

Bean King Ballad

A few introductory Words:

The first Bean King Party in Bloomington IN, was held 6 Jan, in the Bicentennial Year 1976, to celebrate King's Day, Epiphany, Twelfth Night, Old Christmas (and Dr. William Ryan's birthday) at Rapp's Pizza Train, after the Wednesday night dance. Andy Mahler, inspired by the King Cake tradition of New Orleans, baked a birthday cake with a bean, assorted Barbie doll limbs, etc. So began the tradition of ...

THE BEAN KING BALLAD, or BEDTIME FOR GARBANZO

The Chorus:

**The Bean King, the Bean King, the King of the Bean
Your teeth must be strong and your eyes very keen
If your portion of fortune containeth the seed
Be ye Man, Maid, or Child, you're the King of the Bean!**

The Recitative:

Now many have asked that I cut this song short.
"Let's get back to the party, now there's a good sport.
While you stand there endlessly fanning the breeze
My mind's on a dance with my favorite squeeze."

Though some will agree that Tradition is Dear
Many others live but for the present, I fear.
"Your history's bunk," said a pleasant young pup.
I said "Where'd you hear that?" "Well, I just made it up!"

Now I may agree with the things that they say,
But a former Bean King saw me just yesterday.
With the Crown on his head and the Bean on his tongue,
He charged that we leave not a couplet unsung.

Though it's certain this song needs a little more leanness,
Still, minority rules, when it comes to His Bean-ness.

So let's all sing it now from the start to the finish,
The song that may Augment, but never Diminish!

The Verses:

We're gathered tonight in great numbers indeed,
Old Christmas to honor, and our faces to feed.
But when you devour this excellent cake,
Beware of the Bean or your jaw it will break.

Now who put the Bean in our holiday cake?
Prince Andy, the one who fell into the Lake.
He was under for hours but emerged with a grin,
For he'd eaten the Bean and had plenty of wind.

[Frank Hall Jan 1976]

Now who was the Primary King of our day?
King Franco, the pride of his mother they say.
She had hopes that he'd enter the plumbing profession
She was close, for he clogs with particular passion.

[James Chiplis '77]

Now who was the second-most King of the Bean?
King James of the West, tall, handsome and lean!
He's revered and remembered for doing his part,
A pretty good King with a mighty loud voice.

[Amy Novick '78, '79]

King Amy was next (though she styled herself "Queen")
Two years did she harbour our excellent Bean.
But greed got the better of some, and you guessed it
They swallowed too swiftly, and the Bean was digested.

[Paul Tyler '80]

King Paul was the fourth, whom they called the Old Maid,
For he drew, not the Bean, but the Lady of Spades.
He studied the classics, collected folklore
At the end of his reign he was sanding his floor.

[Charlie Weir '81]

King Charles, "The Weird," as he came to be called
Did little, in fact he did nothing at all.

But nevertheless all the ladies will miss him,
and if you can find him, you can certainly kiss him.

[Tom Morrison '82]

Of Thomas from Spencer, this tale I'll intone
For the practical gas-powered shaver he's known.
Under his rule we all swing into spring.
He was without doubt our most swinging Bean King.

[Andrea Morrison '83]

King Andrea's fond of her dancing, no doubt
She's the mom of Prince Charles, that bonnie Bean Sprout.
She danced all nine months with her usual vim,
'Til Charles heard "Cast Off," and thought it meant him.

[Jane Henderson '84]

King Jane's in there somewhere (I fear I've lost track)
She attended the party flat out on her back.
When we'd eaten her food and washed it all down, we
Partook of her beautiful Boston Bean Brownie.

[Eawin Schmidt '85]

At Leslie's round midnight I last saw King Eawin
A bottle of ale he was hotly pursuin'.
He is always up first and goes to bed last
Though his stature is short, his capacity's vast.

[Cliff Emery '86]

King Cliff "The Nailfinger" had his moment of truth
While fixing a hole in another King's roof.
They hauled him away with blood on his cheeks
And they patched up his hand, but the roof it still leaks.

[Abby Ladin '87]

King Abby from Baltimore, really can charm you
Her smile is so sweet (though her laugh may alarm you).
Our heroine Abby cut a figure quite dashing,
Like Nero, she danced while Wall Street was crashing.

