

Puttin' On the Style

Verse

D A7

Young man in a car-riage, dri-ving like he's mad

G D

With a team of hor-ses, he's bor-rowed from his dad. He

A7

cracks his whip so live-ly, just to see his la-dy's smile

D

But she knows he's on-ly put-ting on the style.

Chorus

D A7

Put-ting on the ag-on-y, put-ting on the style

G D

That's what all the young folks are do-ing all the while And

A7

as I look a round me, I'm ver-y apt to smile To

D

see so man-y peo-ple put-ting on the style.

1. Young man in a carriage, driving like he's mad
With a team of horses, he's borrowed from his dad.
He cracks his whip so lively, just to see his lady's smile
But she knows he's only putting on the style.

Chorus:

Putting on the agony, putting on the style
That's what all the young folks are doing all the while
And as I look around me, I'm very apt to smile
To see so many people putting on the style.

2. Sweet sixteen, she goes to church, just to see the boys.
She laughs and she giggles at every little noise.
She turns this way a little, she turns that way a while
But everybody knows she's only putting on the style.
Chorus
3. Young man in a restaurant smokes a dirty pipe
Looking like a pumpkin that's only halfway ripe.
Smoking, drinking, chewing and thinking all the while
There is nothing equal to putting on the style.
Chorus
4. Preacher in the pulpit shouting with all his might
Glory Hallelujah, puts the people in a fright.
You might think that Satan's coming up and down the aisle
But it's only preacher putting on the style.
Chorus
5. Young man just back from college makes a big display
With a great big jawbreak that he can hardly say.
It can't be found in Webster and won't be for a while
But everybody knows he's only putting on the style.
Chorus
6. Doctor comes to see you, just to hold your hand,
Feeds you pills and medicines and tells you you'll feel grand
And all the times he's talking, he wears a great big smile
Thinks he'll make a lot of money putting on the style.
Chorus

"Puttin' On the Style" is a satirical American song.

Vernon Dalhart (stage name of Marion Try Slaughter (1883 – 1948)) recorded it in December 1925 and by 1926 it was a popular hit. The song was collected in the Catskills by Norman Cazden from Ernie Sagar in 1945 showing that it had entered oral tradition. Another version has also been collected from oral tradition in West Virginia.

"Puttin' On the Style" was a 1957 hit for skiffle artist Lonnie Donegan. The Chad Mitchell Trio also recorded this song on **Mighty Day on Campus** (1961).

Finnish singer Lasse Liemola had a hit in 1958 with a Finnish version of the song titled as "*Diivailen*". In 1974 a group called Hullujussi covered "*Diivailen*" in their album *Bulvania*.

The lyrics were published in the July 25, 1870 issue of the "North Star" (Danville, Vermont). This song has been copyrighted several times using a subset of the lyrics published in 1870. Copyrights include 1875 George P. Wright, 1915 Matilda Leonard, 1926 Henry Dawes and Rob Hughes. In 1945 Norman Cazden collected this song and subsequently published it. Consequently, some recordings, notably the 1957 version by Lonnie Donegan, incorrectly credit Cazden as the songwriter.