

CHILDREN'S FAVOURITES

THE UGLY DUCKLING • THUMBELINA
THE LION AND ALBERT
And many more

JUNIOR
CLASSICS

CHILDREN'S
FAVOURITES



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- 1 **I'm Hans Christian Andersen** (Frank Loesser) 2:29
Danny Kaye with Gordon Jenkins & His Orchestra
Decca 28381, mx L 6862; recorded 13 August 1952, Los Angeles
- 2 **The Ugly Duckling** (Frank Loesser) 3:07
Danny Kaye with Gordon Jenkins & His Orchestra
Decca 28382, mx L 6862; recorded 13 August 1952, Los Angeles
- 3 **Inchworm** (Frank Loesser) 3:16
Danny Kaye with Gordon Jenkins & His Orchestra & Chorus
Decca 28381, mx L 6859-A; recorded 13 August 1952, Los Angeles
- 4 **Thumbelina** (Frank Loesser) 1:49
Danny Kaye with Gordon Jenkins & His Orchestra & Chorus
Decca 28380, mx L 6855; recorded 11 August 1952, Los Angeles
- 5 **The King's New Clothes** (Frank Loesser) 3:37
Danny Kaye with Gordon Jenkins & His Orchestra & Chorus
Decca 28382, mx WL 6858-A; recorded 11 August 1952, Los Angeles
- 6 **Wonderful Copenhagen** (Frank Loesser) 2:10
Danny Kaye with Gordon Jenkins & His Orchestra & Chorus
Decca 28379, mx L 6856; recorded 11 August 1952, Los Angeles
- 7 **Popo the Puppet** (Sylvia Fine) 3:10
Danny Kaye with chorus & orchestra
Decca 27199, mx WL 5710-A; recorded 27 June 1950, Los Angeles

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- 8 **Little Brass Band** (Walter Hendl-Brown) 6:29
Frank Gallop with orchestra
Young People's Records 703, mx YPR 703A/B; recorded 1947, New York
- 9 **The Lion and Albert** (Marriott Edge) 4:21
Stanley Holloway with Wolseley Charles, piano
Columbia DX 353, mx CAX 6343-1; recorded 16 March 1932
- 10 **Mr Toad** (Adapted by Alan W. Livingston) 10:36
["The Merrily Song" by Morey-Gilbert-Churchill-Wolcott]
Basil Rathbone & Original Cast with Billy May's Orchestra
Capitol EAS 3048/89-30114, mx 3695/6; recorded 19 July 1949, Hollywood
- 11 **I'm Late** (Sammy Fain-Bob Hilliard) 2:05
Danny Kaye with Dave Terry's Orchestra
Decca 27564, mx WL 80664-A; recorded 9 March 1951, New York
- 12 **I'm a little teapot** (Clarence Kelley-Geo. H. Sanders) 2:24
Kitty Kallen with Tony Mottola's Orchestra
Decca K-137/88176, mx 86516; recorded 2 July 1954, New York
- 13 **Sparky's Music Mix-up** (Alan Livingston-Billy May) 18:55
Tom Reddy, narrator, with Henry Blair, June Foray, Virginia Gregg
& cast Orchestra conducted by Billy May, with Stan Kenton & His Orchestra*
Capitol CCN 3019, 30050/2, mx 3647, 3650, 3645, 3648, 3649, 3660;
recorded 4 & 20 May 1949, Hollywood
*"Machito" (Pete Rugolo) recorded 13 February 1947, Hollywood

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- 14 **Kleinbahnfahrt** (Choo Choo Train Ride) (Otto Rathke) 2:55
Hans Schindler & His Orchestra
Telefunken A 1149, mx 18530; recorded c. 1933, Berlin
- 15 **Daffy Duck's Rhapsody** (Mike Maltese–Warren Foster) 3:07
Mel Blanc with Billy May's Music
Capitol 32018, mx 6023; recorded 1 May 1950, Hollywood
- 16 **Parade of the Wooden Soldiers** (Leon Jessel) 2:26
International Novelty Orchestra conducted by Nathaniel Shilkret
Victor 12-80674, mx BVE 26372-4; 25 January 1928, New York
- 17 **I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch** 3:03
(Kamano–Faber–Hartmann)
Two Ton Baker, The Merry Music Maker
Mercury 7048, mx 959; recorded 1947, Chicago
- 18 **The Tubby the Tuba Song** (George Kleinsinger–Paul Tripp) 2:50
Danny Kaye with orchestra
Decca 27199, mxWL 5711-A; recorded 27 June 1950, Los Angeles
- 19 **The Funniest Song in the World** (Abrashkin–Gordon) 6:19
Groucho Marx with orchestra
Young People's Records YPR 719; recorded 1947, New York
- 20 **I know an old lady** (Alan Mills–Rose Bonne) 2:30
Alan Mills, with guitar
RCA Victor 57-0051; recorded 1952, Montreal

