

# King Rat's Song

Frank Bentley

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The rats gather round King Rat.

King Rat: "Gather round and let me tell you  
about my life and some of my adventures."

\*

(This can be half sung, half said, but must be enacted)

Voice

Moderate

I was born at a ver-y ear-ly age of

Piano

Vo.

ex-cell-ent par - ent - age And noth - ing was spared as I was lo - ved a - nd cared and ac -

Pno.

(Minims can be halved as crochets to give beat)

Vo.

quaint-ed with my great her - it - age Yes ac - quaint-ed with his great her - it - age Of

Pno.


ALL RATS KING RAT

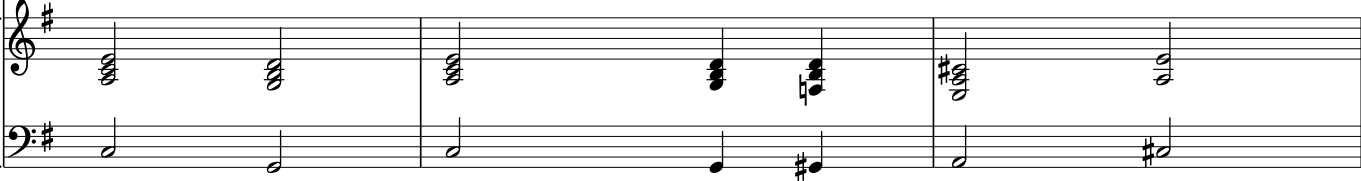
Vo.

course I went to school And was trained in the gold - en rule That though my

Pno.

19

Vo.  blood was blue in fact quite through and through If ev - er I'm sought I must


Pno. 


22

Vo.  nev - er be - e caught I must nib - ble and gnaw with my te - eth a - nd claw with my

Pno. 

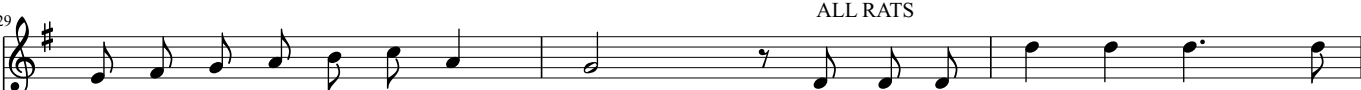
25


Vo.  eyes so al - ert and my whis - kers pert I must nev - er no nev - er No

Pno. 

29

ALL RATS

Vo.  nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be caught. That though his blood was blue in

Pno. 

32 (To each other)

Vo. fact quite through and through if ev - er he's sought he must nev - er b - e caught. We must

Pno.

35

Vo. nib - ble and gnaw with our te - eth a - nd claw with our eyes so al - ert and our

Pno.

KING RAT: And then, of course, to keep up with tradition, I was required to marry a lady of my own social standing

38

Vo. whis - kers pert we must nev - er no nev - er No nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be caught.

Pno.

Introduction to verse 2.

Rats act wedding scene

45

Wedding march. Bridal March - slower

Vo.

Pno.


53

Vo. 


2.Oh she was the cu - ut - est lit - tle maid Her

Pno. 

59


Vo. 

poise like a figure of jade. With eye-shad-ow blue And a ta - il ki - nk too She was


Pno. 

63


ALL RATS KING RAT

Vo. 


some-thing I could not ev - ade Yes some - thing which he could not ev - ade I called on her one

Pno. 

68

Vo. 

day In the sewer that ad - jac - ent lay But as I peeped in - side at

Pno. 

72

Vo. my in - ten - ded bride With a roll - ing pin She was pra - ct - ti - is - ing And a

Pno.

75

Vo. ba - ll and chain was at - ta - ched to a drain And I re - alised then that like en -

Pno.

78

Vo. light - ened men I must nev - er no nev - er No nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be

Pno.

82

ALL RATS

Vo. caught. But as he peeped in - side at his in - ten - ded bride with a roll - ing pin she was

Pno.

86

Vo. *pra - ct - ti - is - ing And a ba - ll and chain was at - tach - ed to a drain and he*

Pno.

89

Vo. *real - ised then that like en - light - ened men we must nev - er no nev - er No*

Pno.

93

Vo. *nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be caught.*

Pno.

3. KING RAT: The only escape was to go to sea.  
(Introduction to verse 3 - sailor's hornpipe)

**Vivace**

95

Vo. *Faster*

Pno.

104

Vo.

Pno.

**Moderate**

112

Vo.

Pno.

3.I joined a ship at the ne - ar - est port It re-quired a great deal of thought To

117

Vo.

Pno.

leave the solid land Was some-thing I' - d no - t planned but a hand - y rope is what I

120

ALL RATS

KING RAT

Vo.

