

Single Girl, Married Girl



1. Single girl, single girl,
She's going dressed so fine,
Oh, she's going dressed so fine.
Married girl, married girl,
She wears just any kind,
Oh, she wears just any kind.
2. Single girl, single girl,
She goes to store & buys,
Oh, she goes to store & buys.
Married girl, married girl,
She rocks the cradle & cries,
Oh, she rocks the cradle & cries.
3. Single girl, single girl,
She's going just where she please,
Oh, she's going where she please.
Married girl, married girl,
Baby on her knees,
Oh, baby on her knees.

"Single Girl, Married Girl" is a folk song made famous by The Carter Family, about the differences in lifestyle between the two title characters. It was possibly adapted from the traditional song "I Wish I Was a Single Girl Again" that was recorded by Kelly Harrell in 1925.

The song was originally released on Victor Records in 1928 as the a-side of Victor 20937, the Carter Family's second 78-rpm record for the label. It was recorded on August 2, 1927, the second day of their first session with producer and engineer Ralph Peer and released in January 1928. This version was later included in Harry Smith's **Anthology of American Folk Music, Vol. 3**. Notably, the song does not feature A.P. Carter, but is instead a solo by Sara Carter playing autoharp accompanied by her cousin Maybelle Carter playing lead guitar (Maybelle used an inexpensive Stella guitar during the August 1-2, 1927 sessions). The song was re-recorded during the last months of Sara and A.P. Carter's marriage, on May 8, 1935, during a 4-day recording session with Ralph Peer. The tempo of this version is much slower, and Sara Carter sings at a much lower pitch.

It was also recorded by the New Lost City Ramblers on **Remembrance of Things to Come** (1973), Jody Stecher and Kate Brislin on **Songs of the Carter Family** (2000), Levon Helm on **Dirt Farmer** (2007), Peter, Paul and Mary on **In Concert** (1964).

It was printed in Cohen, Seeger and Wood's **Old Time String Band Songbook** (1964) (Previously published as **The New Lost City Ramblers Songbook**), Lomax's **Folk Songs of North America** (1960) and Sharp's **English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians** (1917).