

“THE WABASH CANNONBALL”

Recorded by The Carter Family in 1929 and released in 1932

Out from the wide Pacific to the broad Atlantic shore
She climbs flowery mountains, over hills and by the shore
Although she's tall and handsome and she's known quite well by all
She's a regular combination of the Wabash Cannonball
Oh, the eastern states are dandy, so the western people say
Chicago, Rock Island, St. Louis by the way
To the lakes of Minnesota, where the rippling waters fall
No changes to be taken on the Wabash Cannonball

[Chorus]

Oh, listen to the jingle, the rumble and the roar
As she glides along the woodlands, over hills and by the shore
She climbs the flowery mountains, hear the merrier hobo squall
She glides along the woodlands, the Wabash Cannonball

“The Wabash Cannonball” is about a train, a theme common in music of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The song's earliest known version is from a piece of sheet music published in 1882, though it had a different title then; it became known as “The Wabash Cannonball” in 1904. It's unclear whether the song is about a specific train by this name, but the tune celebrates the various places the train visits on its journey and the reaction of all the people who see or hear it as it passes by.



WRITE YOUR OWN VERSION!

Out from the wide _____ to the broad _____ shore
(ocean name) (ocean name)

She climbs _____, over _____ and by the _____
(adjective) (noun) (noun) (noun)

Although she's _____ and _____ and she's known quite well by all
(adjective) (adjective)

She's a regular combination of the _____
(name your train!)

Oh, the eastern states are dandy, so the western people say

_____, _____, _____ by the way
(3 city or town names)

To the _____ of _____, where the _____ _____ fall
(noun) (state name) (adjective) (noun)

No changes to be taken on the _____
(your train's name)

[Chorus]

Oh, listen to the _____, the _____ and the _____
(sound noun) (sound noun) (sound noun)

As she glides along the _____, over _____ and by the _____
(noun) (noun) (noun)

She climbs the _____, hear the merrier hobo _____
(adjective) (noun) (verb)

She glides along the _____, the _____
(noun) (your train's name)