



Songs *K-K-K-KATY*

(**BIOGRAPHY**) GEOFFREY O'HARA (1882-1966), born in Chatham, Ontario, joined Lew Dockstader's Minstrels in 1904, sang at Daly's Theatre in New York, and "travelled the Lyceum and Chautauqua vaudeville circuits..." (*EMC 2*, 962). (**BACKGROUND**) During a stay

in Kingston, Ontario, while employed in the USA as a collector of Native music on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, O'Hara wrote this hit song in 1918. By 1921 it had sold one and a half million copies. (**PUBLICATIONS**) New York: Leo Feist, 1918. *CMH 14*, 217-18. (**MUSIC**) This stuttering novelty song is a story of a tongue-tied recruit making a promise to his girlfriend before departing for war. As was typical of many other works from this era, the chorus is the most distinctive part and the two verses serve as preparation for the "stuttering" triplets of the chorus.

(**RECORDINGS**) This bestseller was recorded eleven times before 1930 and has remained popular throughout the century. Arthur Fields (Emerson 927) (**HLP**).

(**FURTHER READING**) *CMH 14*, xi-xiv. Edward Moogk, *Roll Back The Years*, Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1975.



Cover illustration of Leo Feist
edition 1918, Music Division
National library of Canada

