

ALL ROUND MY HAT

Vaughan Williams notes 'Heard by Mr Harris sung by a clown at Chelmsford races about 1840.' I have used the variant from Charles Chilton's book as a comparison text⁽¹⁾ (this was also the text printed on Catnach broadsides) as it seems likely that a clown would use this type of humour in his act. This kind of cockney mimic was popular in broadside traditions giving songs the Pretty Polly Perkins or Ratcatcher's Daughter type of Music Hall appeal.

All round my hat I will grow the green willow
All round my hat for twelve months and a day
If anyone should ask you the reason I wear it
Tell them my true love is far far away

All round my hat

All round my hat I will wear the green willow All round my hat for a
twelve month and a day If any one should ask you the reason why I wear it
tell them my true love is far far away.

(1) Victorian Folksongs C Chilton