Hippopotamus Song – Flanders and Swann, 1956

(Arranged by Peter MacDonald, Harbury Ukulele Group)

¾ time. Introduction: [G] /// [Em] /// [Am7] /// [D7] ///

Verse 1

A [G] bold hippopotamus was [C] standing one [B7] day
On the [Em] banks of the [A7] cool [D7] Shalimar.
He [G] gazed at the bottom as it [C] peacefully [B7]lay
By the [Em] light of the [A7] evening [D] star.
A-[Am] way on a [Em] hilltop sat [Am] combing her [Em] hair,
His [F] fair hippo-[E7]-potamine [Am] maid.
The [A7] hippopo-[D] tamus was [A7] no igno-[D]-ramus
And [Am]-sang her this [Am7]-sweet sere-[D]-nade. [D7]

Chorus:

[G] Mud, [Em] mud, [Am7] glorious [D7] mud,

[G] Nothing quite [Em] like it for [A7] cooling the [D7] blood.

So [G] follow me, follow, [C] down to the [Am] hollow,   ///
And [C] there let us [G] wallow in [Am] glor-[D7]-ious [G] mud.

Link: [Em]/// [Am7]/// [D7]///

Verse 2

The [G] fair hippopotama he [C] aimed to en-[B7]-tice
From her [Em] seat on the [A7] hilltop a-[D7]-bove.
As [G] she hadn't got a ma to [C] give her ad-[B7]-vice
Came [Em] tiptoeing [A7] down to her [D] love.
Like [Am] thunder the [Em] forest re-[Am]-echoed the
                                                    [Em]sound
Of the [F] song that they [E7] sang as they [Am] met.
His [A7] inamo-[D]-rata ad-[A7] justed her [D] garter
And [Am] lifted her [Am7] voice in du-[D]et [D7]

Hippopotamus Song *(continued)*

Chorus followed by link: [Em]/// [Am7]/// [D7]///

Verse 3

Now [G]more hippopotami be-[C]gan to con-[B7]-vene
On the [Em]banks of the [A7]river so [D7]wide.
I [G]wonder now what am I to [C]make of the [B7] scene
That en-[Em] sued by the [A7]Shalimar [D]side.
They [Am]dived all at [Em]once, with an [Am]ear-splitting
[Em] splosh
Then [F]rose to the [E7] surface a-[Am]-gain.
A [A7] regular [D] army of [A7] hippopo-[D]-tami
All [Am] singing this [Am7] haunting re-[D]-frain [D7]

Chorus twice without links
– note 'mud' removed at end if 1ˢᵗ chorus:

[G] Mud, [Em] mud, [Am7] glorious [D7] mud,
[G] Nothing quite [Em] like it for [A7] cooling the [D7] blood.
So [G] follow me, follow, [C] down to the [Am] hollow,
And [C] there let us [G] wallow in [Am] glor-[D7]-ious . . .

[G] Mud, [Em] mud, [Am7] glorious [D7] mud,
[G] Nothing quite [Em] like it for [A7] cooling the [D7] blood.
So [G] follow me, follow, [C] down to the [Am] hollow,
And [C] there let us [G] wallow
in [Am] glor-[D7]-ious [G] mud / / / -

G   C   B7   Em   A7   Am   Am7   D   D7