

i want a hippopotamus for christmas

i want a hippopotamus for christmas is a phrase that instantly evokes nostalgia and holiday cheer, thanks to the beloved Christmas novelty song of the same name. This whimsical tune, originally recorded in 1953 by Gayla Peevey, has become a holiday classic that captures the playful spirit of the season. While the song's lyrics are humorous and fantastical—expressing a child's desire for an enormous, unusual pet—the idea of owning such a creature sparks curiosity and imagination. In this article, we explore the origins of the song, the fascinating world of hippopotamuses, and how to incorporate this quirky theme into holiday celebrations and beyond.

Understanding the Origins of “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas”

The History of the Song

The song “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas” was penned in 1950 by Jon and Gretchen Strauss, a songwriting duo specializing in novelty tunes. Gayla Peevey, a young Oklahoma City singer, recorded the song when she was just ten years old, and it quickly became a hit, especially among children and families. Its humorous lyrics and upbeat melody made it a holiday staple, often played on radio stations during the Christmas season.

The Cultural Impact and Popularity

Over the decades, the song has enjoyed enduring popularity, inspiring covers, parodies, and even themed holiday events. Its playful tone resonates with audiences of all ages, reminding us of the innocence and humor that characterize the holiday spirit. The song also has historical significance as a promotional tool for the Oklahoma City Zoo, as Gayla Peevey was later involved in efforts to purchase a hippopotamus for the zoo, tying the song's lyrics to real-world philanthropy.

Hippopotamuses: Fascinating Creatures of the Animal Kingdom

Biology and Habitat

Hippopotamuses, or hippos, are large, semi-aquatic mammals native to sub-Saharan Africa. They are known for their massive size, barrel-shaped bodies, and distinctive large mouths. Hippos spend much of their time submerged in rivers and lakes to keep cool, emerging primarily at dusk to graze

on grasses.

Behavior and Social Structure

Hippos are social animals, living in groups called pods that can range from a few individuals to over a hundred. They are generally peaceful but can be territorial, especially males defending their space. Their diet mainly consists of grasses, and they are known for their surprisingly agile movement on land despite their bulk.

Conservation Status

While hippos are currently classified as vulnerable due to habitat loss and poaching for their teeth and ivory-like tusks, conservation efforts are underway to protect their populations. Understanding these majestic creatures helps dispel misconceptions and fosters appreciation for their ecological importance.

Can You Own a Hippopotamus? The Reality vs. Fantasy

Legal and Ethical Considerations

Despite the humorous desire expressed in the song, owning a hippopotamus as a pet is neither practical nor legal in most parts of the world. Hippos are protected species, and keeping one requires specialized permits, extensive space, and substantial resources to meet their needs. They are also dangerous animals capable of inflicting serious injuries.

Challenges of Keeping a Hippo

Some of the significant challenges include:

- **Size:** Adult hippos can weigh up to 4,000 pounds and measure over 10 feet long.
- **Habitat:** They require large aquatic environments with access to water bodies that mimic their natural habitat.
- **Diet:** They need a diet primarily consisting of grasses, which can be costly and difficult to provide in captivity.
- **Behavior:** Hippos can be aggressive and unpredictable, posing safety risks.

Ethical Considerations

Keeping wild animals in captivity for personal enjoyment raises ethical questions about animal welfare and conservation. Supporting reputable zoos and conservation programs is a more responsible way to appreciate and learn about hippos.

Incorporating the “Hippopotamus for Christmas” Theme into Holiday Celebrations

Decorations and Themed Parties

While owning a real hippopotamus isn't feasible, you can embrace the song's playful spirit through creative decorations:

- Hippopotamus-themed ornaments featuring cute or artistic interpretations of hippos
- Holiday table settings with hippopotamus motifs or plush toys
- Hosting a “Hippopotamus Christmas” costume party with attendees dressing up as their favorite animals

Educational and Charitable Activities

Use the holiday season as an opportunity to raise awareness about wildlife conservation:

- Organize donations to wildlife organizations that protect hippos and their habitats
- Host educational events or virtual tours of zoos with hippo exhibits
- Share fun facts about hippos and their role in ecosystems during holiday gatherings

