

# Hippopotamus Song

by FLANDERS & SWANN\*

1.

A bold **hippopotamus** was standing one day  
On the banks of the cool Shalimar<sup>1</sup>  
He gazed at the bottom, as it peacefully lay  
By the light of the evening star  
Away on a hilltop sat combing her hair  
His fair **hippopotami** maid  
The **hippopotamus** was no ignoramus  
And sang her this sweet serenade:

Ref.:

Mud, mud, glorious mud  
Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood  
So follow me, follow  
Down to the hollow<sup>2</sup>  
And there let us wallow<sup>3</sup> in glorious mud

2.

The fair **hippopotama** he aimed to entice<sup>4</sup>  
From her seat on that hilltop above  
As she hadn't got a ma to give her advice  
Came tip-toeing down to her love  
Like thunder the forest re-echoed the sound  
Of the song that they sang as they met  
His inamorata<sup>5</sup> adjusted her garter  
And lifted her voice in duet:

Ref.:

Mud, mud, glorious mud  
Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood  
So follow me, follow  
Down to the hollow  
And there let us wallow in glorious mud



<sup>1</sup> Name eines Flusses.

<sup>2</sup> down to the hollow = hinunter in die Kuhle

<sup>3</sup> to wallow = sich suhlen

<sup>4</sup> he aimed to entice = er wollte sie umwerben/locken

3.

Now more **hippopotami** began to convene  
On the banks of that river so wide  
I wonder now what am I to say of the scene  
That ensued by the Shalimar side?  
They dived all at once with an ear-splitting  
splosh  
Then rose to the surface again  
A regular army of **hippopotami**  
All singing this haunting refrain:  
Ref.:  
Mud, mud, glorious mud  
Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood  
So follow me, follow  
Down to the hollow<sup>6</sup>  
And there let us wallow<sup>7</sup> in glorious mud.

*Flanders and Swann were a British comedy duo. Lyricist, actor and singer **Michael Flanders** (1922–1975) and composer and pianist **Donald Swann** (1923–1994) collaborated in writing and performing comic songs. They first worked together in a school revue in 1939 and eventually wrote more than 100 comic songs together. Between 1956 and 1967, Flanders and Swann performed their songs, in stage revues which they toured in Britain and abroad.*



<sup>5</sup> inamorata (ital.) = die Angebetete/Geliebte

<sup>6</sup> down to the hollow = hinunter in die Kuhle

<sup>7</sup> to wallow = sich suhlen