

The keeper

Collected by RVW from Jim Austin, Little Shelford Cambs on 20th August 1906r

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "It's of a keep-er keep-er ye know un-der his coat he car-ried his bow and for to shoot at the mer-ry mer-ry doe down a-mong the lakes of green o. Joc-key Mas-ter sing you well, fare-you well high down low down der-ry derr-y down a-mong the lakes of green o. der-ry down down down der-ry down down down down der-ry der-ry down am-ong the lakes o green o." The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. There is a triplet of eighth notes in the fifth staff.

It's of a keep-er keep-er ye know un-der his coat he car-ried his bow
and for to shoot at the mer-ry mer-ry doe down a-mong the lakes of green o.
Joc-key Mas-ter sing you well, fare-you well
high down low down der-ry derr-y down a-mong the lakes of green o.
der-ry down down down der-ry down down down down
der-ry der-ry down am-ong the lakes o green o.

Original verses collected by RVW:

- 2.The first doe she ran over the lawn
- 3.The second doe she made great moan
- 4.He tickled her over the merry merry mead