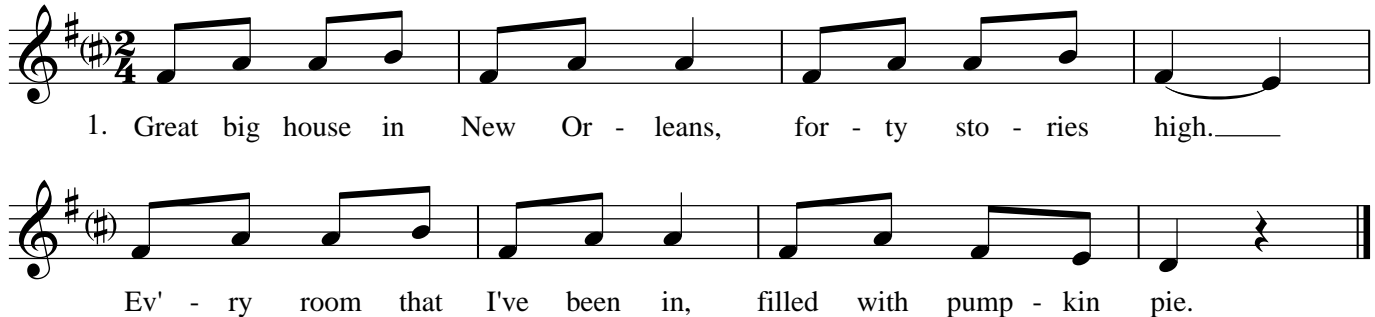


# Great Big House in New Orleans

Source:  
Pete Seeger, Mika Seeger and Rev. Larry Eisenberg  
*American Play Parties*  
Folkways FC 7604, 1959



1. Great big house in New Or - leans, for - ty sto - ries high.\_\_\_\_

Ev' - ry room that I've been in, filled with pump - kin pie.

Transcribed by Eleanor G. Locke

2. Went down to the old mill stream  
To fetch a pail of water,  
Put one arm around my wife,  
The other 'round my daughter.
3. Fare thee well my darling girl,  
Fare thee well my daughter,  
Fare thee well my darling girl  
With the golden slippers on her.

## Game Directions

Formation: Single circle of partners facing clockwise, boy ahead of his partner.

Action: Verse 1: With a strutting step the circle moves in a clockwise direction.

Verse 2: On "Went down to the old mill stream" girls take three or four steps toward the center and join hands in a circle. On "fetch a pail of water" the boys move toward the center and reach across the joined hands of the girls and down toward the floor as if picking up a pail of water. (Each boy's partner is still at his right.) Boys join hands and on "put one arm" they raise joined hands over heads of the girls and make a circle behind their waists. On "the other 'round" the girls do the same, making a circle behind the boys' waists.

Verse 3: All drop hands and face partners. Boy turns girl on his right (his "wife") around one and a half turns, exchanging places with her. Then he moves in a clockwise direction to take both hands of his "daughter" (the girl who was his "corner," that is, on his left) and turns her a time and a half. This puts him ahead of his new partner. The single circle again moves in a clockwise direction, each person strutting along by himself.

NOTE: If the boys, during the first half of verse 3, will end up slightly outside the circle and the ladies slightly inside, it is easier to identify the person whom you are to move up and take.

Verse 3: (simplified version for younger students) For first two lines the entire circle slide-steps clockwise gently. On the third line the girls quickly raise their arms back over the boys' heads, (we now have a double circle again). The boys then move along clockwise to the next girl, and the action begins again with a new partner.