

# **Hear & Now Present:**

## **Edward Lear's Nonsense Songs**

### **Lyric Sheet**

- 1. By Way of Preface**
- 2. The Owl and the Pussycat**
- 3. The Two Old Bachelors**
- 4. Collage**
- 5. Calico Pie**
- 6. The Duck and the Kangaroo**
- 7. Mr & Mrs Spikky Sparrow**
- 8. The Quangle Wangle's Hat**  
**(8b. This Old Man)**
- 9. The Grand Old Duke**
- 10. The Table and the Chair**

## ONE: By Way of Preface

How pleasant to know Mr. Lear,  
Who has written such volumes of stuff.  
Some think him ill-tempered and queer,  
But a few find him pleasant enough.  
His mind is concrete and fastidious,  
His nose is remarkably big;  
His visage is more or less hideous,  
His beard it resembles a wig.

He has ears, and two eyes, and ten fingers,  
(Leastways if you reckon two thumbs);  
He used to be one of the singers,  
But now he is one of the dumbs.  
He sits in a beautiful parlour,  
With hundreds of books on the wall;  
He drinks a great deal of marsala,  
But never gets tipsy at all.

He has many friends, laymen and clerical,  
Old Foss is the name of his cat;  
His body is perfectly spherical,  
He weareth a runcible hat.  
When he walks in waterproof white,  
The children run after him so!  
Calling out, "He's gone out in his night-gown,  
That crazy old Englishman, oh!"

He weeps by the side of the ocean,  
He weeps on the top of the hill;  
He purchases pancakes and lotion,  
And chocolate shrimps from the mill.  
He reads, but he does not speak Spanish,  
He cannot abide ginger beer;  
Ere the days of his pilgrimage vanish,  
How pleasant to know Mr. Lear!

## **TWO: The Owl and the Pussy-cat**

1.

The owl and the pussy-cat went to sea, in a beautiful pea green boat.  
They took some honey and plenty of money, wrapped up in a five pound note.

The owl looked up to the stars above, and sang to a small guitar,  
'O lovely pussy, O pussy my love, What a beautiful pussy you are,  
you are, what a beautiful pussy you are.'

2.

Pussy said to the owl, 'you elegant fowl, how charmingly sweet you sing.  
O let us be married, too long we have tarried, but what shall we do for a ring?'  
They sailed away for a year and a day, to the land where the Bong-tree grows.  
And there in a wood a piggy-wig stood with a ring at the end of his nose,  
of his nose, with a ring at the end of his nose.

*INSTRUMENTAL*

### **Chorus**

da da da, da da, ya da da da da da  
ya da da, da da, ya da da da da da  
ya, da da, ya da da da da da  
ya da da ,da da, ya da da da da da,  
ya da da da da, daaa, ya daaaa, ya daaaa, ya daaaa

3.

'Dear pig are you willing to sell for one shilling, your ring?' said the piggy, 'I will.'

So they took it away, and were married next day, by the turkey who lives on the hill.

They dined on mince, and slices of quince, which they ate with a runcible spoon;

And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand, they danced by the light of the moon,  
of he moon, they danced by the light of the moon.

*INSTRUMENTAL*

**Chorus** da da da X2

## **THREE: The Two Old Bachelors**

**1.**

Two old Bachelors were living in one house.  
One caught a muffin, the other caught a Mouse.  
Said he who caught the Muffin to him who caught the Mouse:  
'This happens just in time! for we've nothing in the house,

**2.**

Save a tiny slice of lemon and a teaspoonful of honey,  
And what to do for dinner since we haven't any money?  
And what can we expect if we haven't any dinner,  
But to loose our teeth and eyelashes and keep on growing thinner?'

**3.**

Said he who caught the Mouse, to him who caught the Muffin,  
'We might cook this little Mouse, if we had only some Stuffin,  
If we had but Sage and Onion we could do extremely well.  
'But how to get that Stuffin' it is difficult to tell'.

### *INSTRUMENTAL BREAK*

**4.**

But some one said, a hill there is, a little to the north, and to  
its pur-ple-di-cu-lar top a narrow way leads forth,  
And there among the rugged rocks abides an ancient Sage,  
An earnest Man who reads all day a most perplexing page.

**5.**

Climb up and seize him by the toes all studious as he sits.  
And pull him down and chop him into endless little bits.  
Then mix him with your Onion (cut up likewise into Scraps).  
When your Stuffin' will be ready -- and very good perhaps.  
very good perhaps,  
very, very, very, very, very good perhaps.

### *INSTRUMENTAL BREAK*

**6.**

Those two old Bachelors without loss of time, the nearly pur-ple-di-cu-lar crags, at once began to climb.

And at the top, among the rocks, all seated in a nook.

They saw that Sage, a reading of a most enormous book.

