Lyrics for the CD

House Concert

Lou & Peter Berryman, year 2000

Words by Peter, Music by Lou

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Thank you!!

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This recording and others, plus other information, at:

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TALKIN' AT THE SAME TIME

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Voice One: Plain Text Voice Two: Italic Both voices: Underline

You say the two'v you've tried to ride a horse apiece around the grounds and all you have to show for it's a horse shoe And that the two'v you've nude canoed 'n read in bed 'n flown to Rome and nothin' drives you nuts the way it used to Well now the news for you's we've seen between a pair a way to save the day that neither takes an hour nor a thin dime And if the two'v you've the urge to merge pizzazz n' jazz n' razzmatazz, learn to turn to Tallkin' at the same time

D'j'ever see a brighter lightning or a louder thunder • Rain, rain, rain all night
How bout the hail, the hail, it musta hailed for half an hour • The ground was nearly white
Well all the thunder and the hail it really scared the pooches • Scared them thru and thru
The dogs were really going crazy they were really goin' nuts 'til • Sometime after 2

Raining, it was, raining • Thunder man it thundered and it rumbled like a freight train Hail and rain and lightning • Oh the hail the hail was intermingled with the hard rain Hail as big as golf balls • It was really noisy and the dogs were going crazy Those poor dogs freak out in thunderstorms • Oh we must been awake until three

No doubt the two'v you've improved a few'v the normal formal ways to form a phrase to raise the level of yer heart thearts As when the two'v you've clowned around & found your mood renewed upon 1 ending up a sentence that the other starts But if the two'v you've yelled 'r spelled 'r rapped 'r tapped a code 'r signed 'r whined 'r made a pun 'r done a pantomime Or if the two'v you've spoken broken French or chat in Latin you can learn to turn to talkin' at the same time

Well poor Lou Ann it seems Lou Ann is in another crisis • I hope she's okay

Her luck is bad it seems she has a few catastrophes a week • Or more like every day

Now was it Tuesday, that she called me, was it only Tuesday • She couldn't catch her breath

She said her stove blew up, her stove blew up and nearly burned the house down • she was scared to death

Poor Lou Ann, poor Lou Ann • that Lou Ann is always in a crisis if you ask me Bad luck she has bad luck • Poor Lou Ann's in crisis every month or maybe weekly Tuesday yes just Tuesday • Calling in a panic from her doctor's office downtown Poor Lou Ann, her entire stove blew up • Oh my god she nearly burned the house down

Bridge (both voices):

Frogs all croak together, in the noisy bog • Dogs all know it's best to bark with at least one more dog Cows all do their mooing, simultaneously • Ducks don't wait their turn to quack so why oh why should we?

I'm sure the two'v you've reclined behind the blinds 'n locked the door before to rest or best of all to see some TV & there the two'v you've unwound around the tube a tad and had a half carafe o' wine to find you're growing hungry When you decide to call for pizza after laughter at the fridge about your jar of moldy chutney and your brown lime Well if the two'v you've the wherewithal to crawl to phones you each can reach, dontcha turn to talkin' at the same time

Hello hello, is this the pizza pit we'd like a pizza • Olives, double cheese
And put some pepperoni, pepperoni, definitely pepperoni, thin crust, thin crust, please
I think some Pepsi, diet Pepsi, either coke or Pepsi • Coke would be okay
Now wait now don't hang up now don't hang up, I didn't give the • street yet, oh dear what'd I say

Hi, we'd like, a pizza • Double cheese and olives, no anchovies, pepperoni
Sausage, no, not sausage • Well I guess a little sausage maybe, and some Pepsi
Root beer, too, some root beer • Either that or Pepsi, and a couple sticks of cheese bread
Don't hang up, no don't, oops, they hung up • Gosh I hope it wasn't something I said

BROCCOLI SHY ©2000 L&P Berryman

Bought some broccoli in a bag It was bad and me gag Smelled so much I thought I'd die Now I'm largely broccoli shy

I don't even go on walks Trees all look like broccoli stalks Sit inside in my old robe A godforsaken brocclophobe

Used to be a broccoli freak I subscribed to Broccoli Week Used to purchase broccoli stock I collected bric a broc

> I would stop at Broccoli King One big stalk with everything Now I sit in my old robe A godforsaken brocclophobe

