

The Orange and the Green (Anthony Murphy, ca. 1965)

Chorus:

C Am
Oh, it is the biggest mixup

G
That you have ever seen

F C
Me father was an Orangemen,

G C
Me mother she was green.

C Am
Oh, me father was an Ulsterman,

G
Proud Protestant was he

F C
Me mother was a Catholic girl

G C
From County Cork was she.

Am
They were married in two churches

G
And lived happily enough

F C
Until the day that I was born

G C
And things got rather tough.

(Chorus)

Baptized by father Reilly
I was rushed away by car
To be made a little Orangeman,
Me father's shining star.
I was christened David Anthony
But still in spite of that
To me father I was Billy
While me mother called me Pat.

(Chorus)

With mother every Sunday
To Mass I'd proudly stroll
And after that the orange Lord
Would try to save me soul.

And both sides tried to claim me,
But I was smart because
I'd play the flute, I'd play the harp
Depending were I was

(Chorus)

And when I'd sing those rebel songs
Much to me mother's joy
Me father would jump up and say
"Look here, now Bill me boy!
That's quite enough of that lot.",
He'd toss me o'er a coin
He'd have me sing The Orange Flute
Or the Heroes of The Boyne.

(Chorus)

One day me Ma's relations
Came round to visit me.
Just as my father's kinfolk were
Sitting down to tea.
We tried to smooth things over,
But they all began to fight.
And me, being strictly neutral,
I kicked everyone in sight.

(Chorus)

My parents never could agree
About my type of school.
My learning was all done at home,
That's why I'm such a fool.
They've both passed on, God rest 'em,
But I was left between
That awful color problem
Of the Orange and the Green.

(Chorus)