[Marybeth Roska '88]

The next was MB (which is short for "Ms. Bean")
and More Baseball, the motto of the Maple Street scene.

MB and her Court to Chicago did trek
To see Wrigley's lights and get rain down their necks.

[Lotus Dickey '89]
Since Caitlin (the Former) abdicated the Throne
We decided to nominate one of our own.
A right royal fellow with a flower of a name
Though his blossoms have faded the petals remain.

He filled all our lives with the fragrance of song
With the colors of evenings that turned into dawn
With a deep joy of spring, overcoming the fall
Cut down by the winter, alive in us all.

[Randy Hammond '90]
King Randy of Hammond couldn't make it that night
He brought a new baby Bean into the light.
Though the Bean may be old, Randy cared not a jot
If the Bean's pods were withered, King Randy's were not.

[Dean Lawler '91]
King Dean's an inventor of Bold Curiosity
He greatly enhanced the Bean's Imperviousity.
If you bite down too hard, you'll be one of his clients
And the Bean he'll implant as a dental appliance.

[Teri Klassen '92] [*Teri Klassen created the "Gilded Garbanzo" crown*]
Now Teri was known as the MIDAS-TOUCH Queen
Not for over-priced mufflers but gold-plated beans.
With eggnog and wassail she's equally handy,
Her secret ingredient's homemade Bean Brandy.

[Gail Larsen '93]
Twas the Twelfth Night of Christmas, and all 'round the Lake,
The Sufis were dancing and eating Bean Cake
When out over Southshore there arose such a clatter
We sprang to the street to see what was the matter

Siri, Teal and Robin cried "Come here quick Mama!
Look, on top of the Porthole, there's twelve tiny llamas!"
And good queen St. Gail insur-ed her fame
As she leapt to the rooftop and called them by name:

"Now Jasmine, now Pekoe, now Cinder, and Licorice,
On, Pecan, and Coconut, Stirfry, and Beatrice,
And Cinnamon, Buster, Wisp, Sassafras too,
And Beany and Raisin, we still think of you!"

[Tom Stio '94]

King Tom's a recycler, a shrewd man of business
but a bottle of Home Brew hath caused him some dizziness.
He called me and said, "I did not really mean it:
I baked, not the Bean, but a Styrofoam peanut!"

[Linda Handlesman '95]

King Linda, her verse it was really quite nice
Something 'bout zydeco, red beans and rice
But the rest of her verse I will not repeat
(I wish I'd hit save instead of delete)

[and here is the actual verse amazingly recovered thank you Cindy L.]

Now let's hear it for Linda, not a bean, but a plum
Or as they say in the Bayou, "une jolie bonne femme".
While we're digging out of the slush and the snow,
She'll be dancing and playing that hot Zydeco.

[Rob Magnum '96]

Flatulations resound for King Magnus the Swell
Who can sit on his pot and throw it as well
A daddy, a fiddler, just one of the guys
I can tell you adore him by the glaze in your eyes

[Grey Larsen '97]

King Grey paid the price for kissing a Queen
By contracting a lingering case of the Bean
He suffered in silence this dreadful affliction
And gave a new twist to the "oral tradition"

[Mark Feddersen '98]

To write a new Bean Verse it isn't too hard
When you are the Bean King and also Bean Bard
A few flattering phrases [like ____ and _____ and _____] .. and set them to song
Multiply them by two and you'll never go wrong

[Meisha Smith '99] *[Queen Meisha is famous for her stuffed and costumed cows, and produced a new crown for Teri's "Gilded Garbanzos"]*

A wonderful seamstress was bonnie Queen Meisha
Haberdasher for Charlotte and Lovely Lucretia
Oliana and Otis, Ophelia too
They all "SING" her praises, or should I say "MOO"

[The Y2K Verses]

As we wave fond farewell to this Y2K scam
Which was good for no one but the makers of Spam
We naturally ponder the future before us
We can hope "Lamborghini," but be ready for "Taurus"

Will this decade be known as the "ROARING OO's"
Or the ZZZ-Zeros? Well, the Bean only knows.
Through the dark of the night to the dawning new day
The Leguminous Light of the Bean shows the way

[Diane Jung 2000]

Could this be the last of Diane the Yung?
No, she's not ready to give up her day in the sun
George BushBean is bush league, Al Gore-banzo's a shmoe
She's headed to D.C. to run the whole show!