They used to call me Mr. Fun I'd bring florettes for everyone "Put aside that whiskey sour "Here I am it's broccoli hour"

Had all that I'd ever want A brocclophoric bon vivant Now I sit in my old robe A godforsaken brocclophobe

How I miss the good old days Of my brocclocentric ways Singing hymns of broccoli Broc of Ages cleft for me

> Now my life is turning sour Now I live on cauliflower Now I sit in my old robe A godforsaken brocclophobe

Thanksgiving day Uncle Dave was our guest Who reads the Progressive which makes him depressed We asked Uncle Dave if he'd like to say grace A dark desolation crept over his face

UNCLE DAVE'S GRACE ©1999 L&P Berryman

Thanks he began as he gazed at his knife To poor Mr. Turkey for living his life All crowded and cramped in a great metal shed Where life was a drag then they cut off his head

Thanks he went on for the grapes in my wine Picked by sick women of seventy nine Scrambling all morning for bunch after bunch Then brushing the pesticide off of their lunch

Thanks for the stuffing all heaped on my fork Shiny with sausage descended from pork I think of the trucks full of pigs that I see And can't help imagine what they think of me

Continuing, I'd like to thank if you please Our salad bowl hacked out of tropical trees And for this mahogany table and chair We thank all the jungles that used to be there

> For cream in our coffee and milk in our mugs We thank all the cows full of hormones and drugs Whose calves are removed at a very young age And force-fed as veal in a minuscule cage

Oh thanks for the furnace that heats up these rooms
And thanks for the rich fossil fuel it consumes
Corrupting the atmosphere ounce after ounce
But we're warm and toasty and that is what counts

I'm grateful he said for these clothes on my back Lovely and comfy and cheap off the rack Fashioned in warehouses noisy and cold In China by seamstresses seven years old

And thanks for my silverware setting that shines In memory of miners who died in the mines Worn down by the shoveling of tailings in piles Whose runoff destroys all the rivers for miles

We thank the reactors for our chandelier
Although the plutonium won't disappear
For hundreds of decades it still will be there
But a few more Chernobyls and who's gonna care

Sighed Uncle Dave though there's more to be told The wine's getting warm and the bird's getting cold And with that he sat down as he mumbled again Thank you for everything, amen

We felt so guilty when he was all through
It seemed there was one of two things we could do
Live without food in the nude in a cave
Or next year have someone say grace besides Dave

They say my squint is Gramma Farley's, Whose is Yours They say my cough is Uncle Charley's, Whose is Yours They say my sneeze is Auntie Rosie's and my limp is Uncle Josie's So I mosey like he moseys, Whose is Yours

WHOSE IS YOURS? ©1999 L&P Berryman

They say my squeaky voice is mommy's, Whose is Yours They say my temper's Uncle Tommy's, Whose is Yours They say i got my fear of cola from my Grampa's Aunt Viola Plus she gave me her shnozola. Whose is Yours

Now if your family members are bizarre
It doesn't help to flee them in your car
For when your shadow's very clear or your reflection's in your beer
Or when you look into your mirror, there they are

They say my shakes are Gramma Johnson's, Whose are Yours They say my house is 1st Wisconsin's, Whose is Yours They say i got my fear of flying from my Uncle Darryl's dying Breaking his umbrella trying, Whose is Yours

They say my molars have a history, Whose are Yours But my bicuspids are a mystery, Whose are Yours My father sold his fleet of Kaisers and he flushed his tranquilizers But he gave me his incisors, Whose are Yours

Now if you have adopted all your kin And don't know where your DNA has been Well rest assured that down a side road where the lawns are brown & unmowed There's a whole entire zip code with your chin

They say my twitch is Uncle Urban's, Whose is Yours They say that so's my love of bourbons, Whose is Yours They say he gave me his psychosis and genetic halitosis But i gave myself cirrhosis, Whose is Yours

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They say my sneer is Aunt O'Casey's Whose is yours They say my jokes are George and Gracie's, Whose are Yours They say I got the fam'ly panics and my car is my mechanic's And my future's the Titanic's, Whose is Yours

My skinny legs are Grand papa's, it's true
My beady eyes I got from Grampa too
But if they ever try to chart me to find whose may every part be
They'll no doubt find out, my heart belongs to you
They'll no doubt find out, my heart belongs to you