'You earnest Sage!' aloud they cried, 'your book you've read enough in,  
We wish to chop you into bits to mix you into Stuffin!

**7.**

But that old Sage looked calmly up, and with his awful look.

At those two bachelors' bald heads a certain aim he took.

And over crag and precipice they rolled promiscuous down,

At once they rolled, and never stopped in lane or field or town.

**8.**

And when they reached their house, they found (besides their want of Stuffin,)

The Mouse had fled and, previously, had eaten up the Muffin.

They left their home in silence by the once convivial door.

And from that hour those bachelors were never heard of more.

# **FOURS: COLLAGE**

**FIVE: Calico Pie**

**(First Tuesday's Only)**

## **SIX: The Duck and the Kangaroo**

### **1. (SOLO)**

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo, 'Good gracious, how you hop!  
Over the fields and the water too, as if you never would stop!  
My life is a bore in this nasty pond, and I long to go out in the world  
beyond, I wish I could hop like you!'

Said the duck to the Kangaroo.

### **2. (SOLO)**

'Please give me a ride on your back,' Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.  
'I would sit quite still, and say nothing but "Quack," the whole of the long  
day through!

And we'd go to the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee, over the land and over the  
sea.

Please take me a ride! O do!

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

### **CHORUS (ALL)**

I'm not falling, I long to be like you  
I'm not falling, let me be like you too  
Waving, not drowning, I'm laughing, not frowning  
I'm Singing, not sighing, for you

### **3. (SOLO)**

Said the Kangaroo to the Duck, 'this requires some little reflection;  
Perhaps on the whole it might bring me luck, and there seems but one  
objection,  
Which is, if you'll let me speak so bold, your feet are unpleasantly wet and  
cold,

And would probably give me the roo-

Matiz!' said the Kangaroo.

*INSTRUMENTAL*

**CHORUS (ALL)**

I'm not falling, I long to be like you  
I'm not falling, Let me be like you too  
Waving, not drowning, I'm laughing, not frowning  
I'm Singing, not sighing, for you

**4. (SOLO)**

Said the Duck ,'as I sat on the rocks, I have thought over that completely,  
And I bought four pairs of worsted socks, which fit my web-feet neatly.  
And to keep out the cold I've bought a cloak, and every day a cigar I'll  
smoke,

All to follow my own dear true, love of a Kangaroo!

*INSTRUMENTAL*

**5. (SOLO)**

Said the Kangaroo, 'I'm ready! All in the moonlight pale;  
But to balance me well, dear Duck, sit steady, and quite at the end of my  
tail!'

So away they went with a hop and a bound, and they hopped the whole  
world three times round;

And who so happy, O who,

As the duck and the Kangaroo?

**CHORUS (ALL)**

I'm not falling, I long to be like you  
I'm not falling, Let me be like you too  
Waving, not drowning, not laughing, not frowning  
I'm Singing, not sighing, for you

## SEVEN: Mr & Mrs Spikky Sparrow

1.  
On a little piece of wood, Mister Spikky Sparrow stood,  
Mrs. Sparrow stood close by a-making of an insect pie  
For her little children five, in the nest and all alive,  
Singing with a cheerful smile, to amuse them all the while,  
    Twikky wikky wikky wee  
    Wikky bikky twikky tee  
    Twikky wikky wikky wee  
    Spikky bikky bee

2.  
Mrs. Spikky Sparrow said, 'Spikky darling in my head,  
Many thoughts of trouble come, like to flies upon a plum.  
All last night, among the trees I heard you cough, I heard you sneeze,'  
And, thought I, it's come to that because he does not wear a hat.  
    Chippy wippy sikky tee  
    Bikky wikky tikky mee  
    Chippy wippy sikky tee  
    Spikky chippy wee

3.  
*(GIRLS ONLY)*  
'Not that you now are growing old,  
but all the nights are growing cold.  
No one stays out here all night long without a hat I'm sure it's wrong.  
*(BOYS ONLY)*

'Let us both fly up to the town  
and there I'll buy you such a gown,  
So that you will both look and feel, quite galloobious and genteel!

*INSTRUMENTAL*

Twikky wikky wikky wee  
Wikky bikky twikky tee  
Twikky wikky wikky wee  
Spikky bikky bee  
*repeat chorus x4 (children only)*  
chorus x1 (all)

## *INSTRUMENTAL*

**4.**  
So they both to London went alighting at the Monument,  
Whence they flew down swiftly pop, into Moses' wholesale shop;  
There they bought a hat and bonnet, and a gown with spots upon it,  
Satin sash of Cloxam blue, and a pair of slippers too.