[Serena Sparks 2001]

King Serena's the Queen at most all kinds of ball
See that MVP trophy adorning her wall
She's so good at games, you can hardly rebuke her
For doing less algebra and playing more Euchre

[Bill Baus 2002 *revised for "2 Dollar"*]

King Baus was content in 2002
'Cause he kept his in CASH when the DOW went kabloo
He hid it in caves, in 2 dollar bills
And that's why they say that he's UNDER the hill

[Julia Jackson 2003]

It was 2003 and December was ebbing
But Queen Julie was frantically world-wide-webbing

"This internet virus is the weirdest I've seen
All my HTTP is infected with beans!"

[Bill Baus 2004]

'Twas the night before Christmas, on the Evansville Road
King Bill was out measuring snowdrifts, I'm told.
A two-foot-long stick in a snowbank was plunged
But the rest of this verse is discretely expunged

[David Ernst 2005]

It was 2005 and the climate was warming
Katrina and Rita and Wilma were storming
What's with the tsunamis and deadly earthquakes?
"Dunno," says King Dave, "just don't blame my Bean Cake!"

[Steven Grimes 2006]

King Steve is a king of talents diverse
Plays banjo, does math, writes Hungarian verse
And though you may doubt it, the plain simple fact is, he
Baked our Bean Cake on an Ultimate Frisbee!

[Jack Horton 2007]

If you want to know railroads, just ask King Jack
Your man on the Monon is always on track
Forget I-69: let's do something green
And run high-speed rail on the fumes of the Bean!

[Anna Alexandrova-Beauchamp 2008]

King Anna from Russia came hence so they say,
To do product surveillance in the USA.
In spite of recession Baxter-Bio's just fine,
and Bean Princess Lanna came in plenty of time.

[Len Tieman 2009]

King Len had no parties all two thousand nine,
But came through on twelfth-night with chili and wine.
The wrath of his subjects did not make him pale,
For he knew that he'd be protected by Gail.

[Tom Morrison 2010]

King Thomas established his second bean reign,
By holding a party on Karst Farm terrain,

But alas son Prince Charles, that bonnie Bean Sprout,
Had pre-registered Dance Trance and so he skipped out.

[Ken Sutton 2011]

King Kenneth of Nashville did proudly proclaim,
"Many parties we'll have in the course of my reign".
But alas his new job put the parties on hold,
Since he now drives big trucks long-range over the road.

[Sue Riegsecker 2012]

From Portland King Sue back to Bloomington came,
and fulfilled all the duties of her beanly reign.
Though the fiscal cliff made for conditions adverse,
Many parties she had in places diverse.

[Steven Janowiecki 2013]

King Steven star gazing with telescopes found,
That dwarf galaxies with new stars abound,
But his chickens could not lay enough eggs to fill
The two cases needed to feed Sugar Hill.

[Cathy Meyer 2014]

King King Cathy spends winter weekends on ski slopes,
And_at parties is known for the pork loin she smokes,
At bird counts she listens for songbirds and hawks,
But at home it resounds to Fluffy's parrot squawks.

[Mary Jean Regoli 2015]

King Mary Jean's known as a dancing machine,
She drives far and wide for the contradance scene,
She managed the library friends with aplomb,
'Cause she's more than just a retired soccer mom.

[Anna Wegerson 2016]

King Anna from Chi-town to Bloomington Came,
To Teach Montessori to Kids in first Plane;
She's Extraordi-Narily Fond of her Cat,
And the Skunk that lives Under her House, how 'bout That!

[Marie Deer 2017]

King Ruth Abdicated her Crown to Marie,
Who_assumed Kingly Duties with Gusto and Glee,

German & French & Span-ish She'll Translate
While she Places a Bean in the Sugar Hill Cake

[Saretta Pope 2018]

Saretta, a Bloomington Native was She,
Decided out West was the Place she should Be,
But she came Back to the Bloomington Scene
because Cathy would Proxy for Her with the Bean

[Connie Temm 2019]

King Connie from Martinsville Dances and Caves
and Paddles her Kayak in the White River Waves
at her Parties she's Famous for Serving Elk stew
with Her homemade Wine and Chocolate Fondue

[Kyla Wargel & Myke Luurtsema 2020]

King Kyla and Myke shared the COVID year Crown
but Thanks to Restrictions no live Parties were Found,
Myke Dangled from Bridges Before Quarantine,
and Kyla dove Dumpsters while Looking for Beans.