Creative Gifts and Crafts

Gift ideas inspired by the song and hippos include:

1. Hippopotamus plush toys or figurines
2. Books about hippos or wildlife conservation
3. DIY craft kits to make hippo-themed ornaments or decorations

The Joy of Whimsical Holiday Traditions

The enduring charm of “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas” lies in its playful and imaginative spirit. It encourages us to embrace quirky traditions, foster creativity, and celebrate the joy of giving in unique ways. Whether through singing, decorating, or supporting conservation efforts, the song reminds us that the holiday season is about joy, community, and a little bit of whimsy.

Conclusion: Celebrating the Holiday Spirit with Fun and Responsibility

While the idea of owning a hippopotamus for Christmas remains a delightful fantasy, it opens the door to meaningful and fun ways to celebrate the season. By learning about these incredible animals, supporting wildlife conservation, and infusing our festivities with creativity, we honor the song's playful message while respecting the realities of animal welfare. So, this holiday season, sing along to “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas,” decorate with hippo-themed cheer, and remember that the true magic of Christmas lies in kindness, imagination, and responsible celebration.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of the song 'I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas'?

The song was written by John Rox and performed by 10-year-old Gayla Peevey in 1953, becoming a holiday novelty hit.

Why did Gayla Peevey want a hippopotamus for Christmas?

Gayla Peevey's parents entered her in a contest sponsored by the Oklahoma City Zoo, and her song helped raise funds for the zoo's hippopotamus exhibit.

Is 'I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas' still popular today?

Yes, the song remains a popular holiday novelty, often played during Christmas seasons and featured in holiday playlists and movies.

Are there modern covers of 'I Want a Hippopotamus for

Christmas'?

Yes, many artists and YouTubers have covered or remixed the song, keeping its festive spirit alive for new audiences.

What is the significance of the song in pop culture?

The song is considered a classic holiday novelty, symbolizing quirky and fun Christmas music and often used in holiday media and parodies.

Has the song been featured in movies or TV shows?

Yes, it has appeared in various holiday movies, TV specials, and commercials, contributing to its enduring popularity.

Are there any fun facts about the original recording?

Yes, Gayla Peevey was only 10 years old when she recorded the song, and her performance helped raise money for the Oklahoma City Zoo.

What are some common themes in 'I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas'?

The song humorously expresses a child's whimsical wish for an unusual pet, emphasizing innocence and holiday cheer.

How has the song influenced holiday music trends?

It popularized the genre of novelty holiday songs and inspired other humorous and lighthearted Christmas tunes.

Where can I listen to 'I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas'?

You can find the song on most streaming platforms, YouTube, and holiday music compilations online.

Additional Resources

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: A Cultural Phenomenon Rooted in Nostalgia and Media

Introduction

i want a hippopotamus for christmas is more than just a whimsical line from a holiday song; it is a cultural phenomenon that has captivated audiences for decades. Originating from a 1950s novelty tune performed by child singer Gayla Peevey, the phrase has since become emblematic of holiday cheer, eccentricity, and nostalgia. This article explores the origins of the song, its cultural impact, and how it has persisted in popular consciousness over the years.

The Origins of "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas"

Historical Context and Creation

The song "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" was written by Jon and Gerry Jamboree (pseudonyms for Jon and Gerry Nelson), and composed in 1950. It was initially performed by a young Oklahoma girl, Gayla Peevey, who was only ten years old at the time. The song was created as a novelty tune intended to appeal to children and to capitalize on the Christmas season's whimsical spirit.

Gayla Peevey's Performance and Popularity

Gayla Peevey's rendition of the song quickly gained popularity across the United States. Its catchy melody, playful lyrics, and Peevey's charming delivery made it a holiday staple in many households. The song's popularity was bolstered by its frequent radio airplay and its appeal as a lighthearted, humorous Christmas tune.

