POETRY IN LATINGLISH

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Remember back in Latin class when you had to recite the four principal parts of a Latin verb? Now, for the regular verbs, the pattern was easy enough to grasp and remember: am-, am-re, amav-, am-tum. All the regular verbs had a stem, and the suffixes you appended to them were predictable: -re, -are, -av, -tum. However, do you also recall that for some irregular verbs the forms were highly irregular and unpredictable? You found yourself laboriously memorizing such oddities as sum, esse, fu-, futurum and fer-, ferre, tul-, latum.

Well, bearing that in mind, one can create Latinglish poetry. The rules are simple. Each line contains four and only words which must end in -e, -ere, -a, and -um. When it is read aloud, according to the rules of Latin pronunciation, it must sound like English being Latinized, and actually convey meaning in a form of terse, telegraphic speech. The stems of first two words used may be identical or different.

As a first example, here is a familiar poem in Latinglish. On the left it is written as Latin would be. On the right side it is transcribed into a more readable English orthography. Some notes about the liberties I had to take with Latin pronunciation to make American English sounds:
prevocalic v has a w sound as in “way”
prevocalic I has a y sound as in “yes”
prevocalic ci has a sh sound as in “shop”
a followed by a doubled consonant has the short u sound as in “tub.”
o followed by a doubled consonant has the aw sound as in “law”
ai is used for the long I sound as in “high”
ae is used for the short a sound as in “hat”

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
Tuincl, tuinclore tain, starrum,
Vanndr, vanndere uatui arrum,
App, abbavvere verld sohiaum,
Laic, daimindere ind scaium.

Twinkle-o, twinkler-ay, tiny, star-um.
Wonder-o, wonder-ay, what-you-ee are-um?
Up-o, above-eray world-ee so-high-um.
Like-o, diamond-eray in de’ sky-um.

Here’s another, which I am sure you will recognize:
Jingl, bellere, olld, veium,
Fann, raidere, invanhors, sleium.

Jingle-o, bell-eray, all de’ way-um.
Fun-o, ride-eray, in-one-horse-ee, sleigh-um.

Daecl, daeciere, thru, snovum,
Invann, horsere, open, sleium
Over, hilsere, v, govum
Laefr, laefere, olld, veium.
Bell, bellere, babetol, ringum
Meicr, meicere, spirit, braitum
Fann, fannere, istu, singum
Sleir, slere, songi, tunaitum.

Dash-o, dash-eray, through-ee, snow-um.
In-one-o, horse-eray, open-ee, sleigh-um.
Over-o, hills-eray, we, go-um.
Laugh-o, laugh-eray, all de’ way-um.
Bell-o, bell-eray, bobtail-ee, ring-um.
Make-o, make-eray, spirit-ee, bright-um.
Fun-o, fun-eray, is to-ee sing-um.
Sleigh-o, sleigh-eray, song-ee, tonight-um.