Pno.

sought Yes a hand-y rope is what he sought Then the new life ent-ered my blood Life was

125

Vo. "ta - ke - n at the flood" But in a rag - ing gale I turn - ed qui - te pale I felt quite ill And I

Pno.

130

Vo. had - n't got a pill Could - n't nib ble and gnaw use my te eth a nd claw but my

Pno.

133

Vo. on - l - y thought as the side I sought was I must nev - er no nev - er No

Pno.

137

ALL RATS

Vo. nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be caught. But in a rag - ing gale he tunr - ed qui - te pale he

Pno.



141

Vo. felt quite ill but he had - n't got a pill. Could - n't nib - ble and gnaw Use his

Pno.

144

Vo. te - eth a - nd claw A - nd his on - ly thought as the side he sought he must nev - er no

Pno.

4. KING RAT: Then one day we saw pirates.  
ALL: Yo ho ho and a piece of smelly cheese.

148

Vo. nev - er No nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be caught.

Pno.

154

Vo. 4.Ly - ing in the gall - ey o - ne day Ship app - roaching I heard men say Twas

Pno.

160 ALL RATS

Vo. a pirate ship and it di - d ou - t - strip Our lit - tle boat with - out much de - lay Yes his

Pno.

164 KING RAT

Vo. lit - tle boat with - out much de - lay We were board - ed and did fight Though I

Pno.

168

Vo. dodged ri - ght out of sight The sight of blood you know Did af - fe - ct me so And

Pno.

172

Vo. when all was lost Down the pla - nk they were tossed But I Could not let fate My

Pno.

175

Vo. li - fe to dic-tate so I hid my-self un - der the pir - ates plun - der For I must nev - er no

Pno.

179

Vo. nev - er No nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be caught. The sight of blood you know did

Pno.

ALL RATS

183

Vo. af - fe - ct him so And when all was lost down the plank they we - re tossed But he

Pno.

186

Vo. could not let fate Hi - s li fe to dic - tate so he hid him - self un - der the pit -

Pno.

5. KING  
Fearlea  
Afraid

189

Vo. 

ates plun - der For he must nev - er no nev - er No nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be caught.

Pno. 

G RAT: And then I became your leader (ALL: Hooray)

ss and bold (ALL: Yes! Yes!)

of no one! (ALL: [retreating] No! No!)

195

Vo. 

Slow and stately (Rats paying homage to king)


Pno. 

204


Vo. 

Pno. 

211

Vo. 

I asc - end - ed to the throne of King Rat When my fath - er met a sleek cat Which

Pno. 

216

Vo. he tried to be - friend But it re - ally was the end When he dis - app - eared and that was

Pno.

219

ALL RATS KING RAT

Vo. that. Yes he dis - app - eared in - side that cat. It be - came nec - ess - ary That a

Pno.

224

Vo. change there should re - ally be For the horses and the games With

Pno.

227

Vo. the wine and the dames Then the cards and roulette lo - sing be - t af - ter bet Meant that


Pno.

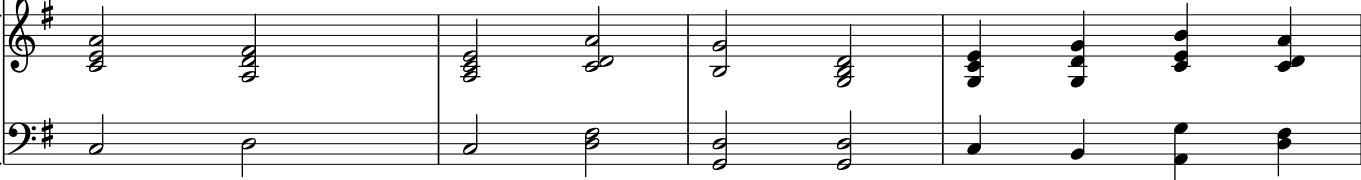
230

Vo.  taxes had to grow to acc - om - mo - date me so for to run short of cash Would be


Pno. 


233

Vo.  ver - t rash For I must nev - er no nev - er No nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be

Pno. 

237 ALL RATS

Vo.  caught. For the horses and the games With the wine and the dames Then

Pno. 

240

Vo.  the cards and roulette lo - sing be - t af - ter bet Meant that taxes had to grow to ac -

Pno. 

243

point at king

pointing and emphasizing

Vo. com - mo - date him so If he thinks he'll have the lot we'll have him on the spot For we'll

Pno.

246

KING RAT

Vo. nev - er no nev - er No nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be caught. I will nev - er No,

Pno.

251

ALL RATS (disagreeing with king)

KING AND ALL

Vo. nev - er We will nev - er, No nev - er I/We will nev - er, nev - er, nev - er No

Pno.

255

Vo. nev - er, nev - er, nev - er be caught

Pno.