

## Chapter 1 : The Songs Of Michael Flanders & Donald Swann by Donald Swann

*The Songs of Michael Flanders & Donald Swann, Faber Edition [Michael Flanders, Donald Swann] on [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. A definitive publication of the songs of Michael Flanders and Donald Swann containing 41 of their best known melodies. Lyrics written out in full before each song.*

Actor and singer Michael Flanders OBE and composer, pianist and lyricist Donald Swann collaborated in writing and performing comic songs. They first worked together at a school revue in and wrote more than a hundred comic songs together. Meeting up to write comic songs following the war, their most successful hit, *The Hippopotamus* was written the first afternoon they reconvened. Initially writing songs for other people. Within four weeks it transferred to the Fortune Theatre in the West End, and ran for two years before they toured the world. *At the Drop of Another Hat* followed initially at the Haymarket Theatre, with live recordings of both shows released both produced by Sir George Martin. With over live performances and the most successful musical comedy songs of a generation Flanders and Swann occupy a very special place. Little known facts about Flanders and Swann Michael was the first wheelchair user to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Donald was the most prolific arranger of music in the 21st Century including setting all the poetry of JRR Tolkien to music. Donald was a cousin of Evelyn Waugh. Donald was the only Welsh Cossack Michael had ever met: Donald could speak multiple languages including Greek, Russian, Welsh and Latin. Michael Flanders always said their songs were not performed enough In Tim FitzHigham and Duncan Walsh Atkins took to the stage in Sussex to raise money for a small cottage hospital. The evening was extraordinary: Flanders and Swann - *At the Drop of a Hippopotamus* was born and the hospital brought a new plaster cutter. Massive UK tours, music festivals, performances for Royalty, Charities, Corporate organisations and an album of their live show all followed and sold out. People had missed seeing the work of Flanders and Swann live. Michael, Donald and the hippo were still much loved and Tim and Duncan played to the largest Flanders and Swann audiences since Flanders and Swann to celebrate. With generous support from the estates of Michael Flanders and Donald Swann, *At the Drop of a Hippopotamus* continues to go from strength to strength. As Michael was the first to suggest, their songs were - and are - not sung nearly enough. With 16 live UK tours, seasons of the show all over the world, 11 seasons at the Edinburgh Festival and the largest selling Flanders and Swann album other than the originals

## Chapter 2 : Songs and Song Collections

*Flanders and Swann were a British comedy duo. Lyricist, actor, and singer Michael Flanders () and composer and pianist Donald Swann () collaborated in writing and performing comic songs. They first worked together at a school revue in and eventually wrote more than a hundred comic songs together.*

Donald was born in Llanelli on 30 Sept into a family of amateur musicians, both parents refugees from the Russian Revolution. His upbringing was one of Russian folk song and four-hand piano reductions of the Russian and European Romantics. He remained largely self-taught in spite of being an external student at the RCM while still at Westminster School. Oxford and the War Years In Donald was awarded an exhibition to Christ Church, Oxford, to read modern languages but, after a year, the war intervened. As a convinced pacifist with a life-long quest of religious faith and doubt, he switched from his earlier Anglicanism and found a spiritual home under the tolerant umbrella of the Quakers. As a student he wrote serious settings of poets such as Pushkin, Froissart and Ronsard primarily love songs. A number of these early compositions can be found in two recent volumes of *The Songs Of Donald Swann*. A meeting with Michael Flanders , now wheelchair-bound with polio and working in radio, led to a continuation of their schoolboy writing partnership. Encouraged by that success Flanders and Swann hired, as an experiment, a small seater theatre, the New Lindsey in Notting Hill, for a three-week run. They quickly acquired an agent and transferred to the Fortune Theatre where they were the toast of the West End and ran for nearly two and half years. An LP of highlights was issued, as well as several EPs , which found their way across the Atlantic and a fan base quickly grew in America. The last HAT was dropped on 9th April Ten days later, they moved into a studio and recorded the show for TV. During the last American HAT tour, Donald began to feel that other aspects of his music were being neglected. After *The Hats Over* the next few years Donald compiled and performed hundreds of concerts; sometimes solo or often with different performers picked to explore the variety of his output. It also gave him the opportunity to publish some of his most Russianate and passionate love songs: The following year Donald performed his solo show of peace and protest songs in South Africa where even the Flanders and Swann material took on political overtones. The s In Donald teamed up with the Reverend Frank Topping, a radio producer and raconteur. They played several provincial venues, ending up at the Ambassadors Theatre in the West End in October for a short run. Although Donald was primarily a vocal writer there are nearly 2, songs listed in his archives , his occasional essay in instrumental music displays the same, instantly recognizable, melodic gifts. For Carl Dolmetsch he wrote a concerto for recorder or flute and piano in For many years Donald spent long retreats with the Quaker community at Pendle Hill, Philadelphia â€” a place for study and meditation where he also lectured and composed. One of these concerts from was recorded and Donald oversaw its remaster and transfer onto CD along with some additional tracks in the same idiom. The Last Years Donald developed a deep love for Victorian poets in his last years and, with a new musical voice, began to set the poems of Tennyson, Christina Rossetti, John Clare and Oscar Wilde which he performed with soprano Lucinda Broadbridge. Shortly after publication Donald was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given three months to live. The three months turned into two years and Donald celebrated his exit in a very public way. He rallied enough to commit himself to new concert tours and recordings and, above all, new compositions. However the show was mounted at the Tricycle Theatre in his honour six months later.

## Chapter 3 : The Songs of Michael Flanders & Donald Swann: Piano/Vocal/Chords Book: Michael Flanders

*A definitive publication of the songs of Michael Flanders and Donald Swann containing 41 of their best known melodies. Lyrics written out in full before each song. The introduction was written by Donald Swann and the book also includes numerous illustrations by distinguished artists and cartoonists.*

## Chapter 4 : Lovely War Lyrics

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## Chapter 5 : Michael Flanders - Wikipedia

*The Songs Of Michael Flanders & Donald Swann has 17 ratings and 2 reviews. Cecily said: Time TravelA daisy-chain of memories down the decades, parent t.*

## Chapter 6 : The Songs Of Michael Flanders & Donald Swann Sheet Music By Donald Swann - Sheet Music

*The Complete Flanders and Swann is a three-disc compilation that includes live recordings of their two revues -- At the Drop of a Hat and At the Drop of Another Hat -- and also a studio recording of their other songs, entitled The Bestiary of Flanders and Swann. The latter was a collection of songs.*

## Chapter 7 : DONALD SWANN - Lyrics, Playlists & Videos | Shazam

*[MICHAEL FLANDERS, spoken] You know it's a curious thing, I don't know if you've ever thought of this, but England hasn't really got a national song.*

## Chapter 8 : Flanders & Swann | Biography & History | AllMusic

*Michael Flanders and Donald Swann, the greatest comic song writers who ever lived! This is part of one of their concerts: "At the Drop of a Hat" This is one of my favourites from this concert.*

## Chapter 9 : Donald Swann - IMDb

*A bit of nostalgia from Donald Swann and Michael Flanders.*