

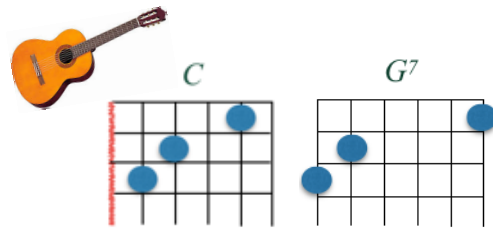
# He's Got the Whole World

Credit for the lyrics and music in this song may be due to:

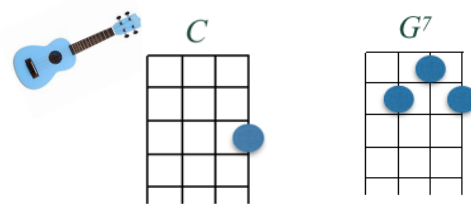
- First American, Obie Philpot according to [urbanfaith.com/](http://urbanfaith.com/);
- or it could be that Robert Lindon (aka Jack Waller) and William Henry (aka Ralph Reader), two British writers who used the song in their 1956 stage musical *Wild Grows the Heather* as credited on Laurie London's recording of the song,
- or it might be that we will not know until we get to Heaven and can ask the Authority on all thing. For now it may be wisest to credit it as a Traditional American Spiritual.

## CHORUS

*C*  
He's got the whole world in His hands;  
*G7* *C*  
He's got the whole wide world in His hands;



*C*  
He's got the whole world in His hands;  
*G7* *C*  
He's got the whole world in His hands.



He's got the little bitty baby in his hands;  
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands;  
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands;  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

## CHORUS

He's got you and me brother in his hands;  
He's got you and me sister in his hands;  
He's got you and me brother in his hands;  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got everybody here in his hands;  
He's got everybody here in his hands;  
He's got everybody here in his hands;  
He's got the whole world in his hands;

## CHORUS

# Scripture and History

**Isaiah 40:10-12** Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

**John 10:11-15** Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**Psalms 95:3-6** For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

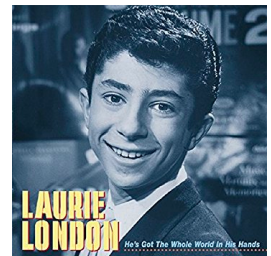
“**He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands**” was first published in 1927 in the paperbound hymnal *Spirituals Triumphant, Old and New*. The spiritual was collected by Frank Warner from the singing of Sue Thomas in North Carolina.



Frank Warner  
Photograph from  
adirondackmusic.org

Frank Warner performed the song during the 1940s and 1950s, and introduced it to the American folk scene.

The song made the popular song charts in a recording by English singer Laurie London with the Geoff Love Orchestra, which reached #12 on the UK singles chart in late 1957. The songwriting on London's record was credited to Robert Lindon (aka Jack Waller ) and William Henry (aka Ralph Reader), two Britishers who used the song in their 1956 stage musical *Wild Grows the Heather*.



Laurie London's version then rose to #1 of the *Most Played by Jockeys* song list in the USA and went to #3 on the R&B charts in 1958.

*Wikipedia*