

# Pentangle, Jack Orion

Jack Orion was the finest fiddler ever fiddled on the string  
He could drive young ladies wild with a tune his wires would sing  
He could fiddle the fish out of salt water, water from a marble stone  
Or milk from out a maiden's breast though baby she had none  
There he played in the castle hall and there he played them fast asleep  
Except it was for the young countess who, for love, she stayed awake  
So first he played her a slow air and then he played it brisk and gay  
And oh, dear love, behind her glove, this lady she did say  
Ere the day has dawned and the cocks have crowed and flapped their wings so wide  
It's you must come to my chamber there and lie down by my side  
So he wrapped his fiddle in a cloth of green and he stole out on his a-tip-a-toe  
And he's off back to his young boy Tom as fast as he could go  
Ere the day has dawned and the cocks have crowed and flapped their wings so wide  
I'm bid to go to the lady's door and stretch out by her side  
Lie down, lie down, my good master, here's a blanket to your hand  
And I'll waken you in as good a time as any cock in this land  
Now Tom took the fiddle into his hand, he fiddled and he played for a full hour  
Until he played him fast asleep; he's off to the lady's bower  
And when he came to her chamber door, he twirled softly at the pin  
The lady, true to her promise, rose up and let him in  
He did not take that lady gay to bolster nor to bed  
But down upon the hard cold floor right soon he had her laid  
And he did not kiss her when he came nor yet but from her he did go  
But in out the lady's bedroom window, the moon like a coal did glow  
Ragged are your stockings, love, and stubbly is your cheek and chin  
And tousled is that yellow hair that I saw yestereve  
These stockings belong to my boy Tom, they were the first came to my hand  
The wind must have tousled my yellow hair and I rode over the land  
Now Tom took the fiddle into his hand, he fiddled and he played so saucily  
He's off back to his master's house as fast as go could he  
Wake up, wake up, oh my good master, why snore you there so loud?  
There's not a cock in all this land but has clapped his wings and crowed  
Jack Orion took the fiddle into his hand and he fiddled and he played so merrily  
He's off away to the lady's house as fast as go could he  
And when he came to the lady's door, he twirled so softly at the pin  
Saying Oh, my dear, it's your true love, rise up and let me in  
She said Surely you didn't leave behind a golden brooch nor a velvet glove  
Or are you returning back again to taste more of my love?  
Jack Orion, he swore a bloody oath, by oak, by ash, by bitter thorn  
Lady, I never was in your house since the day that I was born  
Oh, then it was your young boy Tom that cruelly has beguiled me  
Oh woe, that the blood of that ruffian boy did spring in my body  
Jack Orion sped off to his own house, saying  
Tom, my boy, come here to me  
He hung him from his own gatepost, high as a willow tree