

O can ye sew cushions?

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An old Scottish cradle song sung in 3/4 and 4/4 time.

One of many collected by Robert Burns. Some words are just baby talk, others are dialect: ye/you, wi'/with, bairn/baby, greets/cries, biggit/built, doo/dove, mony/many, lammie/lamb, ken/know, saut/salt. I found this in "If I had a song" published by the Workers' Music Association published in 1954. It can also be found in Singing Together 1950 Summer.

Musical score for the song "O can ye sew cushions?". The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, D, G, D, G, D, G, D, C, G, D, G, D, G, D, G, D, G. The lyrics are: "O can ye sew cu - shions and can ye sew sheets, And can ye sing ba - loo - loo, when the bairn greets? And hee and baw bird - die and hee and baw lamb, And hee and baw bird - die, my bon - nie wee lamb. Hee - o, wee - o, what would I do wi' you, Black's the life that I lead wi' you, O'er mo - ny o' you, lit - tle for to gi'e you, Hee - o, wee - o, what would I do wi' you."



O can ye sew cushions and can ye sew sheets?
And can ye sing balooloo when the bairn greets?
And hee and baw birdie, and hee and baw lamb,
And hee and baw, birdie, my bonnie wee lamb!

*Chorus: Hee-o, wee-o, what would I do wi' you?
Black's the life that I lead wi' you;
Mony o' you, little for to gi'e you,
Hee-o, wee-o, what would I do wi' you?*



I biggit the cradle upon the treetop,
And aye, as the wind blew, my cradle did rock.
And hush a baw baby and balillyloo,
And hee and baw birdie, my bonnie wee doo. *Chorus*

Sing balooloo lammie, sing balooloo dear,
Does wee Tammie ken that it's daddie's no here?
You're rocking as sweetly on mammie's warm knee.
But daddie's a-rockin' upon the saut sea. *Chorus*



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