Zikky wikky mikky bee  
Witchy, witchy, mitchy kee  
Zikky wikky mikky bee  
Sikky tikky wee

**5.**  
Then when so completely drest, back they flew and reached their nest.  
Their children cried, 'O Ma and Pa! 'How truly beautiful you are!'  
Said they, 'We trust that cold or pain 'We shall never feel again!  
while perched on tree or house or steeple, we'll now look like other  
people.

Witchy, witchy, witchy, we  
Twikky, mikky, bikky bee  
Witchy, witchy, witchy, wee  
Zikky, sikky, tee AHH (like you've been drinking tea!)

## **EIGHT: The Quangle Wangle's Hat** (*ladies + soloists*)

1.

On the top of the Crumpety Tree  
The Quangle Wangle sat,  
But his face you could not see,  
On account of his Beaver Hat.

For his Hat was a hundred and two feet wide,  
With ribbons and bibbons on every side,  
And bells, and buttons, and loops, and lace,  
So that nobody ever could see the face,

Of the Quangle Wangle Quee,  
Of the Quangle Wangle Quee.

2.

The Quangle Wangle said,  
To himself on the Crumpety Tree, "Jam, and jelly, cheese and bread,  
Are the best of food for me!"

*(soloist 1)*

***But the longer I live on this Crumpety Tree  
The plainer than ever it seems to me  
That very few people come this way  
And that life on the whole is somewhat gray.***

Oo ah, oo, ah, oo oo ah  
Oo, ah, oo, ah oh, ah,  
oo oo, ah

Said the Quangle Wangle Quee,  
Said the Quangle Wangle Quee.

3.

But there came to the Crumpety Tree  
Mr. and Mrs. Canary;  
And they said, "Did ever you see  
Any spot so charmingly airy?"

May we build a nest on your lovely Hat?  
Mr. Quangle Wangle, grant us that!  
O please let us come and build a nest  
Of whatever thing, just suits you best,

Mr. Quangle Wangle Quee,  
Mr. Quangle Wangle Quee.

4.

And besides, to the Crumpety Tree  
Came the Stork, the Duck, and the Owl;  
and the Snail and the Bumble-Bee,  
with the Frog and the Fimble Fowl

*(soloist 2)*

*For the Fimble Fowl, with a Corkscrew leg  
And all of them said, "We humbly beg  
We may build our homes on your lovely hat,  
Mr. Quangle Wangle, grant us that!"*

Oo ah, oo, ah, oo oo ah  
Oo, ah, oo, ah oh, ah,  
oo oo, ah

Mr. Quangle Wangle Quee,  
Mr. Quangle Wangle Quee.

## **Eight (b): This Old Man**

This old man, he played one,  
He played nick nack on my drum;

*With a nick nack paddy whack, give a dog a bone  
This old man came rolling home*

This old man, he played two,  
He played nick nack on my shoe;

This old man, he played three,  
He played nick nack on my tree;

This old man, he played four,  
He played nick nack on my door;

This old man, he played five,  
He played nick nack on my hive;

This old man, he played six,  
He played nick nack on my sticks;

This old man, he played seven  
He played nick nack on my Devon

This old man, he played eight,  
He played nick nack at my gate;

This old man, he played nine,  
He played nick nack on my line;

This old man, he played ten,  
He played nick nack on my hen;

## **NINE: The Grand Old Duke**

### **Verse**

Oh the Grand Old Duke of York  
He had ten thousand men  
He marched them up to the top of the hill  
And he marched them down again

and when they were up, they were up  
and when they were down, they were down  
and when they were only half way up  
they were neither up nor down.

### **Chorus**

Runcible  
Runcible  
Runcible Spoon  
Runcible

Runcible  
Runcible  
Runcible Spoon  
Runcible

## TEN: The Table and the Chair

1.  
Said the Table to the Chair, "you can hardly be aware,  
How I suffer from the heat and from chilblains on my feet.  
If we took a little walk, we might have a little talk;  
Pray let us take the air," said the Table to the Chair.

2.  
Said the Chair unto the Table, "now, you know we are not able:  
How foolishly you talk, when you know we cannot walk!"  
Said the Table with a sigh, "it can do no harm to try.  
I've as many legs as you: why can't we walk on two?"

3.  
So they both went slowly down, and they walked about the town  
With a cheerful bumpy sound as they toddled all around;  
And everybody cried, as they hastened to their side,  
"See the Table and the Chair, have come out to take the air!"

### *INSTRUMENTAL*

4.  
But in going down an alley, to a castle in a valley,  
They completely lost their way, and wandered all the day;  
Till, to see them safely back, they paid a ducky-quack,  
And a Beetle, and a Mouse, who took them to their house.

5.  
Then they whispered to each other, "o delightful little brother,  
What a lovely walk we've taken! Let us dine on beans and bacon."  
So the Ducky and the leetle Brownny-Mousy and the Beetle  
Dined, and danced upon their heads, till they toddled to their beds