

# Mares Eat Oats (Mairzy Doats)

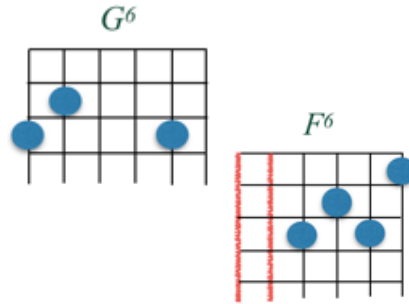
Words & Music by Milton Drake, Al Hoffman and Jerry Livingston © 1943 all rights reserved

*C G C G*  
I know a ditty nutty as a fruitcake;

*C G<sup>6</sup> C*  
Goofy as a goon and silly as a loon.

*F<sup>6</sup> G<sup>6</sup> F G*  
Some call it pretty, others call it crazy;

*G<sup>6</sup> Fmaj<sup>7</sup> G notes* *G G F E D*  
But they all sing this tune:

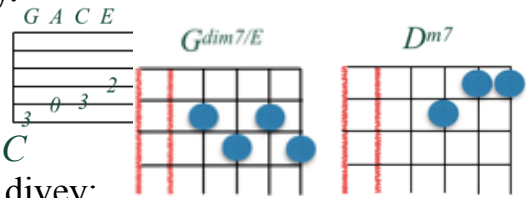


*C notes (G, A, C, E) C F C*  
Mairzy doats and dozy doats and liddle lamzy divey.

*Gdim<sup>7</sup>/E Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C*  
A kiddley divey too, wouldn't you?

*G<sup>6</sup> C notes (G, A, C, E) C F C*  
Yes! Mairzy doats and dozy doats and liddle lamzy divey;

*Gdim<sup>7</sup>/E Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>6</sup> C*  
A kiddley divey too, wouldn't you?



Plunk not upon the reddened strings

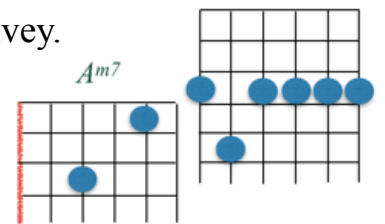
*Gm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F Fmaj<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup>*  
It may sound queer and funny to your ear, jumbled and a little bit jivey.

*Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>6</sup>*  
But, mares eat oats and does eat oats and little lambs eat ivy.

*G<sup>7</sup> C notes (G, A, C, E) C F C*  
Oh! Mairzy doats and dozy doats and liddle lamzy divey;

*Gdim<sup>7</sup>/E Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C Gdim<sup>7</sup>/E*  
A kiddley divey too, wouldn't you? Oh,

*Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>6</sup> C*  
A kiddley divey too, wouldn't you?



# History

Originally titled “**Mairzy Doats**”, this song was written in 1943 by Milton Drake, Al Hoffman and Jerry Livingston. It was recorded for the first time by Al Trace and his Silly Symphonists. WOR New York was the first radio station to play the song.



Mack David, Al Hoffman and Jerry (l. to r.) c. 1948 when Walt Disney hired them to write the music for CINDERELLA

The song is based on an old English nursery rhyme. Drake's four year old daughter came home reciting the rhyme, and he found it interesting. The completed song hit the pop charts in 1944 performed by The Merry Macs.

RB singer Tommy Ridgely recorded a version in 1958, and Carlo Mastangelo of the Belmonts turned it into an up tempo rock and roll song in 1963. Sherry Lewis sang it several times on her program Lamb Chops Play Along.

Alan Alda, as Hawk Eye Pierce, used it to teach English to Koreans on the T.V. show

MASH. It was even used as a computer password in an episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation, and has been turned into a square dance.

Jerry Livingston wrote many other memorable tunes in a career spanning the 1930s to the early 1970s: the score to Walt Disney's *Cinderella* including Oscar nominee “Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo,” “The Unbirthday Song” in Disney's *Alice in Wonderland*, the theme songs for the television shows, *77 Sunset Strip*, *Hawaiian Eye*, *Bronco* and *Surfside 6*, while “This Is It!” opened *The Bugs Bunny Show*. And then there are the standards that still have the power to move and thrill us, songs like “It’s The Talk of the Town,” “The Twelfth of Never,” “Under A Blanket Of Blue,” “When It’s Darkness on the Delta,” and the numbers warbled by Nat “King” Cole and Stubby Kaye in the satirical western, *Cat Ballou*.

Jerry's collaborators comprise many of the renowned lyricists of their time, including Marty Symes, Al Neiburg, Mack David, Al Hoffman, Mann Curtis, Milton Drake, Paul Francis Webster, Mitchell Parish and Dok Stanford, among others.

In 1980, Jerry was granted the culminating honor of his career by winning election by his peers to the Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

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