The Song's Unique Appeal

- Childlike innocence and humor
- Absence of traditional Christmas themes like snow or Santa Claus
- Quirky and memorable chorus

Cultural Impact and Legacy

Nostalgia and Revival

Decades after its initial release, "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" experienced a resurgence in popularity, fueled by nostalgia and renewed interest in mid-20th-century pop culture. It has been featured in various movies, TV shows, and commercials, often invoked to evoke a sense of retro holiday cheer.

Charitable Fundraising and the Hippo Campaign

In a charming twist, Gayla Peevey's original hippo wish was actually a promotional stunt for the Oklahoma City Zoo. In the 1950s, Peevey's popularity was harnessed to raise funds for the zoo, with a campaign encouraging donations in exchange for a chance to win a real hippopotamus. This campaign successfully increased zoo attendance and raised awareness about wildlife conservation efforts, exemplifying how pop culture and philanthropy can intersect.

Modern Interpretations and Cover Versions

Over the years, numerous artists and entertainers have recorded their own versions of the song, each adding their unique flavor. Some notable covers include:

- The Brian Setzer Orchestra's jazzy rendition
- The cast of the animated series "South Park"
- Various holiday compilation albums

These reinterpretations have contributed to the song's enduring presence in holiday media and festivities.

The Song in the Digital Age

Streaming Platforms and Viral Memes

In recent years, "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" has found a new audience through digital platforms. Its vintage charm has made it a popular choice for holiday playlists on Spotify and Apple Music. Additionally, the song has been featured in viral memes and TikTok videos, often in humorous or nostalgic contexts.

Social Media and Nostalgia Marketing

Marketers and content creators leverage the song's quirky appeal to evoke nostalgia and connect with audiences seeking authentic, vintage holiday experiences. The song's presence in online communities underscores its timeless appeal and adaptability.

The Enduring Charm of a Quirky Holiday Wish

Why the Song Continues to Resonate

Several factors contribute to the song's lasting popularity:

- Simplicity and catchiness: The repetitive chorus makes it easy to remember and sing along.
- Nostalgic value: It evokes memories of childhood innocence and simpler times.
- Eccentricity: Its unusual subject matter—wanting a hippopotamus for Christmas—sets it apart from traditional holiday music.

The Cultural Significance of Unconventional Christmas Wishes

The song exemplifies how holiday traditions include not only the sacred and sentimental but also the quirky and humorous. It challenges the conventional notions of Christmas gift-giving, emphasizing joy, absurdity, and the importance of childhood imagination.

Conclusion

The phrase "I want a hippopotamus for Christmas" encapsulates more than a song; it embodies a blend of nostalgia, humor, and cultural history. From its origins as a novelty tune performed by a young girl to its status as a holiday classic embraced across generations, the song highlights how simple, playful expressions can become enduring symbols of festive joy. As media continues to evolve and new generations discover this quirky anthem, the desire for a hippopotamus at Christmas remains a charming reminder of childhood wonder and the universal spirit of celebration.

Whether through nostalgic reminiscing, charitable campaigns, or viral online content, the phrase and song continue to bring smiles to faces young and old, proving that sometimes, the most unconventional wishes make the most memorable holidays.

[I Want A Hippopotamus For Christmas](#)

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas John Rox,

2005-09-27 Christmas is coming, and one little girl wants nothing more than a hippopotamus to play with and enjoy. But will Santa Claus and her parents make her Christmas wish come true? As shown in his best-selling titles *The Night Before Christmas* and *Here Comes Santa Claus*, no one can portray the holidays better than Bruce Whatley; and he does it again with *I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas*. The song *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas* was written in 1950 by John Rox and became a nationwide hit in 1953 when ten-year-old Oklahoma native Gayla Peevey sang the song as a way to raise money for the Oklahoma City Zoo's first hippopotamus. In December of that year the city received Matilda the hippo for Christmas.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: Jeff Lenburg, Joan Howard Maurer, Greg Lenburg, 2012 Provides information about the Stooges' lives and careers, including photographs, interviews, and filmography.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: *Christmas Songs - Super Easy Songbook* Hal Leonard Corp., 2017-08-01 (Super Easy Songbook). It's super easy! This series features accessible arrangements for piano, with simple right-hand melody, letter names inside each note, and basic left-hand chord diagrams. This edition includes 60 holiday favorites: All I Want for Christmas Is You * Blue Christmas * The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire) * Do You Hear What I Hear * Frosty the Snow Man * Grandma Got Run over by a Reindeer * Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas * I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas (Hippo the Hero) * Jingle Bell Rock * Little Saint Nick * Mary, Did You Know? * Pretty Paper * Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer * Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town * Silver Bells * White Christmas * Winter Wonderland * and more.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: *The Multi-Sensory Reminiscence Activity Book* Sophie Jopling, Sarah Mousley, 2017-11-21 These multi-sensory group sessions, one for each week of the year, are ideal for working with older adults. Focusing on reminiscence to stimulate memory and sensory functioning, and enhance wellbeing, these activities bring a fresh approach to group sessions. Supporting colour photographs and cards are available to download.