The DUPSHA DOVE ©2000 L&P Berryman

Upon a main branch, above my brain stem
There sings a Jerdane bird, you may have heard of him
He goes jerdane (x11), and that's the Jerdane Bird
Who sings a single word

Above the Jerdane Bird, 'za bird who lives to talk Known as the Chowtwa Hawk, the chatty Chowtwa Hawk He warns me chowtwa (x11) that's the Chowtwa Hawk A bird who lives to talk

Beside the Chowtwa hawk, 'za bird who needs to speak Known as the Airfulbeak, the mighty Airfulbeak Who warns me airfulbeak airfulbeak (x11) ah the Airfulbeak A bird who needs to speak

> But it's the Dupsha Dove, who has the final say And to the other birds, proceeds to sing away She tells them dupsha (x11), how I dearly love The little Dupsha dove

> > And when the Dupsha Dove, has had the final word She brings the Thinbrea Bird, to join the Thoutbrea Bird They whisper thinbrea-thoutbrea (x5.5), how I dearly love The little Dupsha Dove

PERSEIDS

©1995 L&P Berryman

CHORUS:

From Persee ersee ersee ersee erseus They radi adi adi adi adiate Too many many many meteors To estim estim estim estimate

We'll count em ount em ount em ount em all We'll clap & yell & wave & jump & run about Provided ided ided ided ided it's Not cloudy oudy oudy oudy out

CHORUS

We'll sneak a neak a neak a neak a kiss It's so romo romo romantic out of doors I hope we ope we ope we ope we don't For get to watch the meet the meet the meteors

CHORUS

Oh, how they ow they ow they gleam and glow How fast they ast they ast they ast they are Who cares oo cares oo cares oo where they go So longs they dont they dont they hit the car

CHORUS, ending with:

To anno anno anno anno annotate
To calcul alcu alcu alcu alculate
To contem ontem ontem ontem ontemplate
To correl orrel orrel orrelate

To dedic edic edic edicate To duplic uplic uplic uplic uplicate To illus illus illus illus illustrate To integ integ integ integrate

To isol isol isol isolate
To numer umer umer umer umerate
To simul imul imul imul imulate
To valid alid alid alid alidate

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Went down to the Kwik Trip on a Thursday after dinner. Picked up a pair o' Twinkies 'n a cup o' cocoa Took my place in line and noticed over top the tabloids You could see all our reflections in the window

OLDERN' EVERYBODY

©1999 L&P Berryman

Now you would not describe me as a people watching person

And I'm not often one to stick my neck out

But if someone'd put a gun to me and forced my estimation

(I'd say I was) Older'n everybody, older'n everybody, older'n everybody at the checkout

So feeling antiquated, I arrived at a decision
To act a few years younger for an hour
Drove down to the tavern where my roots'd been firmly planted
When my years of boozing were in flower

Drove in back to park and found the landscape unbecoming
The winos in the alley made me shudder
I'm glad I turned my life around but hadn't thought of this part
(Where I'd be) Older'n everybody, older'n everybody, older'n everybody in the gutter

I drove off in the moonlight to my fav'rite cemetery For tho I'm well aware, I'm no spring chicken Reading all the gravestones often brightens my perspective After all, they're dead, and I'm still kickin'

Now I should have been glad that I could hike that hilly acre
I wasn't even really breathin' that hard
But when I read the dates I had the awful realization
That I was older'n everybody, older'n everybody, older'n everybody in the boneyard

A little voice remarked that I could use a short vacation.
That seemed like a reasonable suggestion
So I drove off thru the night and found a motel near Milwaukee
The desk clerk looked me over 'n posed a question.

