

# *Flanders and Swann*

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A [Global British Comedy Collaborative](#) document.

Edited by John Lucas

A Few Words of Explanation: The principal works of Flanders and Swann (*At the Drop of a Hat*, *At the Drop of Another Hat*, *Tried by the Centre Court*, *The Bestiary*) exist in two or three forms:

1. UK recorded and manufactured EMI LPs, roughly contemporaneous with the original shows.
2. UK recorded but US manufactured Angel LPs, generally sold during and after the American tours some years later.
3. UK remastered EMI CDs, taken from a variety of sources and adding additional previously unreleased songs, published in the 1990s. Thus, *The Complete Flanders and Swann* is really four LPs on three CDs with some added content.

There are several approaches that one could take to cataloguing and digitizing this material. I have chosen to evaluate each song independently, grouping songs by the original packaging (i.e., four LPs) rather than the ordering and grouping represented on the CDs. All variants of a song performed by Flanders and Swann are presented together, instead of considering each LP or CD as a separate entire work.

Chronological ordering is difficult in the absence of a scholarly study of remaining F&S manuscripts. Much of the music was not even written down until after Flanders’ death. “The Hippopotamus Song” is probably the most famous and is often thought of belonging to the “Bestiary” volume. It is not. It is one of the earliest of all of their songs, performed long before the initial performances of *At the Drop of a Hat*, but included in that show. I am unaware of *Tried by the Centre Court* being issued in the U.S. Rather, some of its songs appeared in U.S. versions of “Hat” and “Another Hat.” The packaging of the much later CDs further confuses what songs should belong to what collection.

To summarize, each song is listed *once* in the main listings with all F&S performances, regardless of packaging. Performances by other people are listed separately.

<b><i>Flanders and Swann</i></b> .....	1
At the Drop of a Hat .....	2
Comp.F&S disc 1 (Lucas) .....	2
The Bestiary .....	2
At the Drop of Another Hat .....	3
Poems and Songs of Middle Earth, Directed by Howard Sackler .....	3
Tolkien and His World .....	3
The Extiary (songs performed by Flanders and Swann but never issued) .....	3
Flanders and Swann Special – Laugh Radio .....	4
Hat Trick – The Story of Flanders and Swann, .....	4
Good, some mono/stereo encoding artifacts In two parts 56:10/56:49 .....	4
Double Trouble – Flanders and Swann .....	4
Other Performances of Individual Songs .....	4
The Kings Singers: Flanders and Swann .....	4
Buses, Gasmen and Hippos .....	4
Alphabetaphon .....	4
Archive Hour – Flanders on Flanders .....	5

Provenance: Comp.F&S = *The Complete Flanders and Swann*, EMI (Import) CDFSB1 (CDS 7974642) [Three CDs and book]

