

Shame and Scandal in the Family

The image shows the musical notation for the song 'Shame and Scandal in the Family'. It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are: G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above are C, F, G7, C, G7, C. The second staff has notes: G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above are C, G7, C, F, G7, C, G7, C. The third staff is labeled 'chorus' and has notes: G4, A4, Bb4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Chords above are G7, C, G7, C, C. There are first and second endings indicated by '1' and '2' above the final two notes.

1. In Trinidad, there was a family,
 Much confusion as you will see.
 There was a mama and a papa,
 and a son who was grown,
 Who wanted to marry and have wife of his own.

Chorus:

Ah woe! Ah me! Shame and scandal in me family.
 Ah woe! Ah me! Shame and scandal in me family.

2. He found him a girl who was suiting him nice.
 He went to his papa to ask his advice.
 The papa said, "Son, I've got to say no.
 That girl is your sister, but your mama don't know."

Chorus

3. So the boy went out and looked all around,
 Soon, the best cook in the island he found.
 He went to his papa to name a day,
 His papa looked at him and to him he did say,
 "You cannot marry this girl; I've got to say no.
 That girl is your sister, but your mama don't know."

Chorus

4. So the years went by the boy wished he was dead
 He he'd had seventeen girls and still wasn't wed;
 When he went to his papa, papa'd always say "no"
 Those girls were his sisters but his mama didn't know.

Chorus

5. He went to his mama, he hung his head,
 He told her the words that his papa had said.
 The mama she said, "Son, go, man, go!
 Your papa ain't your papa, but your papa don't know!"

Chorus

"Shame & Scandal" is a song originally written by Trinidadian calypsonian Lord Melody and by calypso singer Sir Lancelot and performed by the latter in 1943. The song is a calypso and reggae classic, and was written for the movie **I Walked with a Zombie** in 1943 and originally titled "Fort Holland Calypso Song".

I learned it from Stan Shepherd who was from Jamaica and taught physics at Penn State Altoona and main campus.