He asked if I was old enough to take the senior discount 'Cause old boys stay for less at Howard Johnson I said, "If I don't get the discount sonny, no one gets the discount "(Because I'm) Older'n everybody, older'n everybody, older'n everybody in Wisconsin

Now this ol' bird is older'n all the nighthawks in Chicago Older'n every buzzard playing bingo Older than the turkey in almost every turkey dinner Older'n every snowbird in Orlando

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And tho I may be younger than the glaciers and the ocean Younger than the limestone and the granite And tho I may be younger than those Twinkies on the dashboard (I think I'm) Older'n everybody, older'n everybody, older'n everybody on the planet

ACME FORGETTING SERVICE

©1998 L&P Berryman

Do you lie awake at night afraid and upset Hounded by something you would rather forget And you can't shake it off whatever you do Give us a call, and we'll forget it for you

If you've a mem'ry that is causing you pain
By going round and round and round in your brain
And you're a wreck because you can't sleep at all
Put your pajamas on and give us a call

CHORUS:

If your past is making you nervous And you don't know what to do Call the acme forgetting service: 1-800-something-222

Once every evening we delete all our files Our post-it notes are in incredible piles There's only disappearing ink in our pens And all our pencils they erase at both ends

If there's a song you can't get out of your head There's always suicide, but call us instead We will forget it which will free up your brain Then we'll replace it with this lovely refrain:

CHORUS

Our politician package goes pretty fast In which we work on both your future and past For one small fee we'll disremember for you Your indiscretions and your promises too

These days the democrats they need us for sure And libertarians to deal with the poor But those republicans they haven't called yet They have no conscience, they don't have to forget

CHORUS

1 I know that the moon's been dissected They've mapped every fissure and crater And what they don't know at the moment they'll find it out sooner or later

And I know it's right there on the web page where the moon'll be Tuesday at midnight But I don't think they'll ever convince me That moonlight's not weirder than sunlight

WEIRDER THAN SUNLIGHT or LOVE IS THE WEIRDEST OF ALL

©1998 L&P Berryman

CHORUS: You learn from two pines when they whisper

You learn from two loons when they call That the best things in life are peculiar

And love is the weirdest of all

2 There are books on dynamics of water They've exhausted the physics of floating Personal flotation pillows Have taken the risk out of boating

You can build a canoe in a weekend Out of fiberglass birch bark and caulking But I don't think they'll ever convince me Canoeing's not weirder than walking

CHORUS

Of all of the things we've invented
 From indelible ink to elastic
 I would say without batting an eyelash
 That nothing is stranger than plastic

And the oddest of all are the posies That seem perfectly real 'til you feel one But I don't think they'll ever convince me That a plastic one's weird as a real one

CHORUS

Though we know our gardenias in Latin
This corsage is no less of a mystery
And the moon remains very peculiar
Despite all the Apollos through history

So tonight when we woo on the river It's okay that we know our canoeing Nonetheless, when it comes down to wooing I'm glad we don't know what we're doing

NOTE: The eight lines below, in the box, were in our original version. We took them out for this recording, thinking the song was too long. But we've changed our minds again, and now perform the song with these lines kept in. It is recorded with these lines on our double CD, released in 2004, called Love is the Weirdest of All. These lines follow the eight lines of verse 3, and are followed by a chorus as are the others:

They have synthesized half of the hormones They have numbered the nerves and synapses They know how desire is triggered And why one's resistance collapses

They know romance is bioelectric And the body is one big appliance But I don't think they'll ever convince me That necking's not weirder than science

CHORUS

AN HOUR AWAY ©1999 L&P Berryman

So there's SIXTY FIVE miles to go, to get to my sweet prairie flower
The speed limit's now SIXTY FIVE; It should take me exactly an hour
Only SIXTY FIVE miles to go, but when 10 miles further I drive
I notice with dread there's a sign up ahead saying Speed zone, slow down, FIFTY FIVE

So there's FIFTY FIVE miles to go, to get to my sweet prairie flower
The speed limit's now FIFTY FIVE; It should take me exactly an hour
Only FIFTY FIVE miles to go, but when 10 miles further I drive
I notice with dread there's a sign up ahead saying Speed zone, slow down, FORTY FIVE

(And so forth, until you reach TWENTY FIVE. Then this last verse:)

Oh I cannot go on this-a-way, I complain to myself in the mirror I keep driving further and further. But I don't seem to get any nearer So I'll rent me a room at this motel. And you can come visit some day The view's not so hot and the bed is a cot, but it's only an hour away

COCKROACH CHRISTMAS

©2000 L&P Berryman

What's on a cockroach Christmas list? Cracks in the plaster walls Greasy formica, toast on the floor Six legged overalls

Three pairs of ice skates, three pairs of boots
Three pairs of light brown socks
Tiny vacations throughout the year
Deep in the Bran Flakes box

CHORUS:

Crumble a cookie, leave out the bread Turn out the light because Down by the floor where cockroaches live You are the Santa Claus

What's on a cockroach Xmas list? Never to be alone. Someone to hold in all of their arms. Someone to call their own

Someone to give their feelers a feel. Someone to brush their legs Dark assignations under the fridge n'Somewhere to lay their eggs

CHORUS

What's on a cockroach Xmas list? The answer to all their prayers A nuclear war has taken its toll And all of the world is theirs

All of the crackers, all of the jam.

