

O Can Ye Sew Cushions

Scottish folk text

Set by *Benjamin Britten* (1913–1976) [Br], *O Can Ye Sew Cushions?*; *Colin Moncrieff Campbell Taylor* (1881–1973) [UK / S. Africa]

O **can** **ye** **sew** **cushions** **and** **can** **ye** **sew** **sheets,**
[o:ʊ kæn ji so:ʊ 'kʊʃ.ənz ænd kæn ju so:ʊ ʃits]

And **can** **ye** **sing** **ballulow** **when** **the** **bairn** **greet's?**
[ænd kæn ji sɪŋ 'bʊl.ə.lu mɛn ðə bærn grɪts]

And hie and baw, birdie, and hie and baw, lamb,
And hie and baw, birdie, my bonnie wee lamb.

Hie-o, wie-o, what will I do wi' ye?
Black's the life that I lead wi' ye,
Many o' you, little for to gi' ye,
Hie-o, wie-o, what will I do wi' ye?

I've placed my cradle on yon hilly (holly) top,
And aye as the wind blew my cradle did rock.
O hush-a-by, babie, o baw-lily-loo,
And hie and baw, birdie, my bonnie wee doo.

Hie-o, wie-o, what will I do wi' ye?
Black's the life that I lead wi' ye,
Many o' you, little for to gi' ye,
Hie-o, wie-o, what will I do wi' ye?

The entire text to this title with the complete
IPA transcription is available for download.

Thank you!

