

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Jack Orion

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Jack Orion was as good fiddler  
As ever fiddled on a string  
And he could drive young women mad  
By the tune his wires would sing

But he would fiddle the fish out of salt water  
Water from bare marble stone  
Or the milk from out of a maiden's breast  
Though baby she had none

And there he played in the castle hall  
And there he played them fast asleep  
Except it was for the young countess  
And for love she stayed awake

And first he played them a slow slow air  
And then he played it brisk and gay  
And it's O dear love behind her hand  
And the lady she did say

And the day has dawned and the cocks have crown  
And flapped their wings so wide it's you  
Must come up to my chamber there  
And lie down by my side

So he lapped his fiddle in a cloth of green  
And he stole out on his tiptoe  
And he's off back to his young boy  
Tom As fast as he could go

Ere the day has dawned and the cocks have crowed  
And flapped their wings so wide  
I'm bid to go up to that lady's door  
And stretch out by her side

Lie down lie down my good master  
And here's a blanket to your hand  
I'll waken you in as good a time  
As any cock in the land

Oh Tom took the fiddle into his hand  
And he fiddled and he sang for half an hour

Until he played him fast asleep  
And he's off to the lady's bower

And when he come to the countess' door  
He twirled so softly at the pin  
And the lady true to her promise  
Rose up and let him in

He did not take that lady gay  
To bolster nor to bed but down  
Upon the hard cold bedroom floor  
Right soon he had her laid

And neither did he kiss her when he came  
Nor when from her he did go  
But in at the lady's bedroom window  
The moon like a coal did glow

Oh ragged are your stockings love  
And stubbly is your cheek and chin  
And tousled is that yellow hair  
That I saw late yestre'en

Me stockings belong to my boy Tom  
But they were the first came to my hand  
And the wind did tousle my yellow hair  
As I road over the land

Tom took the fiddle into his hand  
And he fiddled and he played so saucily  
And he's off back to his master's house  
As fast as go could he

Then up when up my good master  
Why snore you there so loud  
For there Is not a cock in all this land  
But has flapped his wings and crowed

Jack Orion took the fiddle into his hand  
And he fiddled and he played so merrily  
And he's off away to the lady's house  
As fast as a go could he

And when he come to the lady's door  
He twirled so softly at the ring  
O my dear it's your true love  
Rise up and let me in

She said surely you didn't leave behind

A golden brooch nor a velvet glove  
Or are you returned back again  
To taste more of my love

Jack Orion he swore a bloody oath  
By oak by ash by bitter thorn  
Lady I never was in this room  
Since the day that I was born

Oh then it was your own boy Tom  
That cruelly has beguiled me  
And woe that the blood of that ruffian boy  
Should spring in my body

Jack Orion took off to his own house  
Saying Tom my boy come here to me  
And he hanged that boy from his own gatepost  
As high as the willow tree

Sung by Martin Carthy on Martin Carthy & Dave Swarbrick's  
But Two Came By LP (and the CD re-release).

Child #67

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