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i want a hippopotamus for christmas: *Lifes Commas Moving Ahead in Spite of* Barbara Legan, 2006-09-01 Life's Commas is one person's authentic, straight-from-the-heart account of her journey through the grieving process after her husband's sudden, unexpected death. In addition to exploring the myriads of emotions and feelings associated with loss, the book offers practical tips, guidelines and ideas for anyone who has or will encounter a loss. There are so many types of loss we experience throughout our lives and this book offers information on how to cope with those losses - whatever they may be.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: *Greatest hits, 1995-2001* Lynn Veach Sadler, 2002 12 greatest hit poems from the career of Lynn Veach Sadler. Part of the Invitational national archive, Poets Greatest Hits. --Pudding House Publications.

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i want a hippopotamus for christmas: Oklahoma City Zoo: 1960-2013 Amy Dee Stephens, 2014 What started as a small menagerie in 1902 officially became Oklahoma City Zoo in 1903. Journey through the second half century of its illustrious history in Oklahoma City Zoo: 1960-2013. Meet the staff and animals and explore the exhibits that propelled it from a third-class animal facility to one of the best zoos in the United States. In the 1960s, its animal population exploded as knowledge of animal care improved. The zoo soon assembled the largest-known collection of hooved animals. Later, a rare mountain gorilla named M'Kubwa stole newspaper headlines, a third leopard escaped, and the zoo met its first cheetah babies. The opening of Aquaticus in the 1980s brought the ocean to the prairie in the form of a dolphin and sea lion show. Elephants, however, remain the queen attraction at the Oklahoma City Zoo. In 2011, the birth of the zoo's first baby elephant baby, Malee, was a crowning achievement in its 110-year history.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: Billboard , 1953-11-28 In its 114th year, Billboard remains the world's premier weekly music publication and a diverse digital, events, brand, content and data licensing platform. Billboard publishes the most trusted charts and offers unrivaled reporting about the latest music, video, gaming, media, digital and mobile entertainment issues and trends.

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i want a hippopotamus for christmas: Encyclopedia of Pop Music Aliases, 1950-2000 Bob Leszczak, 2014-12-11 Recording Artists don't always enjoy success with their first release. A hit record relies on any number of factors: the right song, a memorable performance, a healthy promotional budget, great management, a spot of luck, and even some intangibles. Take choice of a name. For a single artist, duo, vocal group or band, the name can carry a lot of weight. Some recording artists changed their name to appeal to an entirely different demographic, like when country superstar Garth Brooks recorded as Chris Gaines to score on the pop charts. The Beefeaters became the Byrds—and they spelled the band name with a y in the wake of the meteoric success of the Beatles, whose letter A turned the image of a nasty bug into something intriguing. Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel amassed a litany of aliases—Simon went by True Taylor, Jerry Landis, and Paul Kane; Art Garfunkel as Artie Garr; together they were Tom & Jerry before finally using their very ethnic-sounding given names. Bob Leszczak has amassed several hundred examples of musical pseudonyms in The Encyclopedia of Pop Music Aliases, 1950-2000, describing the history of these artists from their obscure origins under another name to their rise to prominence as a major musical act. Music trivia buffs, rock historians, and popular music fans will uncover nugget after nugget of eye-opening information about their favorite acts and perhaps learn a thing or two about a number of other acts. Leszczak goes the extra yard of gathering critical data directly from many of these famous recording artists through in-person interviews and archival research. Whether skipping around randomly or reading from cover-to-cover, readers will find The Encyclopedia of Pop Music Aliases, 1950-2000 a must-have for that music library.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: A to Zoo Rebecca L. Thomas, 2018-06-21 Whether used for thematic story times, program and curriculum planning, readers' advisory, or collection development, this updated edition of the well-known companion makes finding the right picture books for your library a breeze. Generations of savvy librarians and educators have relied on this detailed subject guide to children's picture books for all aspects of children's services, and this new edition does not disappoint. Covering more than 18,000 books published through 2017, it empowers users to identify current and classic titles on topics ranging from apples to zebras. Organized simply, with a subject guide that categorizes subjects by theme and topic and subject headings arranged