[Leda Schedler 2021]

King Leda of COVID times DID not eat Cake
'Cus Mike ate her Piece quarantine Not to Break,
No Parties she held either live or on Zoom
while-Avoiding Trips To the Emergency Room.

[Ruth Schedler 2022]

King Ruth was a Minor so no Parties she Held
Succeeding her Sister with Whom she still Dwelled,
Her Father could Not bake her Kingly bean Cake
So Baus Made Pumpkin Bread Tradition not to Break.

[Tom Morrison 2023]

King Thomas the Sixth Bean King in 82
Or Seventh Depending on your Point of View,
No Longer from Spencer or Swinging in Spring
Now Bloomington's Exclusive Three Time Bean King.

[Lennon Beasley 2024]

A Bard of the Bean was most recently seen
Swimming with turtles in the far Carib-BEAN,

And he sings admiration for Lennon! The King
Of songs that are LONGER than the Song of the Bean!

[by Mark Fedderson, original Bean King Bard]

King Lennon began a new job at IU
And learned how to call with a voice strong and true
Went road tripping, dancing all over the map
To honor King Lennon we all lift our cap!

[by Marie Deer]

[Jordan Lee 2025]

His **sh**irt's a new **c**olor each **d**ay of the **w**EEK
But **W**ednesday is **p**urple for **t**his dancing **g**eek
He **t**eaches the **r**umba, the **f**oxtrot and **s**wing
To **u**s he's just **S**ugar Dad, **J**ordan the **k**ing!

In Conclusion:

Now three Princes shall rule (though they've failed in the past)
Three parties they'll throw, each surpassing the last.
Good cheer they will proffer, nor stint with the Ale,
Or a life of Safe Sex it will be their sad tale.

[first sung Jan '94, a Mark Feddersen personal favorite]

The Bean's good with Fritos, sauerkraut and wieners
Loved by Bosnians, Serbs, even Herzegoviners.
If more beans were consumed by the average voter
It could be the beginning of a New World Odor.

This song by a Man from the East was composed,
And he wrote it all out on the bridge of his nose.
Though the tune may be weak and the verses a bore,
He hopes you will join him and sing it once more!

Now I've finished with Beans, and I'll finish this tune,
The lyrical lay of the lovely Legume.
The gracious Garbanzo our palate doth please,
So sing out your part or forever have Peas.

[The 1999 Invitation from Bean King & Bard]:

A Proclamation from HRBH

HAP-PEA NEW YEAR

and many Lovely Legumes to You and Yours

His Royall Bean Highness, KING MARK, has decreed
That all of his subjects may Worship the Seed
And Honor the Has Bean and Bring in the New
All your friends will be there, so How about You?

Old Christmas (Twelfth Night) falls on We'nsday this year
So don't fall asleep or you'll miss it I fear
At Harmony School we will dance as of yore
Then we'll gather to party and study Bean Lore

At Twelve Ten West Eighth Street (the very last HAUS)
There all creatures will celebrate (even Bill BAUS)
Add Three Three Nine- to the address and I'm told
You can phone for directions if you feel so bold

So arrive 'fore Eleven with music and Cheer
And if you are legal, a Six Pack of Beer
There are friendships to savor and verses to sing
And at last we can crown the new "Y2K" King

Copyright 2006 by the Bean Bard: Mark Feddersen. Updated through January 2019 by Bill Baus.

Historical note: The Bean Ballad, including the Chorus, Recitative, and the verses up through the verse for 2007, were written by Bean Balladeer Mark Feddersen (with some revisions due to pressure from some Bean Kings). The verses from 2008 through 2024 were written by Successor Bean Balladeer Bill Baus. From 1977 through 1998 the annual party on 6 January to select the new Bean King was held at various locations, usually the home of the Bean King. From 1999 through 2024 the annual party on 6 January has been held at the Baus Haus, the new home that Bill Baus built with space specifically designed for dance parties such as these. The 2025 party was held during the Wednesday night contra dance.