

Keyman, keyman



<https://riverofsong.uk/>

A joyous song from Jamaica; this Revival song tells the story of Noah and the Ark, one of the most popular children's Bible stories. Keyman or God, locks up the animals securely to save them from the floods. It was originally a wake song, 'A fear of every animal', a display of communal solidarity and support p234

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/326507775.pdf>

The last four verses here were written by the talented PM Adamson, you can find his version here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnE1ht6fWU8>

There are several great versions sung in the Jamaican Patois including this great one by the fantastic [St. George's College Choir JA](#).

As a young teacher in Handsworth Birmingham in the late 1960s I taught many children of recent immigrants from Jamaica; we often sang songs from that part of the world especially calypsos!— I had not come across this song before but found it recently in a little booklet called Dandy Shandy OUP 1975.

A pair of ev - 'ry an - i - mal was safe in the Ark, Safe in the Ark, safe in the Ark, A

pair of ev - 'ry an - i - mal was safe in the Ark, Key - man lock the door and gawn.

Key - man, key - man, key - man, key - man, Key - man lock the door— and gawn.

Key - man, key - man, key - man, key - man, Key - man lock the door— and gawn.



A pair of ev'ry animal was safe in the Ark,
Safe in the Ark, safe in the Ark,
A pair of ev'ry animal was safe in the Ark,
Keyman lock the door an' gawn.

Keyman, keyman, keyman, keyman,
Keyman lock the door an' gawn.
Keyman, keyman, keyman, keyman,
Keyman lock the door an' gawn.

The rains came down and the floods came up,
Floods came up, floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
Keyman lock the door an' gawn.

The Ark it sailed right over the sea,
Over the sea, over the sea,
The Ark it sailed right over the sea,
Keyman lock the door an' gawn.

The Ark it came to rest on dry land,
Rest on dry land, rest on dry land.
The Ark it came to rest on dry land,
Keyman lock the door an' gawn.

The animals went right back to the land,
Back to the land, back to the land,
The animals went right back to the land,
Keyman lock the door an' gawn.