Best “Bang for Your Buck” Songs

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Remembering with love and respect…

Amazing mentor and
friend, Denise Gagne

September 11

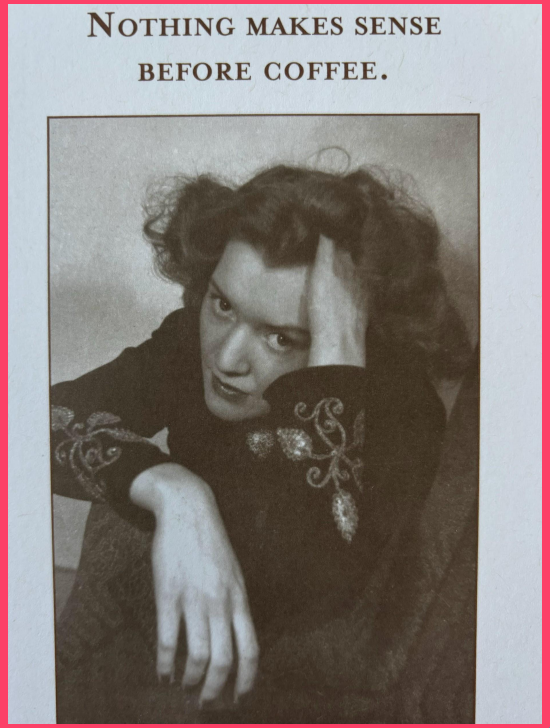
What?

Maximize precious music time with classroom-tested songs which:

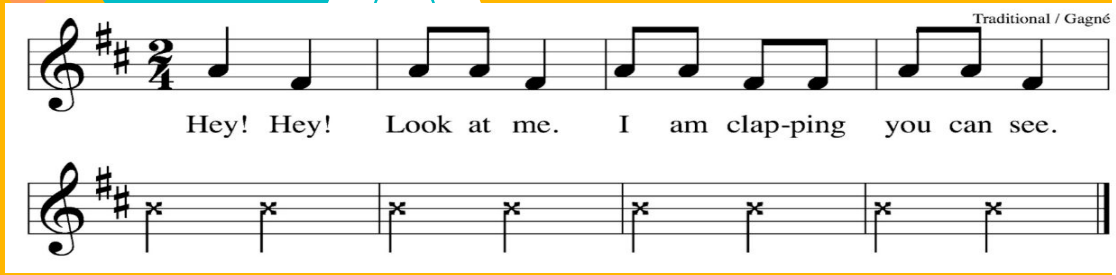
- ★ **Teach** musical concepts - melodic, rhythmic, harmonic - often ALL !
- ★ Kids **enjoy**
- ★ Have a **good game/ activity**
- ★ Have multiple approaches

Hello!

- ★ In my 32nd year of teaching elementary music and junior high band
- ★ Wolf Creek Public Schools in Blackfalds, Alberta, **CANADA** (eh!)
- ★ Currently teach Grade 1-3 Music and 7-9 Band
- ★ Grateful to my Grade 4-6 colleague, **Ali Schroeder**, for her upper elementary suggestions



Hey Hey Look at Me - Kindergarten



- ★ Movement
- ★ Instruments
- ★ Concepts:
  - BEAT!!
  - Rhythm - introduce ta and ti-ti (no rests yet)
    - Beat and Rhythm Projectables
    - Beat and Rhythm Interactives
  - Melody - introduce so-mi
    - Prepare Solfa Interactives
    - Interactive Tone Ladder
    - Staff Tool Wide

Introducing so-mi

- So - mirror - “So, am I ever good looking?”
- Mi - thumb points to “me” when making the hand sign

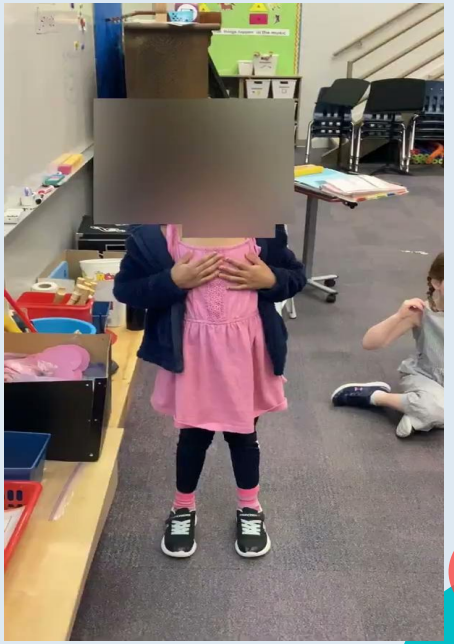
Writing so and mi -

- If so is on a line, then mi is on a line, and everything is fine!
- If so is on a space, then mi is on a space, and see my happy face!