		Date	Program	Provenance	Recording Location

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Provenance</i>	<i>Recording Location</i>
	02-May-1959	<b><i>At the Drop of a Hat</i></b> 1. A Transport of Delight UK01: 4:47, US01: 4:30, CD01: 5:29 2. Song of Reproduction UK02: 3:07, US02: 2:52, CD02: 3:36 3. The Gnu Song UK03: 6:03, US05: 3:09, CD03: 7:02 4. Design for Living UK04: 4:25, US09: 3:41, CD04: 3:43 5. Je suis les Ténébreux UK05: 2:27, US??: ----, CD05: 2:15 6. Songs for Our Time (Philological Waltz; Satellite Moon; A Happy Song) UK06: 5:16, US06: 4:54, CD06: 4:58 7. A Song of the Weather UK07: 1:56, US07: 2:01, CD07: 2:01 8. The Reluctant Cannibal UK08: 4:11, US08: 3:58. CD08: 3:59 9. Greensleeves UK09: 6:01, US03: 7:01, CD09: 7:06 10. Misalliance UK10: 3:50, US11: 4:25, CD10: 4:25 11. Kokoraki UK11: 3:59, US??: ----, CD11: 4:59 12. Madeira M'Dear UK12: 4:56, US12: 3:40, CD12: 3:37 13. The Hippopotamus Song UK13: 3:07, US14: 3:55, CD17: 3:12 14. Encore: Lord Chamberlain's Regulations #1: The Public May Leave UK14: 0:51	Comp.F&S disc 1 (Lucas) SF (from UK LP) SF (from US LP)	
	1961?	<b><i>The Bestiary</i></b> 1. The Warthog (The Hog Beneath the Skin) CD Bestiary01 4:14 2. The Sea Horse CD Bestiary02 1:31 3. The Chameleon CD Bestiary03 1:01 4. The Whale (Mopy Dick) CD Bestiary04 3:28 5. The Sloth CD Bestiary05 3:15 6. The Rhinoceros CD Bestiary06 2:36 7. Twosome – Kang & Jag (Kangaroo Tango and Jaguar) CD Bestiary07 2:04 8. Dead Ducks CD Bestiary08 0:41 9. The Elephant CD Bestiary09 2:40 10. The Armadillo CD Bestiary10 3:52 11. The Spider CD Bestiary11 2:21 12. Threesome – Duck Billed Platypus / The Humming Bird / The Portuguese Man-o'-War CD Bestiary12 1:05 13. The Wild Boar CD Bestiary13 2:23 14. The Ostrich CD Bestiary14 2:56 15. The Wompom <sup>1</sup> US ATDAH13 2:53, CD Bestiary15 5:52	Comp.F&S disc3	
		<b>Tried by the Centre Court: Selections from their shows 1957-1967.</b> <b>[EMI LP NTS116]</b> 1. Introduction and Twice Shy UK TBTCC01 6:21, US: ??, CD EXTIARY16 4:12 2. Commonwealth Fair UK TBTCC02 2:35, US: ??, CD EXTIARY17 4:06 3. P**p*B****B**D***** (Pee Po Belly Bum DRAWERS) UK TBTCC03 4:34, US: ??, CD EXTIARY18 6:20 4. Too Many Cookers UK TBTCC04 4:30, US:??, CD ATDAH13 3:29 5. Vanessa] UK: TBTCC05 3:58, US??, CD ATDAH14 3:58 6. <u>Tried by the Centre Court</u> UK TBTCC06 3:53, US ATDAH10 4:07, CD ATDAH15 4:05 7. Paris UK TBTCC07 5:40, US: ??, CD EXTIARY19 4:05 8. Eine kleine Nachtmusik Cha Cha Cha UK TBTCC08 1:53, US: ??, CD EXTIARY20 0:31 9. The Hundred Song UK TBTCC09 1:14, US: ??, CD EXTIARY22 1:09 10. Built Up Area UK TBTCC10 3:18, US: ??, CD ATDArH14 3:22 11. In the Bath UK TBTCC11 2:33, US ATDAH04:3:51, CD ATDArH15 2:34 12. Sea Fever UK TBTCC12 3:43, US: ??, CD ATDArH16 3:55 13. The Youth of the Heart UK TBTCC13 3:05, US ??, CD ATDAH16 3:14 14. Food for Thought UK TBTCC14 3:52, US: ??, CD EXTIARY22 3:55 15. Bed UK TBTCC15 3:25, US: ??, CD EXTIARY23 3:19	SF	

<sup>1</sup> "The Wompom" was added to *At the Drop of a Hat* during its New York run. It was included in the US record of that show but not in the UK record.

