

The Kallyope Yell

Reciter, SSAATTBB chorus, and Percussion (2 players)

Text

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Percussion

Player I.

snare drum
suspended cymbals
brake drums (w/ player II)
cowbell (w/ player II)
triangle
ratchet
slapstick (w/ player II)
tom-toms (w/ player II)
lion's roar

sticks, soft mallets, hard mallets, triangle beater

Player II.

glockenspiel
suspended cymbals
crash cymbals
brake drums (w/ player I)
cowbell (w/ player I)
slapstick (w/ player I)
tom-toms (w/ player I)
bass drum
police whistle

sticks, soft mallets, hard mallets, bass drum beaters, brass mallets

[Loudly and rapidly with a leader,
College yell fashion]

I

Proud men
Eternally
Go about,
Slander me,
Call me the "Calliope."
Sizz
Fizz

II

I am the Gutter Dream,
Tune-maker, born of steam,
Tooting joy, tooting hope.
I am the Kallyope,
Car called the Kallyope.
Willy willy willy wah **hoo!**
See the flags: snow-white tent,
See the bear and elephant,
See the monkey jump the rope,
Listen to the Kallyope,
Kallyope, Kallyope!
Soul of the rhinoceros
And the hippopotamus
(Listen to the lion roar!)
Jaguar, cockatoot,
Loons, owls,
Hoot, Hoot.
Listen to the lion roar,
Listen to the lion roar,
Listen to the lion R-O-A-R!
Hear the leopard cry for gore,
Willy willy willy wah **hoo!**
Hail the bloody Indian band,
Hail, all hail the popcorn stand,
Hail to Barnum's picture there,
People's idol everywhere,
Whoop, whoop, whoop,
whoop!
Music of the mob am I,
Circus day's tremendous cry: --
I am the Kallyope, Kallyope,
Kallyope!
Hoot toot, hoot toot, hoot toot,
hoot toot,
Willy willy willy wah **hoo!**
Sizz, fizz

III

Born of mobs, born of steam,
Listen to my golden dream,
Listen to my golden dream,
Listen to my G-O-L-D-E-N D-
R-E-A-M!
Whoop whoop whoop whoop
WHOOP!
I will blow the proud folk low,
Humanize the dour and slow,

I will shake the proud folk
down,
(Listen to the lion roar!)
Popcorn crowds shall rule the
town --
Willy willy willy wah **hoo!**
Steam shall work melodiously,
Brotherhood increase.
You'll see the world and all it
holds
For fifty cents apiece.
Willy willy willy wah **hoo!**
Every day a circus day.
What?
Well, *almost* every day.
Nevermore the sweater's den,
Nevermore the prison pen.
Gone the war on land and sea
That aforesaid troubled men.
Nations all in amity,
Happy in their plumes arrayed
In the long bright street parade.
Bands a-playing every day.
What?
Well, *almost* every day.
I am the Kallyope, Kallyope,
Kallyope!
Willy willy willy wah **hoo!**
Hoot, toot, hoot, toot,
Whoop whoop whoop whoop,
Willy willy willy wah **hoo!**
Sizz, fizz

IV

Every soul
Resident
In the earth's one circus tent!
Every man a trapeze king
Then a pleased spectator there.
On the benches! In the ring!
While the neighbours gawk
and stare
And the cheering rolls along.
Almost every day a race
When the merry starting gong
Rings, each chariot on the line,
Every driver fit and fine
With the steel-spring Roman
grace.
Almost every day a dream,
Almost every day a dream.
Every girl,
Maid or wife,
Wild with music,
Eyes a-gleam
With that marvel called desire:
Actress, princess, fit for life,
Armed with honor like a knife,
Jumping thro' the hoops of fire.

(Listen to the lion roar!)
Making all the children shout
Clowns shall tumble all about,
Painted high and full of song
While the cheering rolls along,
Tho' they scream,
Tho' they rage,
Every beast
In his cage,
Every beast
In his den
That aforetime troubled men.

V

I am the Kallyope, Kallyope,
Kallyope,
Tooting hope, tooting hope,
tooting hope, tooting hope;
Shaking window-pane and
door
With a crashing cosmic tune,
With the war-cry of the
spheres,
Rhythm of the roar of noon,
Rhythm of Niagara's roar,
Voicing planet, star and moon,
Shrieking of the better years.
Prophet-singers will arise,
Prophets coming after me,
Sing my song in softer guise
With more delicate surprise;
I am but the pioneer
Voice of the Democracy;
I am the gutter-dream,
I am the golden dream,
Singing science, singing steam.
I will blow the proud folk
down,
(Listen to the lion roar!)
I am the Kallyope, Kallyope,
Kallyope,
Tooting hope, tooting hope,
tooting hope, tooting hope,
Willy willy willy wah **hoo!**
Hoot toot, hoot toot, hoot toot,
hoot toot,
Whoop whoop, whoop whoop,
Whoop whoop, whoop whoop,
Willy willy willy wah **hoo!**
Sizz
Fizz

--Nicholas Vachel Lindsay