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i want a hippopotamus for christmas: *Secret Oklahoma: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure* Matt Kirouac, 2025-08-15 From twisters to chicken-fried steak, Oklahoma is swirling in stereotypes, which explains why it's also a state filled with undiscovered lore and overlooked stories. Yes, tornadoes occur here (as evidenced by the biweekly tornado siren tests on Saturdays), and you can certainly find plenty of chicken-fried steak (it's the centerpiece of the official state meal, after all) but there is so much more to Oklahoma than "flyover country" presumptions. Secrets are everywhere in this Southern Great Plains state, sometimes hiding in plain sight—from restaurant menus to striking headstones—and sometimes buried in alabaster caverns or sand dunes. They're in the lost lore of infamous outlaws and overlooked architects, Indigenous artifacts, and crumbling castles. Some are easier to spot, like blue whales and space cowboys nestled alongside iconic Route 66, or the tallgrass soaring over the plains, while others are still shrouded in mystery, like ghostly mounds and ghost towns. *Secret Oklahoma* uncovers it all, from Oklahoma City to Viking runes, and from bison-trod mountains to alligator swamps, debunking some stereotypes while confirming others. Here, in one of the most misunderstood states in the nation, a new discovery awaits around every corner. Join author Matt Kirouac on a detour, off the beaten Route 66 path, and discover a side of the Sooner State you never knew existed.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: *Waves of Faith* Jennie Bailor, 2012-06-26 After years of failed relationships, Faith Kase, a twenty-something vet tech from mountainous Vermont, literally runs into the one thing she has always desired: true love. Cole Richards, an infatuation from school, is everything she remembers, only better. Caught in a brilliant explosion of raw passion and spell-binding adoration, their connection quickly defies the average relationship. Only when tragedy uproots her fairy tale happiness does she become consumed with the missing link. Her maternal grandmother, Louise—who lives in Newport, and is her one other familial extension besides her mom—proves easy enough to find, but in forming that relationship she destroys another, losing herself. In this heartwarming drama, Faith, a naturally passive-aggressive avoider, must re-define all that she knows: her hope in the future, and distinguishing between the life she was convinced she was meant to have and the life which now awaits her. With unwavering help from her small, tight-knit inner circle, she finds what the dynamics of prayer and support can do, and encounters an extraordinary being who lifts her up from her downward cycle, lighting her path, and enforcing the power of what faith in all that is good can truly accomplish.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: *100 Proof Stud* A. J. Lape, 2014-05-17 Sometimes crime smacks you right in the kisser with a whole lot of ohhhcraaaaap. Ask Darcy Walker...or the guys trying to date her... Murder isn't Darcy Walker's only problem. All of a sudden it's raining men, and the teenager heroine's personal life turns her inside out. Before she can sort out her feelings, she's after a spray-painting vandal and stumbles upon a case of identity theft...chasing the reward money. Tapping her band of misfit friends to play sidekick, a new guy surfaces with a hard-to-resist British accent. Combined with Dylan and the school bad boy, Darcy finds herself knee-deep in a troubling testosterone...especially with the Brit. He knows too much, and Darcy can't tell if he's a friend or the mastermind behind one of the crimes. *100 PROOF STUD* is the third novel in the Darcy Teenage Sleuth Thrillers. If you enjoy witty banter, nerds and jocks, all set in the trauma called high school, then you'll love this series where the underdog saves the day.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: *Paws to Remember* Sofie Kelly, 2024-08-06 Librarian Kathleen Paulson and her enchanted felines get involved in a cold case that is putting people in very hot water in the newest installment of this New York Times bestselling series. When a water leak