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- 21 The Story of Celeste** (George Kleinsinger–Paul Tripp) 13:08
Victor Jory with orchestra conducted by Ray Bloch
Signature C-1 (12001/2), mx SRC 299/302; recorded 1946, New York
- 22 I want a hippopotamus for Christmas** (John Rox) 2:37
Gayla Peevey with orchestra conducted by Norman Leyden
Columbia J 186, mx CO 49818; recorded 27th September 1953, New York
- 23 Train to the Zoo** 7:07
Norman Rose, narrator, and The Weavers Children's Record Guild
CRG 1001, mx 1001A/B; recorded February 1950, New York
- 24 One String Fiddle** (Erick Berry–Lillian Webster) 13:30
Paul Wing, narrator; Frank Novak, violin; Clark D. Whipple, Hammond Organ
Victor Y 319 (41-0006/7), mx D5-AB-0187/90; recorded 6 April 1945, New York
- 25 The Musicians** (Charles Grean–Tom Glazer) 2:36
Dinah Shore, Betty Hutton, Tony Martin & Phil Harris with Henri René's Orchestra
RCA Victor 20-4225, mx E1 VB 698; recorded 24 July, 1951, Hollywood
- 26 The green grass grew all around** (Traditional) 3:08
Tex Ritter with guitars Capitol 25014, mx 3174-2D; recorded 1947, Hollywood
- 27 I Wuv a Wabbit** (Berle–Drake–Martell) 2:58
Two Ton Baker, The Merry Music Maker
Mercury 7019, mx 743; recorded 1947, Chicago
- 28 Fuzzy Wuzzy** (Al Hoffman–Milton Drake–Jerry Livingston) 2:52
The Jesters & Milt Herth's Trio
Decca 18688, mx 72828A; recorded 16 April 1945, New York

Total time: 2:15:51

CHILDREN'S FAVOURITES

THE UGLY DUCKLING • THUMBELINA • THE LION AND ALBERT

'Life is a great big canvas; throw all the paint you can at it,' said Danny Kaye, and his love of life shines through his great recordings.

He was born David Daniel Kaminsky in Brooklyn, New York, on 18 January 1913 to Ukrainian immigrant parents. He was a natural entertainer from an early age, and though his family wanted him to become a doctor, he dropped out of high school to go on the road as an entertainer.

The strong charisma and remarkable ability with tongue-twisters showed itself early, but he came up the hard way in showbiz, working as a barman and doing other jobs before performance on stage started to earn him a real living. He toured the US with various vaudeville acts and, in the early 1930s, even toured the Far East, performing in China, Japan and Malaya!

In 1941, Danny Kaye made his first impact on Broadway, a year after he married Sylvia Fine who was to guide his career – and write some of the lyrics that helped make him famous.

In the late 1940s, he made his film breakthrough as his personality shone on big screen. *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (1949)

was one of his first hits, but it was *Hans Christian Andersen* (1952) which endeared him to generations of children with its hugely popular songs.

The selection on this album are among the most well-known from his whole career. The original film album sold over a million copies.

When his film career waned, Danny Kaye transferred to television both as a performer and a presenter. And he took up the baton, conducting orchestras of classical music.

From 1957 until his death, he served as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, the United Nations' children's section, travelling the world (frequently flying himself as he was a skilled pilot), working for charities of all kinds and compering shows. On one trip, in 1975, he flew to 65 US and Canadian cities in five days which put him in the Guinness Book of Records as the World's Fastest-Flying Entertainer.

He said, 'I believe deeply that children are more powerful than oil, more beautiful than rivers, more precious than any other natural resource a country can have. I feel that the most rewarding thing I have ever

done in my life is to be associated with UNICEF.'

Danny Kaye's remarkable talents as a performer, as heard on this disc in the medley from *Hans Christian Andersen*, and songs such as Tubby the Tuba, continue to touch the lives of successive generations of adults and children alike.

He died in Los Angeles, California on 3 March 1987.

The long career of Stanley Holloway enriched the English stage and screen for well over half a century. His strong personality filled the stage (1956) and the cinema screen (1964) in *My Fair Lady* with his performance of Alfred J. Doolittle, Eliza's father. He had originally trained as an opera singer, but found that revue was more his forte.

