The Derivative Song (dy/dx)

words by Tom Lehrer
music: "There'll Be Some Changes Made"
by W. Benton Overstreet (1921)
(original lyrics by Billy Higgins)

You take a function of x and you call it y

Take any x-nought that you care to try

You make a little change and call it delta x

The corresponding change in y is what you find nex'

And then you take the quotient and now carefully

Send delta x to zero, and I think you'll see

That what the limit gives us, if our work all checks,

Is what we call dy/dx,

It's just dy/dx.

Note: ♪. ♪ should
be played as ♪♪