

Gotta Go Camel

from "Three Christmas Camels"

*Arranged for mixed voices
with piano accompaniment;
also available in SATB*

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.....

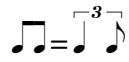
(Verse 5) As we go ridin' the dunes
You'll hear me hummin' the tunes
Of all the songs I want to sing,
With hope on my back, a smile in my sack,
And all my joy for the baby King,
I'm gonna keep my camel walkin' tall,
He's gonna lead me to that Holy Stall,
I wanna meet that Saviour of us all,
We gotta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



(Voices 3 & 4 bars 1-5 optional)

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Voice 1

Voice 2

Voice 3

Voice 4

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

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

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!

42

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

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

Ah

Ah Ah Ah

45

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!

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!

56

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!

The musical score for measures 56-59 features a vocal line with lyrics and three piano accompaniment staves. The vocal line includes the lyrics "know-ing the won-der of all that I've heard, Born for me an' you! Can it be real-ly true?". There are three vocal lines, each with "Ah" or "ah!" exclamations. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand staff with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a left-hand staff with a simple bass line.

60

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!

The musical score for measures 60-63 features a vocal line with lyrics and three piano accompaniment staves. The vocal line includes the lyrics "Keep-in' the se - cret is gon-na be hard! I'm gon-na meet the peo-ple in the". There are three vocal lines, each with "Ah" or "Ah!" exclamations. The piano accompaniment consists of a right-hand staff with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a left-hand staff with a simple bass line.

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 (Clap!)

an - gel claps his wings so bright... ...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,

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

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

The musical score consists of five systems. The first two systems are vocal lines with lyrics. The third and fourth systems are vocal lines with lyrics and a long 'Ah' vocalization. The fifth system is a piano accompaniment with two staves (treble and bass clef). The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: 'an' if that boy should dare to cry, We'll sing a lul - la -' repeated twice, 'cam-el too, yeah? Ah We'll sing a' repeated twice, and 'cam-el too, yeah? Ah We'll sing a' repeated twice.

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!

mf

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!

94

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

98

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

109

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

112

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!

The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The right hand plays chords and single notes, while the left hand plays a bass line with some chords. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and features a key signature of one flat (Bb).