

# 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**

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# 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

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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**

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## 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 drowned,  
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.



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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.

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### **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

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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

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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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