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Provenance</i>	<i>Recording Location</i>		
	1964?	<b>At the Drop of Another Hat</b> The Gas-Man Cometh UK: ??, US01: 5:32, CD01 6:44 Sounding Brass UK: ??, US02: 4:04, CD02 2:53 Los Olividados UK: ??, US03: 6:09, CD03 6:38 In the Desert UK: ??, US04: 3:09, CD04 3:45 Ill Wind UK: ??, US05: 4:07, CD05 5:01 First and Second Law UK: ??, US06: 4:15, CD06 2:56 All Gall UK: ??, US07: 2:52, CD07 3:53 Horoscope UK: ??, US08: 2:50, CD08 1:10 Friendly Duet UK: ??, US09: 1:54, CD09 2:20 Bedstead Men UK: ??, US10: 3:44, CD10 3:16 By Air UK: ??, US11: 5:24, CD11: 6:17 Slow Train UK: ??, US12: 3:47, CD12: 5:26 A Song of Patriotic Prejudice UK: ??, US13: 5:27, CD13 2:51 Hippo Encore UK: ??, US14: 1:20, CD17 1:16	JL LP: Angel S 36388 Comp.F&S disc2			
	c.1967	<b>Poems and Songs of Middle Earth, Directed by Howard Sackler</b> J.R.R. Tolkien reading from <i>The Adventures of Tom Bombadil</i> 1. The Adventures of Tom Bombadil 6:47 2. The Mewlips 1:23 3. The Hoard 3:31 4. Perry-the-Winkle 4:22 5. The Man in the Moon Came Down Too Soon 3:38 6. The Sea-Bell 5:13 From <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> 7. J.R.R. Tolkien recites "A Elbereth Gilthoniel" 0:14 <i>The Road Goes Ever On</i> , a song cycle based on the words of J.R.R. Tolkien in <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> and music by Donald Swann, sung by William Elvin, piano by Donald Swann 8. The Road Goes Ever On (Vol.1, Bk.1, Ch.1) 1:00 9. Upon the Hearth the Fire Is Red (Vol.1, Bk.1, Ch.3) 1:35 10. In the Willow-Meads of Tasarinan (Vol.2, Bk.3, Ch.4) 2:35 11. In Western Lands (Vol.3, Bk.4?, Ch. 2) 2:15 12. Namárië (vol.1, Bk.2, Ch.8) 2:13 13. I Sit Beside the Fire / A Elbereth Gilthoniel (Vol.1, Bk.2, Ch.3) 2:40 14. Errantry (from <i>The Adventures of Tom Bombadil</i> ) 4:34	SF Cassette from Caedmon TC1231			
c. 1975		<b>Tolkien and His World</b>	Donald Swann	27:40, S 28:30, S edited to 27:12, 25511, S 27:45, 26032, S	A-GC-001	G ✓
	December 24, 1974 BBC Radio 4	<b>And Then We Wrote: A Review of Reviews, 1948-1956</b> <b>Starring Michael Flanders &amp; Donald Swann</b> <b>With: Julian Orchard, Pat Lancaster, Charlotte Mitchell &amp; Anne Rogers</b> 1. Introduction and In the D'Oyly Cart 6:08 2. Prehistoric Complaint 3:37 3. The Album 3:40 4. There's a Hole in my Budget 2:23 5. The Seven Ages of Woman 10:12 6. Fragments 1:09 7. Pillar to Post 2:45 8. A Guide to Britten 5:38 9. Excelsior 4:35 10. Rain on the Plage 2:04 11. Last of the Line 3:35 12. Rockall 2:55 13. The Lord Chamberlain's Regulations 4:27	SF Excellent			
	1973?	<b>The Extiary</b> (songs performed by Flanders and Swann but never issued) 1. 20 Tons of TNT CD EXTIARY24 2:30 2. The War of 14-18 CD EXTIARY25 2:15	Comp.F&S disc3			
	???	<b>Michael Flanders – Christmas Songs</b> Narrated by Michael Flanders, Performed by unknown choir	SW, Good, 12:37			