Other so-mi, ta and ti-ti winners

- ★ Engine, Engine Number Nine- Gr. 2 - they love the lame game !!
- ★ Counting Song - K & Gr. 1 (“tie my shoe”)
- ★ Bye Lo Baby Oh
- ★ Rain, Rain
- ★ Starlight

Assess so-mi singing and signing

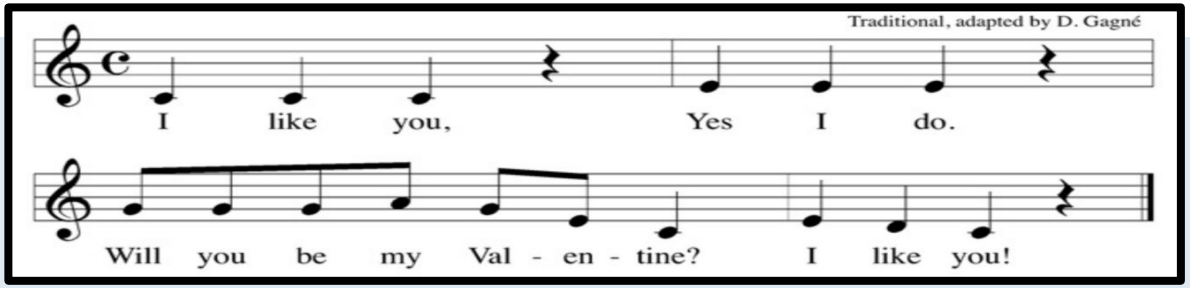


And on the teeniest, tiniest, off-chance that you haven't heard....

To teach piano/forte and slow/fast:

Alternately "I Can Pretend"

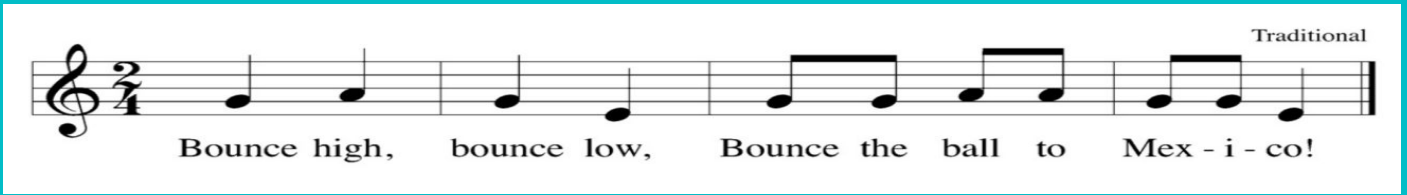
“I Like You”



MusicPlay user hint:
Always check out the song on the site - new things are always being added !

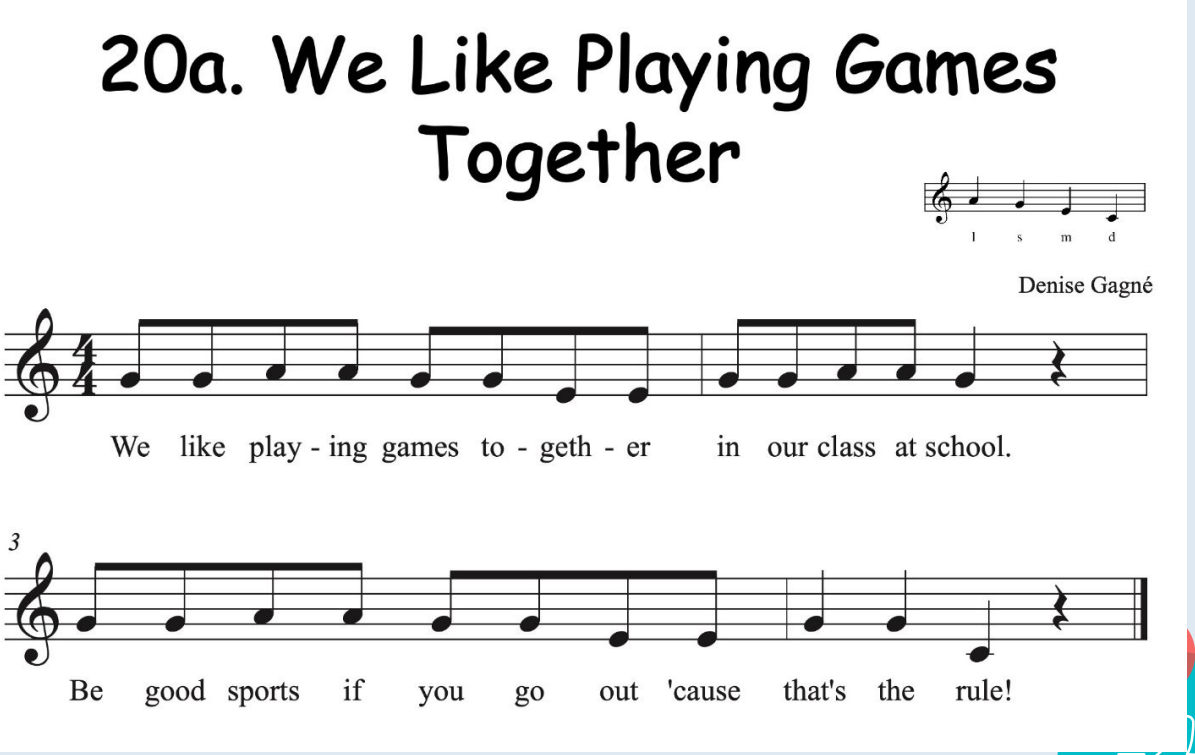
- ★ Versatile lyrics- Bow Wow Wow; Ho! Ho! Ho!; French
- ★ Grade 1 -
  - Fabulous Valentines and friendship game
  - After Valentines, change it to a friendship song: “Will you be a friend of mine?”
  - Phrases - same and different
  - Rhythm - ta, ti-ti, rest
- ★ Grade 2 - introduce re - there’s only one!
  - They love to revisit this game
- ★ Grade 3 - read and write re - there’s only one!
- ★ So many options on the website - Bobo

