep-in' the se - cret_ is gon-na be hard! I'm

Baritone Ah Ah Ah

Bass Ah Aah - a a - ha - ha - ha!

65

Tenor 1 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

Tenor 2 Ah Ah

Baritone Ah Ah

Bass Ah Ah When the

(Clap!) (Yelp!) **p**

Tenor 1 an - gel claps his wings so bright... Ooh! 4. I

Tenor 2 Ah... (Clap!) (Yelp!) **p** Ooh! 4. I

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

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

70 **E**

Tenor 1
bet them Wise Men are gon-na sur prise 'em with their in-cense, myrrh and_ gold;_ We'll

Tenor 2
bet them Wise Men are gon-na sur prise 'em with their in-cense, myrrh and_ gold;_ We'll

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

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

75

Tenor 1
gath-er a- round, an'we won't make a sound as we shel-ter from the cold;_ I

Tenor 2
ga-ther a- round, an'we won't make a sound as we shel-ter, an' I wan-na, wan na, wan-na, wan-na,

Baritone
Ah_ Ah_ as we shel-ter, an' I wan-na, I wan-na, I

Bass
Ah - ah - ah - ah_ I wan-na, I wan-na,

80

Tenor 1
f wan-na front seat with a fab-u-lous view... an'

Tenor 2
f wan-na front seat with a fab-u-lous view... an'

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

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

(No swung rhythm for two bars) 85

Tenor 1 if that boy should dare to cry, We'll sing a lul - la - by...

Tenor 2 if that boy should dare to cry, We'll sing a lul - la - by, sing a lul - la - by. (Resume swung rhythm)

Baritone Ah We'll sing a lul - la - by. 5. As we go

Bass Ah We'll sing a lul - la - by. (Resume swung rhythm)

F *mf* *mf* 90

Tenor 1 5. Barp - barp! 5. Barp - barp! Barp! Barp!

Tenor 2 5. Doo - bee-doo- doo - bee - doo, Doo-bee-doo- doo - bee - doo, Barp! Barp!

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

Bass *mf* 5. Doo - doo, doo - doo. Songs I want to

Tenor 1 Bedoo-bee-doo-bee-doo, With hope on my back, a smile in my sack, - an' all my joy for the

Tenor 2 Bedoo ah! Barp! Barp! an' all my joy for the

Baritone Bedoo ah! Pom, pom! Barp! Pom, pom! Barp! all my joy for the

Bass sing! Pom, pom! Barp! Pom, pom! Barp! all my joy for the

95

Tenor 1
ba - by King! I'm gon-na keep my cam el walk - in' tall, he's gon-na lead me to that Ho ly stall, I wan-na

Tenor 2
ba - by King! I'm gon-na keep my cam-el walk in' tall, he's gon-na lead me to that Ho ly stall, I wan-na

Baritone
ba - by King! keep my cam el walk - in' tall, he'll lead me to that Ho ly stall! And

Bass
ba - by King! keep my cam-el walk - in' tall! he'll lead me to that Ho ly stall! And

100

Tenor 1
meet that Sav iour of us all, we got ta go! Choo! Choo-choo! We got ta go, (Chorus) **G**

Tenor 2
meet that Sav iour of us all, we got ta go! We got ta go-woh - woh-woh-woh, (Chorus)

Baritone
meet that Sav iour of us all, we got ta go! Choo! Choo-choo! Go woh - woh - woh,

Bass
meet that Sav iour of us all, we got ta go! Choo! Choo-choo! Go woh woh woh!

105

Tenor 1
cam - el! That's what he said! Theshoo-bee-doo ah!_ The

Tenor 2
cam-el! That's what the an-gel said! We do the shoo-bee-doo ah!_ The

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

Bass
cam-el, cam-el! That's what he said! We do the soft shoo - shoo-bee - doo - bee

110

Tenor 1
shoo-bee-doo ah, till we find his bed, so don't be slow woh-woh-woh-woh,

Tenor 2
shoo-bee-doo ah, till we find his bed, so don't be slow - woh-woh-woh-woh,

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

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

115

Tenor 1
cam-el! Fol low the dis-tant light! I'm gon-na take that ba-by all o' my love,

Tenor 2
cam-el! Fol-low the light! Ah, I'm gon-na

Baritone
cam-el! Cam el! Fol-low the light! Ah,

Bass
cam-el! Cam-el! Fol-low the light!

120

Tenor 1
Ah, I'm gon - na take that ba - by

Tenor 2
take that ba - by all o' my love, I'm gon - na take that ba - by

Baritone
I'm gon - na take that ba - by

Bass
Ah, I'm gon - na take that ba - by

all o' my love, an' I wan-na get there to- night!__ Oh yeah!

all o' my love, an' I wan-na get there to- night!__ Oh yeah!

all o' my love, an' I wan-na get there to- night!__ Oh yeah!

all o' my love, an' I wan-na get there to- night!__ Oh yeah!