

Odę to a goose

A poem by Luò Bīnwáng (627-684) who wrote it when he was just seven years old. He was one of the four important poets of the early Tang period.

Find more here: <http://www.chinesefolksongs.com/y466ng-eacute-to-goose.html>

To translate this Chinese poem into English without losing its beautiful imagery and meaning is a challenge as this Mandarin structure uses very few syllables. In order to capture its essence and meaning and still be singable it is necessary allow for longer words.

Translation and arrangement of the music by Dany Rosevear.

1. Hold one arm up with hand bent and the other hand on the hip. Flap wings. 2. As before with hand stretched. Paddle hands.

The image shows a musical score for the poem 'Odę to a goose'. It consists of two staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: 'Goose, goose, goose, Bend your neck and sing, White feath - ers float ___ ing on the wat - er green;'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'Goose, goose, goose, stretch up to the ___ sky, Red feet ___ pad - dle - ing spread - ing rip - ples wide. wide.' The score includes various chords (G, Em, Am, D) and a repeat sign with first and second endings.



Goose, goose, goose, bend your neck and sing,
White feathers floating on the water green;
Goose goose goose, stretch up to the sky,
Red feet paddling spreading ripples wide.

Pinyin Version

é, é, é,

Qǔ xiàng xiàng tiān gē.

Bái máo fú lù shuǐ,

Hóng zhǎng bō qīng bō.