repair results in a body being found behind the walls of the store run by the artists' co-op that Kathleen's friend, Maggie, is part of everyone is completely mystified as to whose body it is and who hid it there. But as the dust settles, her boyfriend, Detective Marcus Gordon, begins to suspect the body could belong to a young woman who disappeared more than thirty years ago. When a friend with a connection to the young woman asks Kathleen to look into the circumstances around the disappearance, she and her cats—who have special feline talent for catching felons—find themselves digging up secrets that at least one person in Mayville Heights would much prefer stay buried.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: Molly's Promise Sylvia Olsen, 2013-04-01 When Molly learns a talent competition is coming to town, her friend Murphy (A Different Game, Murphy and Mousetrap) becomes her manager. Molly is certain she is a good singer—she has been singing in her head for as long as she can remember. She doesn't sing out loud because of a promise she made to herself. Years ago, Molly vowed that her mom would be the first one to hear her sing. The only problem is, Molly knows nothing about her mom, who left when Molly was a baby. With the talent competition only weeks away, she has to decide whether to break her promise to herself and let her voice out into the world, or wait for her mother's uncertain return before singing for anyone else.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: Grinchland Anne-Marie Meyer, 2025-11-01 If Silas St. Nick thinks I'm going to pack up my twinkle lights and peppermint-scented joy just because he's banned Christmas in his small town, he's in for a very festive surprise. He thinks he can do whatever he wants because he's handsome and rich, but my kindergarteners don't call me Ms. Christmas for nothing. This town might've surrendered to his no-fun, no-joy, no-garland rules... But not me. It's time Grinchland took a stand against its Christmas-hating mayor. It's time for a holiday revolution.

i want a hippopotamus for christmas: The Teenager with a Chameleon Soul Cindy McElroy, 2017-09-29 Meet Sadie MacPhearson. She's seventeen and lives in a ritzy, artsy beach town called Mariposa Beach, California. Blond, bootylicious and beautiful—she's a main chick of the Pop Crowd: the most flawless looking, smartest, trendiest, richest, fabulous group of party animals at Mariposa Beach High School. She wants one thing, to keep her secret but it's always lingering above her head. When the administrators want to assess her for a learning disability, she coats inhibitions and fears with alcohol, which, in turn, causes serious damage in her life, mostly her chameleon soul. <p>After struggling to blend in, senior year, Sadie finds herself without her dear grandmother, with disgusted parents, three hundred and sixty mandatory volunteer hours and AA meetings, no driver's license or Jeep, zero friends, and cognitively low classes. Feeling like success is not an option with her learning disability, she sits behind building C next to an overweight, military loving, book nerd Jay Felix on the first day of senior year. He pushes her to be her best self. But even at her best, can Sadie overcome her learning disability, her struggles with alcohol and graduate from high school at the cutthroat Mariposa Beach High School or will the lure of the Pop Crowd take her down?

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I Want A Hippopotamus For Christmas Lyrics - Christmas Carols I can see me now on Christmas morning, creeping down the stairs Oh what joy and what surprise when I open up my eyes To see a hippo hero standing there I want a hippopotamus for

I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas (Hippo the Hero) "I Want a Hippopotamus for

Christmas" is a Christmas novelty song written by John Rox (1902-1957) and performed by Gayla Peevey (10 years old at the time) in 1953

I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas - She is best known for her recording, under her maiden name Gayla Peevey, of "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" (Columbia 4-40106, 1953). Peevey recorded the novelty song

Gayla Peevey - I Want A Hippo For Christmas Lyrics Gayla Peevey - I Want A Hippo For Christmas Lyrics. I want a hippopotamus for Christmas Only a hippopotamus will do Don't want a doll No dinky tinker toy I want a hippopotamus to play with

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