



Old King Cole

John B. Shirley
(1860-1954)

S
 Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

A
 Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

T
 Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

B
 Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old — soul was he; He



Old King Cole

5

S called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his fid - dlers three.

A called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his fid - dlers three.

T called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his fid - dlers three.

B called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his fid - dlers three.

9

S Ev - 'ry fid-dler, he had a fine fid - dle, A ver - y fine fid - dle had he, Then

A Ev - 'ry fid-dler, he had a fine fid - dle, A ver - y fine fid - dle had he,

T Ev - 'ry fid-dler, he had a fine fid - dle, A ver - y fine fid - dle had he,

B Ev - 'ry fid-dler, he had a fine fid - dle, A ver - y fine fid - dle had he,

13

S twee - dle - dee - dle - dee, twee - dle - dee went the fid - dlers, And so mer - ry we'll all be.

A And so mer - ry we'll all be.

T And so mer - ry we'll all be.

B And so mer - ry we'll all be.

Old King Cole

17

S Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

A Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

T Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

B Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

21

S called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his pip - ers three.

A called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his pip - ers three.

T called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his pip - ers three.

B called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his pip - ers three.

25

S Ev - 'ry pip - er, he had a fine pipe, A ver - y fine pipe had he,

A Ev - 'ry pip - er, he had a fine pipe, A ver - y fine pipe had he, Then

T Ev - 'ry pip - er, he had a fine pipe, A ver - y fine pipe had he,

B Ev - 'ry pip - er, he had a fine pipe, A ver - y fine pipe had he,

Old King Cole

29

S And so mer - ry we'll all be.

A too - tle - too - tle - too, too - tle - too went the pip - ers, And so mer - ry we'll all be.

T And so mer - ry we'll all be.

B And so mer - ry we'll all be.

33

S Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

A Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

T Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

B Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

37

S called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his harp - ers three.

A called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his harp - ers three.

T called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his harp - ers three.

B called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his harp - ers three.

Old King Cole

41

S Ev - 'ry harp - er, he had a fine harp, A ver - y fine harp had he,

A Ev - 'ry harp - er, he had a fine harp, A ver - y fine harp had he,

T Ev - 'ry harp - er, he had a fine harp, A ver - y fine harp had he, Then

B Ev - 'ry harp - er, he had a fine harp, A ver - y fine harp had he,

45

S And so mer - ry we'll all be.

A And so mer - ry we'll all be.

T twang - a - twang - a - twang, twang - a - twang went the harp - ers, And so mer - ry we'll all be.

B And so mer - ry we'll all be.

49

S Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

A Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

T Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

B Old King Cole was a mer - ry old soul, And a mer - ry old soul was he; He

Old King Cole

53

S called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his drum - mers three.

A called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his drum - mers three.

T called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his drum - mers three.

B called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl, And he called for his drum - mers three.

57

S Ev - 'ry drum-mer, he had a fine drum, A ver - y fine drum had he,

A Ev - 'ry drum-mer, he had a fine drum, A ver - y fine drum had he,

T Ev - 'ry drum-mer, he had a fine drum, A ver - y fine drum had he,

B Ev - 'ry drum-mer, he had a fine drum, A ver - y fine drum had he, Then

61

S Then twee-dle-dee-dle-dee, twee-dle - dee went the fiddlers,

A

T Then

B rub - a - dub - a - dub, rub - a - dub went the drum - mers,

Old King Cole

65

S And so

A Then too-tle-too-tle-too, too-tle - too went the pip-ers, And so

T twang-a-twang-a-twang, twang-a - twang went the harp - ers, And so

B And so

69

S mer - ry we'll all be, _____ so mer - ry we'll all be.

A mer - ry we'll all be, _____ so mer - ry we'll all be.

T mer - ry we'll all be, _____ so mer - ry we'll all be.

B mer - ry we'll all be, _____ so mer - ry we'll all be.

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Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he;
He called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl,
Ans he called for his fiddlers three.
Ev'ry fiddler, he had a very fine fiddle,
A very fine fiddle had he,
Then twee-dle-dee went the fiddlers,
And so merry we'll all be.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he;
He called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl,
Ans he called for his pipers three.
Ev'ry piper, he had a very fine pipe,
A very fine pipe had he,
Then too-tle-too went the pipers,
And so merry we'll all be.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he;
He called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl,
Ans he called for his harpers three.
Ev'ry harper, he had a very fine harp,
A very fine harp had he,
Then twang-a-twang went the harpers,
And so merry we'll all be.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he;
He called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl,
Ans he called for his drmmers three.
Ev'ry drummer, he had a very fine drum,
A very fine drum had he,
Then rub-a-dub went the drummers,
And so merry we'll all be.

John B. Shirley (1860-1954) was born in Manhattan, New York City. As a young child, he was taken to Scotland and raised there. He studied vocal music and became a bass soloist, winning the Scottish gold medal at Glasgow one year in a contest with 400 aspiring singers. He returned to the United States as a young adult and became superintendent of music in the Lansingburg public schools in Troy, New York, where he remained for 44 years until his retirement in 1937. He was director of the music department at the Summer-Institute for New York State Teachers at Thousand Island Park, was active in the Troy Vocal Society, directed the Tourists Harmony Quartet and was member of the Burns Club and of the American Guild of Organists. After retirement, he spent winters in St. Petersburg, Florida, where he became active in several musical organizations and founded the Three-Quarter Century Chorus. He died in Eagle Mills, New York. He was widely known as vocalist, conductor and composer. He published a number of books containing his editions, arrangements and compositions for choirs.

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