He is also remembered for his recordings of numerous monologues, the most famous of which is *The Lion and Albert*, delivered in a broad northern voice. The adventures of the Ramsbottom family was originally written by Marriot Edgar, Holloway's partner in the *Co-Optimists*, in the 1930s, but Holloway made it his own. His famous recording dates from 1932 but it lived on in the minds of countless would-be Holloways in the decades which followed, as they belted it out with varying degrees of success

whenever called upon to make a public recitation.

Children's stories with music were hugely popular in the mid-20th century and thousands of short-play recordings were released with entertaining covers. One of the most successful was the *Sparky* series, the endearing story of a young boy who wanted to play music and be a star but encountered all kinds of obstacles in the process. Entertaining they certainly were, and innovative, with all kinds of overdubbing and special effects which were quite revolutionary for the time. But they also had a (not very subtle) message which, curiously, make them all the more charming in the 21st century. Tom Reddy narrates *Sparky's Music Mix-Up*, with Stan Kenton and his orchestra playing a gloriously inventive score where major concertos are abridged to spectacular effect!

The skilful combination of light-hearted words, unforgettable characterisations and some truly imaginative arrangements made these children's favourites immensely popular and, remarkably in a world of computer games and hi-definition television, they still have not lost their effect.

Notes by Nicolas Soames

Lyrics from selected songs

The Lion and Albert

There's a famous seaside place called
Blackpool,
That's noted for fresh air and fun,
And Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom
Went there with young Albert, their son.

A grand little lad was young Albert,
All dressed in his best; quite a swell
With a stick with an 'orse's 'ead 'andle,
The finest that Woolworth could sell.

They didn't think much to the Ocean:
The waves, they was fiddlin' and small,
There was no wrecks and nobody drowneded,
Fact, nothing to laugh at all.

So, seeking for further amusement,
They paid and went into the Zoo,
Where they'd Lions and Tigers and Camels,
And old ale and sandwiches too.

There were one great big Lion called Wallace;
His nose were all covered with scars –
He lay in a somnolent posture,
With the side of his face on the bars.

Now Albert had heard about Lions,
How they was ferocious and wild –
To see Wallace lying so peaceful,
Well, it didn't seem right to the child.

So straightway the brave little feller,
Not showing a morsel of fear,
Took his stick with its 'orse's 'ead 'andle
And pushed it in Wallace's ear.

You could see that the Lion didn't like it,
For giving a kind of a roll,
He pulled Albert inside the cage with 'im,
And swallowed the little lad 'ole.

Then Pa, who had seen the occurrence,
And didn't know what to do next,
Said 'Mother! Yon Lion's 'et Albert',
And Mother said 'Ee, I am vexed!'

Then Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom –
Quite rightly, when all's said and done –
Complained to the Animal Keeper
That the Lion had eaten their son.

The keeper was quite nice about it;
He said 'What a nasty mishap.
Are you sure that it's your boy he's eaten?'
Pa said 'Am I sure? There's his cap!'

The manager had to be sent for,
He came and said 'What's to do?'
Pa said 'Yon Lion's 'et Albert,
And 'im in his Sunday clothes, too.'

Then Mother said, 'Right's right, young feller,
I think it's a shame and a sin
For a lion to go and eat Albert,
And after we've paid to come in.'

The manager wanted no trouble,
He took out his purse right away,
Saying 'How much to settle the matter?'
And Pa said 'What do you usually pay?'

But Mother had turned a bit awkward
When she thought where her Albert had gone.
She said 'No! someone's got to be
summonsed'—
So that was decided upon.

Then off they went to the P'lice Station,
In front of the Magistrate chap;
They told 'im what happened to Albert,
And proved it by showing his cap.

The Magistrate gave his opinion
That no one was really to blame,
And he said that he hoped the Ramsbottoms
Would have further sons to their name.

At that Mother got proper blazing,
'And thank you, sir, kindly,' said she.
'What, waste all our lives raising children
To feed ruddy Lions? Not me!'

I'm late, I'm late

For a very important date
No time to say 'Hello', 'Goodbye'
I'm late, I'm late, I'm late
No, no, no, no
No, no, no, I'm overdue
I'm really stew
No time to say 'Goodbye', 'Hello'
I'm late, I'm late, I'm late

I'm a little teapot

I'm a little teapot, short and stout
Here is my handle, here is my spout
When I get all steamed up, hear me shout
Just tip me over and pour me out!

I'm a clever teapot, yes it's true
Here's an example of what I can do
I can change my handle to my spout
Just tip me over and pour me out.

