

Got To Learn to Dance

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Teacher threw a party at the county school
All the girls were boogieing around the pool
Everything was cool until Rebecca France
Wandered up and asked me, "Do you want to dance?"

She grabbed me by the arm and pulled me on the floor
But my legs were marching by themselves towards the door
I started to sweat I started to ache
I started to stammer and stumble and shake

And she said, "Come on Sam, don't be such a woos!"

Well I'm not a coward and I'm not a fool – in fact
I'm just about the coolest dude around this school
I have a reputation that I have to keep
But I was so embarrassed that I couldn't sleep!

So the every next day I was walking past
The door to Madam France's dancing class
I took a giant breath and I walked right through
She said, "Come in Sam we've been waiting for you!"

*You've got to learn to dance, you have to learn to dance
Like Kelley, Prince, or Fred Astaire a dancer's welcome anywhere
Got to learn to dance, just give yourself the chance
You'll discover very soon you're walking backwards on the moon*

Now my parents can't believe what goes on round here
We stay at home and study films of Fred Astaire
And sometimes late at night when I'm fast asleep
I dream that I'm performing the Nijinsky leap!

So every now and then when they get the chance
The teachers throw a party so we all can dance
We dress up like the dancers on the movie screen
So our celluloid heroes can live again!

Kiwi Kids (r rockin' it)

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Now the show begins
As the spotlight beams upon us
You can see us centre stage
We're your kids your hopes
We're the heroes of the future
We're the new unwritten page

The time has come around at last
For us to show the world that ...

*Kiwi kids are rockin' it, rockin' it
Kiwi kids are tops
Kiwi kids are living it, living it
Look what we've got
Kids can do anything, anything
Give it a try
Kiwi kids are rockin' it, rockin' it.
Just watch us fly*

Now the game begins
You can see us from the sidelines
We are in the winning team
We're the best there is
We can take it to the limit
We can live our wildest dreams

The time has come around at last
For us to show the world that ...

Monster in the Lake

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Now Mum and Dad were worried sick
'Bout our farm near Raetihi
They couldn't pay the mortgage
The bank said we should leave
So Mother sent us fishing
She said she needed time
When on the lake we saw a wake
And something snapped the line

*There's something big and scary in our lake
It only shows for those who sit and wait
It's probably a dinosaur from eighty million years or more
I know you're going to find this hard to take
But there's something big in Macrocarpa Lake*

Dad and I both panicked
And madly dashed for home
I biked into Raetihi
And Dad rushed for the phone
By six o'clock the Navy had their choppers in the air
With specialists from Scotland and their sonar tracking gear

TV news sent camera crews
My father was a star
My Mother backed expensive cakes
And sold them from the car
Grandad charged the townies fifteen bucks to park
As twenty thousand tourists stood with flashlights in the dark

Monday morning filthy rich
We rolled up to the bank
I said, "Mum that was so lucky
This beast we have to thank"
My mother answered carefully
"That was no stroke of luck
If you can keep a secret
Look in Grandad Owen's truck" (Oh no!)

*There's something big and scary in our lake
It only shows for those who sit and wait
I think you'll find a rubber tube, some polythene and superglue
I knew that you would find this hard to take
That there's something big in Macrocarpa Lake*

Irish Music

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Grandad Murphy comes from Belfast
Nana comes from Sligo Bay
But though their hands are old and sore
I love to hear them sing and play

Di di diddle I diddle I di
Di di diddle I diddle I di
Di di diddle I diddle I di
Di di diddle I di
Di di diddle I diddle I di
Di di diddle I diddle I di
Di di diddle I diddle I di
Di di diddle I di

I love to hear them play the fiddle
The whistle and the bodhran drum
And though I love the rap and metal
Irish music's much more fun

I love to live in Aotearoa
I love to have my friends at home
But I'm saving up to go to Cork
To kiss the old Blarney Stone

The House From Hell

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Now Mr Graves thought they should move
His wife and kids did not approve
He found a house on Dante Street
“Great potential very cheap”
Moved them in on Friday Night
Fled at dawn by candlelight

At first it seemed your average home
Just no power or shower or phone
Oh yes, and this revolting stink
Oozing from the kitchen sink
But then things started tuning weird
When the children climbed the stairs to bed

*We had ectoplasm on the walls
Ghostly moaning from the halls
Muffled screaming down the well
Welcome to the house from Hell*

They didn't sleep too well that night
A hand kept turning on the light
Then stains appeared above their heads
Dripping blood on to their beds
And as the walls were closing in
Sister's head began to spin

And then the banshee started up
It sounded like a strangled pup
Horseman riding around the bed
Hatchet buried in his head
Then father cried, “I just can't cope
An exorcist's our only hope”

Then Mother screamed, “Enough's enough
Heads will roll I'm getting tough”
The land agent found out very quick
He's now selling ice in Reykjavik
So when buying houses you'd do well
To just avoid The House from Hell