Never the need to hide.

No more the rolled up Newsweek of doom.

No more insecticide

CHORUS

BIG DEAD BIRD ©1984 L&P Berryman

The liquor stores are empty, the car won't start
The Christmas decorations are fallin' apart
The temperature is droppin', the sky is gray
Gonna have a big dead bird for dinner, on Christmas Day

Papa's nerves get frazzled, & wearin' thin Mama in her wisdom gets drunk on gin The kids go build a roadblock, for Santa's sleigh Gonna have a big dead bird for dinner, on Christmas Day

> Smelly Uncle Charlie, he brings his wife The one he calls Fartblossom and chases with a knife Grampa and his mistress, they come to stay Gonna have a big dead bird for dinner, on Christmas Day

> > Christmas Eve at midnight, gonna have a little snack Gramma's apple strudel that's burned & black Daddy's home made ice cream that tastes like clay Gonna have a big dead bird for dinner on Christmas Day

CHAPTER ONE ©2000 L&P Berryman

Chapter one my lunch begun I chewed my food and wrote Chapter two my salad thru I ate my morning coat Chapter three I drank some tea and then I ate the cup Chapter four inhaled the door and threw the hinges up

Chapter five I downed a chive and half a beef burgoo Chapter six I had to fix a bowl o' cola stew Chapter seven cracked eleven eggs and ate the yokes Chapter eight I licked the plate and sucked a case o' cokes

Chapter nine I had some wine and as my body shook Chapter ten I ate my pen and polished off the book In all our hides a book resides they say, and I allow There wasn't one when I'd begun but there's one in me now

WHO AM I? ©1984 L&P Berryman

CHORUS:

Who am I, who am I, I don't even know
Who I was, who I was, just a month ago
Who am I, who am I I think I wish I knew
By the way, by the way, who the hell are you

Have I always seen the shovels rolling down the lane
The serviette with antlers and the rabbits in the rain
The turtles on my mattress and the windows in the stairs
The faces made of bubbles and the green expanding squares

The angel on my sea of laundry bobbing like a cork
The fingers on my hands that hang like pickles made of pork
The locomotives in the lobby switching to & fro
Pulling cars of Dobermans drooling in the snow

CHORUS

Have I always heard a duckling coughing in the hall The rattle of my elbows and the scratching in the wall The rasping sound of telescopes decaying in the hills And Walter Cronkite's echo in a field of daffodils • CH.

Have I always heard the leather melting on the floor The dripping of the glaciers in the bottom of my drawer The groaning of the sidewalk from the surging of the worms The ticking sound of vengeance from 100,000 germs.

CHORUS

Have I always smelled the metal in a piece of meat The smokiness of sugar in the middle of the street Electric clouds of boyhood in a sour bowl of cream The dampness of perdition in a single puff of steam

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Have I always felt the grain of gristle in my knees The greasiness of plastic and the hairiness of cheese The temporary nature of the boniness of crows The pickiness of paper in the corners of my clothes

CHORUS

WONDERFUL MADISON

©1984, 1999 L&P Berryman

She wears her lakes like a diamond tiara Her necklace is known as the mighty Yahara Around her the beltline is draped like a garland And brings in commuters from way past McFarland

CHORUS:

Oh Wonderful Madison mother of cities Queen of all Dairyland, waiting for me Wonderful Madison, jewel of Wisconsin With more than one high school and cable TV

CHORUS

Hard working mother you lion of business From Shopko to Oscar's and all through the Isthmus But if getting a job doesn't seem to be prudent You can take out a loan and return as a student

CHORUS

When fat men with briefcases grab her attentions She knows that they want her to host their conventions Where bankers and shriners with laptop computers Buy cheese for their wives on their way out to Hooters