I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch

Of all the saddest words
That I have ever heard
The saddest is the story
Told me by a bird
He had spent about an hour
Chatting with a flower
and here is the tale the flower told
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch,
an onion patch, an onion patch
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch
and all I do is cry all day
Boo hoo, boo hoo
The air is so strong it takes my breath away
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch,
oh won't you come and play with me
Who put me in this bed?
I'll bet his face is red
I call him down with every teardrop that I
shed
If I only had him here
I'd take him by the ear
And make him share my misery
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch,
an onion patch, an onion patch
I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch
and all I do is cry all day
Boo hoo, boo hoo
The air is so strong it takes my breath away
(Feee-you!)

I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch,
oh won't you come and play with me

Tubby the Tuba

There once was a band, best in the land
Everybody said oh my, they're grand
But oh, how they laughed when the tuba
went by
With an oompah pah, and a great big sigh
Tubby the tuba puffing away never had a
tune to play
Always dreamed he'd sing a song instead of
puffing all day long
With his oompah, oom pah pah, oom pah,
oompah pah pah
Tubby said oh, gosh oh, gee, wish I had a
melody
I'd be better off I know if I didn't have to
blow
This oompah, oom pah pah, oompah, oom
pah pah
Then a friendly frog came by and said now
Tubby don't you cry
Take my bullfrog serenade and you'll be the
star of the big parade
Tubby sang the song so grand, now he's
leader of the band
He's as famous as can be with Tubby the
tuba's melody
Then a friendly frog came by and said now
Tubby don't you cry

Take my bullfrog serenade and you'll be the
star of the big parade
Tubby sang the song so grand, now he's
leader of the band
He's as famous as can be with Tubby the
tuba's melody
Tubby the tuba's melody

I know an old lady

I know an old lady who swallowed a fly
I don't know why she swallowed the fly
Perhaps she'll die

I know an old lady who swallowed a spider
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside
her
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly
But I don't know why she swallowed the fly
Perhaps she'll die

I know an old lady who swallowed a bird
How absurd to swallow a bird
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside
her
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly
But I don't know why she swallowed the fly
Perhaps she'll die

I know an old lady who swallowed a cat
Imagine that. She swallowed a cat.

She swallowed the cat to catch the bird
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside
her
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly
But I don't know why she swallowed that fly
Perhaps she'll die

I know an old lady who swallowed a dog
What a hog to swallow a dog!
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside
her
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly
But I don't know why she swallowed that fly
Perhaps she'll die

I know an old lady who swallowed a goat
Opened her throat and down went the goat!
She swallowed the goat to catch the dog
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside
her
She swallowed the spider to catch the fly
But I don't know why she swallowed that fly
Perhaps she'll die

I know an old lady who swallowed a cow
I don't know how she swallowed the cow
She swallowed the cow to catch the goat
She swallowed the goat to catch the dog
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider
That wriggled and jiggled and tickled inside
her

She swallowed the spider to catch the fly
But I don't know why she swallowed that fly
Perhaps she'll die

I know an old lady who swallowed a horse
She's dead of course!

I want a hippopotamus For Christmas

I want a hippopotamus for Christmas
Only a hippopotamus will do
Don't want a doll, no dinky Tinker Toy
I want a hippopotamus to play with and
enjoy
I want a hippopotamus for Christmas
I don't think Santa Claus will mind, do you?
He won't have to use our dirty chimney flue
Just bring him through the front door,
that's the easy thing to do
I can see me now on Christmas morning,
creeping down the stairs
Oh what joy and what surprise
when I open up my eyes
to see a hippo hero standing there

I want a hippopotamus for Christmas
Only a hippopotamus will do
No crocodiles, no rhinoceroses
I only like hippopotamuses
And hippopotamuses like me too
Mom says the hippo would eat me up, but
then
Teacher says a hippo is a vegetarian
There's lots of room for him in our two-car
garage
I'd feed him there and wash him there and
give him his massage
I can see me now on Christmas morning,
creeping down the stairs
Oh what joy and what surprise
when I open up my eyes
to see a hippo hero standing there
I want a hippopotamus for Christmas
Only a hippopotamus will do
No crocodiles or rhinoceroseses
I only like hippopotamuseseses

CHILDREN'S FAVOURITES

THE UGLY DUCKLING • THUMBELINA • THE LION AND ALBERT And many more

Here are some of the most loved and entertaining stories and songs from the world of classic children's favourites. In an age of computer games, TV and CGI films, *The Lion and Albert*, *Tubby the Tuba*, *I want a hippopotamus for Christmas*, *I know an old lady*, retain a remarkable ability to charm and amuse listeners of all generations. And then there was Danny Kaye, perhaps the most instinctive children's entertainer of all. Included in this programme are many of the most popular numbers from the film *Hans Christian Andersen*.

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