Never Hitch a Ride with a Martian

© 1991 D.A.Clark

Me and my cobbles were playing cops and robbers
On our farm near Raetahi - when
With a blinding flash a UFO crashed
Into the macrocarpa tree
We stood and stared as the vapour cleared
Till a voice called from inside
"If you get me a spanner I can fix my scanner
And I'll take you for a ride"

Well me and my mates thought this was great
So we helped him fix his ship
With a picnic lunch and some chips to munch
We were ready for our trip
Then the Martian cried, "All you guys inside!"
Then we heard a mighty roar
A screen went flick, a switch went click
And our stomachs hit the floor

*Don't ever hitch a ride with a Martian
They always to go like mad
The often drive warp factor five
Though their eyesight's really bad - but
If you ever hitch a ride with a Martian
You'll find that Einstein's wrong
They go so fast, no time goes past
And you're back before you've gone*

For one light year we shook with fear
As the ship went through its paces
We'd narrowly avoid an asteroid
As the blood drained from our faces
I grabbed the map from the Martian chap
And showed him Earth's location
As he strained to squint at the tiny print
We screamed in desperation

By half past nine interstellar time
We were lost among the stars
Our Martian friend could no longer pretend
That he knew where he was
So my mate Rex gave him his specs
To save our expedition
Then back to Earth for all we're worth
In search of an optician

Computer Ghost

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It's only just a year ago our lives began to change
Dad bought an old computer from a second-hand exchange
"Especially for your homework", excitedly he cried
And with a grin he plugged it in
The circus had arrived

Then he bought a modem, he'd heard about the Net
Downloaded something sinister, we haven't caught it yet
It likes to chase the drivers and terrify the mouse
And then confuse the IRQs
Drop data round the house

*Computer ghost, computer ghost
He always takes the blame
When blame is needed most
We don't know how he crashed our lives
Only know he trashed our drives
Computer ghost*

My brother had a birthday, we thought we'd play a game
We loaded up a CD-ROM and tried to fly a plane
Then somewhere over Nelson something spooked the mouse
We spiralled down towards the town
And crashed into our house

Computer's been in pieces a dozen times or more
Technician sees us coming and hides behind the door
We've substituted motherboards, we've reinstalled the RAM
This can't be true it's just like new
But back it comes again

There's one thing I have noticed
Perhaps I shouldn't say
Our problems seem to vanish
Whenever Dad's away.

U.N. Hapu

© 1997 D.A.Clark

Now if you met my classmates
You'd see just what I mean
There are kids from every place on Earth
The strangest mix you've seen
We have an institution that works just like a dream
The Kiwi Room Two U.N. Hapu
Mediation team

*Wherever there's a crisis, no matter what the scale
You'll need conflict resolution
To get peace talks on the rails
Before things all turn crazy, before it gets extreme
Call the Kiwi Room Two U.N. Hapu Mediation Team*

When somewhere on the planet
There's rancour or revolt
We call a special sitting
So the members can consult
The delegates assemble
To analyse the news
And try to reach consensus
From a dozen different views

There's Choeun from Cambodia
And Li Bing from Taiwan
And Kifle from Somalia
And Michelle from Gabon
A dozen Polynesian kids
A couple from Kowloon
And I'm from Porirua
And my sister's from the moon

Now some folk need to travel
To find the world is round
And some folk never venture
To the other side of town
But we don't need to wander
To look for greener grass
'Cause our United Nations is
Convening in my class

21st Century

© 1990 D.A.Clark

Te Tau rua mano kia kaha kia kaha
Te Tau rua mano kia maia kia maia

The air is alive
And the feeling is growing
From the schools of Bombay
To the streets of New York
You have to start tending
What you have been sowing
You have to start listening
So let us kids talk

*Because we are the kids of the 21st century
We are the ones who'll inherit the earth
We have to live in the 21st century
Now we want to know what our planet is worth
We've got our plans for the 21st century
Love as our teacher and truth as our word
So don't leave your junk in the 21st century
The children of Earth are about to be heard*

The world that we see
When we look in the papers
And the world that you show
On your six o'clock news
Is the world that you offer
Your sons and your daughters
But your sons and you daughters
Will have to refuse

We have to live
With the values you offer
And we have to deal
With the mess that you leave
But what good is wealth
To us kids of tomorrow
If we can't even trust
In the air that we breathe

Happy Birthday Far Away

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From here where I stand I see glistening sand
The sun going down 'cross the bay
You wake to the dawn of a faraway morn
And the light we are sending your way
For the sun that you see is the same one as me
Although distance may say we're apart
May it warm all your days with its passionate rays
We offer this from our hearts

Happy birthday, and we all say, it's a great day "Peace and Aroha!"
Happy birthday, it's your day
Hey! Ra whanau ki a koe
Happy birthday, let us all say, such a great day, "Peace and Aroha!"
Happy birthday, it's your day
Happy Birthday far away

Well you've made it this far and just look who you are!
You're your guardian angel's delight
Though we can't be with you, the least we can give you's
A party at our place tonight
For the gift that you give is of friendship and love
And a trust that will always be strong
Still there's is so much to say and we'll say it one day
But for now we can sing our song