

Larkin on Cool, Britannia

*Peter J. King*

Not long ago  
in a bowler hat  
    dancing the can-can  
nobody laughs  
at British jazz  
    blowing and jiving

    boom  
    Barber, Bilk, or Ball  
    strut

beards and banjos  
Any Old Iron  
    loud at the interval  
hard done by  
polished bop  
    jumping at the masterpiece  
    blues and accidental  
    four-ale melancholy

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