

BACK TO BACK, BELLY TO BELLY

by Paul Cooper

It might be considered unusual to start the new year with a song about zombies, but this one has special significance for me. In about 1959, when my Dad brought home our first Hi-Fi record player – a little RCA in a blonde cabinet on spindly legs, the first two LP albums he bought were The Kingston Trio at the Hungry I and Harry Belafonte at Carnegie Hall. I was hooked from that point on. I wanted to do nothing but play folk music for the rest of my life. Zombie Jamboree was one of the more notable songs on the Kingston Trio's album. Dave Guard tells about this song introduction to their rendition, which vou can https://youtu.be/p4k5XftdTMs, or on the HFMS Audio Archive http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS Audio Archive.html.

ZOMBIE JAMBOREE

C		G 7	C		
Zombie Ja	ımboree took pla	ice in a New York	cemetery. (W	here?)	
		G 7	C		
Zombie Ja	ımboree took pla	ce in Long Island	cemetery.		
	F	G 7		C	
Zombies f	rom all parts of t	he island – some	of them are gr	eat Calypsonian	S.
F	C	G 7		C	
And since	the season was o	carneval they all g	ot together in	bacchanal.	
A' what yo	ou doin?				
Chorus:					
F	C	G 7		C	
Back to ba	ack, belly to belly	, well I don't give	a damn 'cause	e I done dead alr	eady.
F	C	G 7	C		
Back to ba	ack, belly to belly	at the Zombie Jai	mboree.		

One female zombie wouldn't behave.

She say she want me for a slave.

In the one hand she's holding a quart of wine, in the other she is pointing that she'll be mine.

Well, believe me folks, yes I had to run.

The husband of a zombie ain't no fun.

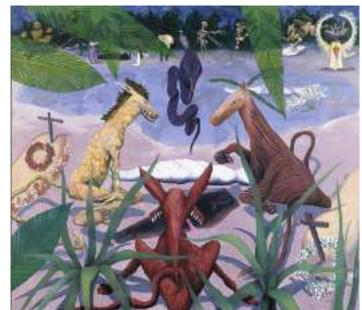
I said "Oh, no my turtle dove,

that old bag o' bones I cannot love.

Chorus

Right then and there she raise her feet.

She said I'm going to catch you now my sweet.



Keith Morrison, Zombie Jamboree, 1988, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum

I'm gonna make you call me sweetie pie. I said, "Oh, no get back, you lie."
I may be lyin' but you will see. After you kiss this dead zombie. (Bla-a-h!)
I never had such a horror in me life. Can you imagine me with a zombie wife? (Yes!)

Chorus