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Provenance</i>	<i>Recording Location</i>
		<b>Ian Wallace singing Flanders and Swann</b> 1. A Transport of Delight [see also <i>At the Drop of a Hat</i> ] 2:37 2. The Hippopotamus Song (Mud) [ <i>At the Drop of a Hat</i> ] 3:04 3. The Rhinoceros [ <i>Bestiary</i> ] 2:41 4. The Warthog [ <i>Bestiary</i> ] 3:44 5. The Elephant [ <i>Bestiary</i> ] 2:50 6. The Wild Boar [ <i>Bestiary</i> ] 2:23 7. The Armadillo [ <i>Bestiary</i> ] 3:20 8. Ill Wind [ <i>At the Drop of Another Hat</i> ] 3:20 9. The Gondolier 3:09 10. The Income Tax Collector 3:02	SF Good/fair Some groove distortion on fortissimo.	
	May, 1989	<b>John Amis and Donald Swann at the Brighton Festival (in 2 parts)</b> <b>[Private recording NOT intended for broadcast]</b> Autobiographical anecdotes, diverse music not just F&S or even Swann. Includes music by Rachmaninoff, a Chinese flute performance, Swann song settings of J.R.R. Tolkien poetry <sup>2</sup> , "Ill Wind" and much more.	SF Fair Uneven volume and hiss <sup>3</sup> Part 1: 40:02 Part 2: 44:09	
	2000-2001	<b>Flanders and Swann Special – Laugh Radio</b> MK Sharpe	M-AP-014 57:44, 67672, S	
	09-Oct-2001 16-Oct-2001	<b>Hat Trick – The Story of Flanders and Swann,</b> Presented by Tim Rice; recorded performances and sound bites by Michael Flanders and Donald Swann Comments by George Martin, Alison Smith, John Amis, Tony Benn, Laura Flanders, Ian Wallace, Richard Stilgoe, Ian Hislop, Stefan Bednarchek, Kit Hesketh-Harvey Written by Patrick Humphries Produced by Graham Pass (sp?)	SW Good, some mono/stereo encoding artifacts In two parts 56:10/56:49	
	26-Feb-2002	<b>Double Trouble – Flanders and Swann</b> Presented by Stewart Maconey Produced by Angela Sherman	PW 28:06, good	
	--	<b>Other Performances of Individual Songs</b> 1. The Hippopotamus Song (Sung by John Lithgow and children) 2:53 2. Mud (The Hippopotamus Song) (Sung by the Serendipity Singers) 3:12 3. Madeira M'Dear (Sung by Rolf Harris) 4:30	1. SF, good 2. JL, good Philips PHM 200-115 3. M-AP-014	
	Unknown	<b>The Kings Singers: Flanders and Swann</b> 1. A Transport of Delight 2:21 2. Slow Train 3:22 3. A Song of Patriotic Prejudice 2:43 4. Rockall 1:29 5. Misalliance 3:10 6. The Wompom 2:29 7. The Sloth 3:48 8. In the Bath 3:16	SF	
		<b>Buses, Gasmen and Hippos</b> Ian Wallace with reminiscences by John Amis, Sandy Wilson, George Martin,	<b>M-CB-014</b> <b>53:47, 75654, S</b>	
1989		<b>Alphabetaphon</b> Donald Swann's concert repertoire of songs by himself and others. 1. 38:32, 36140, S 2. 42:01, 39404, S 3. 39:16, 36820, S 4. 44:17, 41528, S 5. 34:18, 32172, S 6. 43:22, 40672, S	<b>SF D/L</b> Minor clipping	

<sup>2</sup> The second part includes a setting of a song to Luthien Tinuviel (from *The Silmarillion*) and Frodo's farewell to Middle Earth. These were written after Tolkien's death. These are distinct from the earlier seven-song Tolkien and Swann cycle, *The Road Goes Ever On*, which I have in a first printing from 1967. This was produced with the active collaboration of Professor and Mrs. Tolkien and is profusely illuminated with Tolkien's Elvish script. One song from *The Road Goes Ever On*, "I Sit by the Fire", was sung in American performances of *A Drop of Another Hat* but not included in the recordings. A rare Caedmon LP #TC1231, *Poems and Songs of Middle Earth*, includes Tolkien reading the poems, William Elvin [sic] singing, and Donald Swann accompanying.

<sup>3</sup> This was not recorded through the sound system of the hall, which in any case was not working correctly (John Amis tests his microphone part way through and shares with Donald Swann for the rest of the performance). Unlike most GBCC holdings, this performance has been manipulated to bring out what would have been inaudible dialogue and anecdotes. As a result, there is considerably more hiss and in varying degrees throughout. In this case, the rarity of the content argued for preservation and enhancement. While far from ideal, more of the material is now audible than was true in the original recording.

07/03/07

		<i>Date</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Provenance</i>	<i>Recording Location</i>
		03-Jun-2007	<b>Archive Hour – Flanders on Flanders</b> Stephanie Flanders “Gluttony”	BBC 4 web 57:27, 53866, S 4:44, 4452, S	