

Sing Along

Music is a part of every culture, and captures our history as it happens. English music in the 17th Century was no doubt carried to the colonies as settlers used time aboard their long journeys to the Americas singing songs and telling stories.

One such song is “Tom, Tom the Piper’s Son,” a late 17th Century nursery rhyme. Its lyrics have changed over time, but the tune remains the same. The original rhyme is considered to be written by a man named Thomas D’Urfey in England in the 1690s. The song was later turned into a military recruitment song in the 18th Century. Below, you’ll find the nursery rhyme lyrics.

To hear the tune and sing along, please find the music on Youtube by clicking [here](https://youtu.be/0MR7VihPm2E), or copying this address into your search bar: <https://youtu.be/0MR7VihPm2E> (Disclaimer: this does not belong to nor was it created by the Museum. We are using this example as it provides a high-quality rendition of the song)

Tom, he was a piper's son,
He learnt to play when he was young,
And all the tune that he could play
Was 'over the hills and far away';
Over the hills and a great way off,
The wind shall blow my top-knot off.

Tom with his pipe made such a noise,
That he pleased both the girls and boys,
They all stopped to hear him play,
'Over the hills and far away'.

Tom with his pipe did play with such skill
That those who heard him could never keep still;
As soon as he played they began for to dance,
Even the pigs on their hind legs would after him prance.
As Dolly was milking her cow one day,
Tom took his pipe and began to play;
So Dolly and the cow danced 'The Cheshire Round',
Till the pail was broken and the milk ran on the ground.