CHORUS

Sweet mother Madison full of compassion A liberal community after a fashion You don't have to worry if you do annoy her 'Cause for every person there's more than one lawyer

CHORUS

Stand on the shoreline of town as you enter Stand and admire the convention center See how it hangs off the shore like a goiter But don't stand there long, it's illegal to loiter

CHORUS

CHEESE & BEER & SNOW or THIRTY DEGREES ©2000 L&P Berryman

Lunch & cheese & dinner & cheese Fall & cheese & winter & cheese Chips & cheese & jerky & cheese Nuts & cheese & turkey & cheese Cheese with pies & peppers & peas Snow & beer & cheese

Cheese & snow & hockey & snow Cows & snow Milwaukee & snow Boots & snow & dripping & snow Ice & snow & slipping & snow Wind & snow, a car that won't go Beer & cheese & snow

Snow & beer & bowling & beer Golf & beer & trolling & beer School & beer & sledding & beer Love & beer & (a) wedding & beer Cold beer here, getcher beer here Cheese & snow & beer

Slush & ale & Monterey jack
Flakes & brie & a cheap six pack
Drifts & curds & a head of good suds
Cheese whiz ice & couple of Buds
All keeps well at thirty degrees
Snow & beer & cheese

I was in my rocket cruisin' out around Aldebaran when I heard somethin' pop I nursed it to a nearby asteroid askin' if they didn't have an all night rocket shop They led me to a four leg five head thing in overalls who claimed he was the best around He said you got a reemal skadeever in your plapper, I can tell, the way it sounds Go have a cuppa koltag, a slice of Ooba Delight Rent yourself a hole to go to sleep in; it's prob'ly gonna take all night

I had almost got my thurdahg off my nammichemmi when I heard a scratchy voice Sayin' I'm Anema Chiptap your vedegadaiva for the night, you have no choice Into my compartment crawled that slimy little creature like a turtle five feet tall She repeated twice so gently please remove your Zolameesh & hang it on the wall We had a cuppa koltag a slice of Ooba Delight I knew pretty soon I'd have to face it; you can't eat Ooba all night

Twenty hours later I began to get impatient for the first sign of daylight
Suddenly it struck me I had neglected to determine the duration of a night
I asked Anema Chiptap my vedegadeva when Aldebaran would rise again
She said the way you calculate your time it should be seven hundred years or so my friend
We had a cuppa koltag a slice of Ooba Delight
I even took a shot of skofless to help me through the night

That was long ago before we bought a little mukka in a crater by the sea I got a little job dingatching sinkatelma even though out here the koltag's free We raised a couple fiplop somsi bushes puttin' out a little skofless now & then If I ever get my ship back I don't wanna leave but if I do I'll come again We'll have a cuppa koltag a slice of Ooba delight I'll snuggle with Anema and maybe spend the night

We take the show to Minnesota
We take the show to Monterey
We fly to Boston on a plane and we drive to Portland Maine
And we gig along the way

Track 18

MADISON, WISCONSIN

©2000 L&P Berryman

And at the end of each performance We blow the audience a kiss And when following the show, they come up to say hello Seems it always leads to this:

CHORUS: So how's ol' Madison WI; Is that Paul Soglin still the mayor

And is Rennebohm's expanding; 's the Club de Wash still there I used to sit out on the terrace and watch my grade point disappear

For the life of me I don't know how i wound up here

Now I can see us in the future We take a boat to Bengal Bay And from Calcutta on a train to the Himalayan chain Takes at least another day

We hike for weeks among the foothills
It feels like 700 miles
We ask a sherpa could you please help us carry all our cheese
And he turns around and smiles

CHORUS

We leave Mount Everest behind us We hop a steamer tramp to Perth Old Australia seems to me, 'sfar away as you can be and remain upon the Earth

But in our Bucky Badger derbies As we survey the billibong We think we're really off the map 'til a local sees the cap And diggery-does a little song

CHORUS

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We leave Australia in a rocket
We hit the moon and take a walk
The craters all are full of guys with enormous buggy eyes
And they all begin to talk

It sounds like Hey gadeng vadaieda
Oh yah gadeng vadeida hey
But we realize pretty soon, they mean welcome to the moon
Have a beer & by the way

CHORUS