



The Song of the Bat

Charles E. Leslie
(1845-1893)

Charles Eddy Leslie (1845-1893) was born in Lexington, Kentucky. He became a well-known author and teacher of music in Chicago, Illinois, establishing the C. E. Leslie Music House on Dearborn Street. He wrote and published many music teaching manuals, textbooks, and song collections, particularly his own compositions. He was an itinerant music teacher, travelling by buggy from town to town, teaching homesteaders how to read music and how to sing. His books and music were written specifically for this purpose and often incorporated texts about morals and values. He also hosted concerts and singing conventions throughout the Midwest. In 1881, he created the grandest exhibition of music in the history of Kansas. Leslie, with his wife and 28 assistants spent 14 weeks training singers in 73 towns for the "Kansas State Musical Jubilee." The plan called for one-week musical conventions in several towns. There were sessions for beginners, advanced teaching, voice culture, musical elocution, and practice of the choruses to be used at the jubilee. This would culminate in a two-day program with four concerts, in which all the choruses were brought together. Nearly every important town in the state was represented by a chorus. A choir consisting of 1,800 sopranos, 1,600 altos, 1,200 tenors and 1,400 basses, gathered on August 1 and performed for a sell-out crowd. This effort made a lasting effect on music education in the state of Kansas. He died at Cottage Grove, Wisconsin.

The bat, the bat is a very strange bird,
He flies all round and nothing is heard,
Except the flap of his ugly wings
Which is the only song that he sings,
In daylight he hides himself away
And no one can tell there he does stay,
But at night he's flying all round and about,
The houses and barns he takes in his route.

*He's in at the window, And out at the door,
He's up to the ceiling and down to the floor,
There, now I have him right under my hat,
Be careful or else you will hurt the poor bat,
Poor little bat, He's under my hat.*

The bat is out though a very dark night,
He flies all round as though it were light,
He has no fear of his life or health
'Tis true he has no money or wealth,
He's odd in his way and spends the day,
And no one can tell where he does stay.
But at night he's flying all round and about,
The houses and barns he takes in his route.

*He's in at the window, And out at the door,
He's up to the ceiling and down to the floor,
There, now I have him right under my hat,
Be careful or else you will hurt the poor bat,
Poor little bat, He's under my hat.*

The Song of the Bat

C. E. Leslie

S
The bat, the bat is a ver-y strange bird, He flies all round and no-thing is heard, Ex -

A
The bat, the bat is a ver-y strange bird, He flies all round and no-thing is heard, Ex -

T
The bat, the bat is a ver-y strange bird, He flies all round and no-thing is heard, Ex -

B
The bat, the bat is a ver-y strange bird, He flies all round and no-thing is heard, Ex -

5
S
cept the flap of his ug - ly wings Which is the on - ly song that he sings, In

A
cept the flap of his ug - ly wings Which is the on - ly song that he sings, In

T
cept the flap of his ug - ly wings Which is the on - ly song that he sings, In

B
cept the flap of his ug - ly wings Which is the on - ly song that he sings, In

9
S
day - light he hides him - self a - way And no one can tell there he does stay, But at

A
day - light he hides him - self a - way And no one can tell there he does stay, But at

T
day - light he hides him - self a - way And no one can tell there he does stay, But at

B
day - light he hides him - self a - way And no one can tell there he does stay, But at



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13

S night he's fly - ing all round and a - bout, The hous - es and barns he takes in his route. He's

A night he's fly - ing all round and a - bout, The hous - es and barns he takes in his route. He's

T 8 night he's fly - ing all round and a - bout, The hous - es and barns he takes in his route.

B night he's fly - ing all round and a - bout, The hous - es and barns he takes in his ___

17

S in at the win - dow, And out at the door,

A in at the win - dow, And out at the door,

T 8 He's up to the ceil - ing and down to the floor,

B He's up to the ceil - ing and down to the floor, There,

21

S Be care - ful or else you will hurt the poor bat,

A Be care - ful or else you will hurt the poor bat,

T 8 Be care - ful or else you will hurt the poor bat,

B now I have him right un - der my hat,

The Song of the Bat

25

S Poor lit - tle bat, Poor lit - tle bat.

A Poor lit - tle bat, Poor lit - tle bat.

T Poor lit - tle bat, Poor lit - tle bat.

B Poor lit - tle bat, He's un - der my hat.

S The bat is out tho' a ver - y dark night, He

A The bat is out tho' a ver - y dark night, He

T The bat is out tho' a ver - y dark night, He

B The bat is out tho' a ver - y dark night, He

34

S flies all round as tho' it were light, He has no fear of his

A flies all round as tho' it were light, He has no fear of his

T flies all round as tho' it were light, He has no fear of his

B flies all round as tho' it were light, He has no fear of his

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37

S life or health 'Tis true he has no mon - ey or wealth, He's odd in his way and

A life or health 'Tis true he has no mon - ey or wealth, He's odd in his way and

T 8 life or health 'Tis true he has no mon - ey or wealth, He's odd in his way and

B life or health 'Tis true he has no mon - ey or wealth, He's odd in his way and

41

S spends the day, And no one can tell where he does stay. But at night he's fly - ing all

A spends the day, And no one can tell where he does stay. But at night he's fly - ing all

T 8 spends the day, And no one can tell where he does stay. But at night he's fly - ing all

B spends the day, And no one can tell where he does stay. But at night he's fly - ing all

45

S round and a - bout, The hous - es and barns he takes in his route. He's in at the win - dow, And

A round and a - bout, The hous - es and barns he takes in his route. He's in at the win - dow, And

T 8 round and a - bout, The hous - es and barns he takes in his route.

B round and a - bout, The hous - es and barns he takes in his route.

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49

S out at the door,

A out at the door,

T He's up to the ceil - ing and down to the floor,

B He's up to the ceil - ing and down to the floor, There, now I have him right

53

S Be care - ful or else you will hurt the poor bat, Poor

A Be care - ful or else you will hurt the poor bat, Poor

T Be care - ful or else you will hurt the poor bat, Poor

B un - der my hat,

57

S lit - tle bat, Poor lit - tle bat.

A lit - tle bat, Poor lit - tle bat.

T lit - tle bat, Poor lit - tle bat.

B Poor lit - tle bat, He's un - der my hat.

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