Bounce High

- ★ Grade 2
- ★ Melody - words in the song match melodic contour - “Bounce high, bounce low”
- ★ Beat- with balls - start with imaginary ones!
- ★ Rhythm - ta and ti-ti (no rests)
- ★ Rhyming words - create words to rhyme with “Mexico”

“Bounce high, bounce low. Don’t bounce it on your toe!”

Other so-mi-la winners

- Snail Snail
- Plainsies Clapsies
- Find the (Easter) Yellow Basket
- Doggie Doggie - Grade 3 recorders - “Doggie Doggie what’s that note?”
- Little Tommy Tiddlemouse

Introduce do

- Grade 2 - a favorite!!
- Melody - s-l-m-d
- Rhythm - ta, ti-ti, rest
- Beat (during the game), if you can
- !!! What to do when students are “out”?
  - Play an instrument on the rhyming words!!
  - Choose a tempo
  - Clap a flashcard rhythm

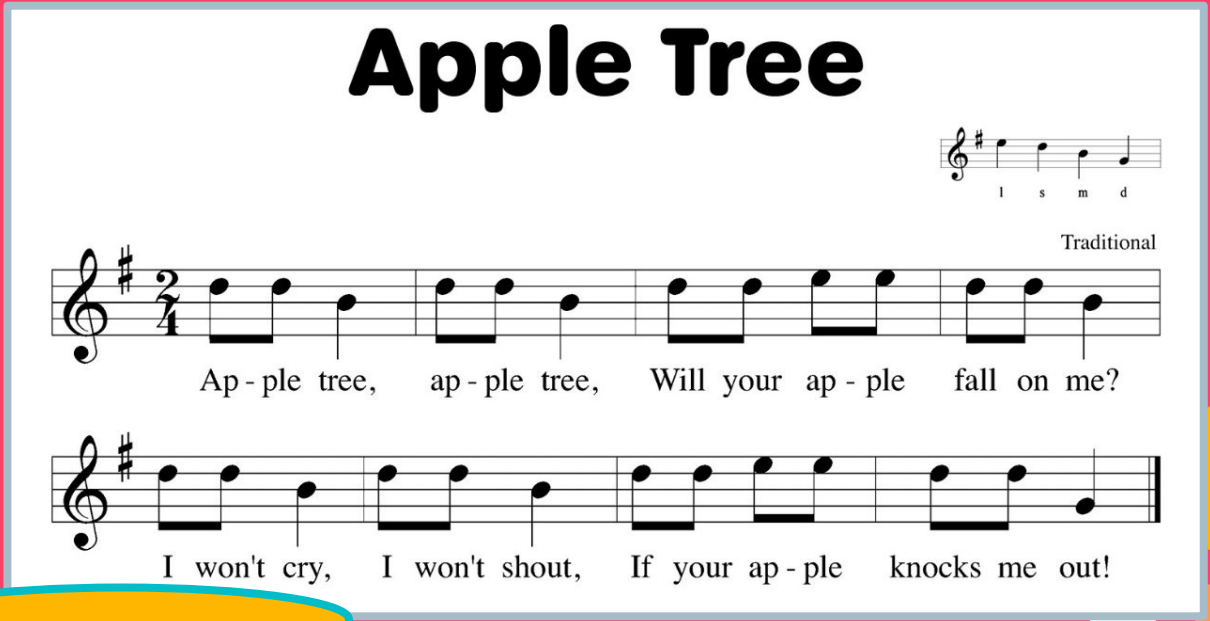
- Melody s-m-d - only “do” is last note of song
  - Grade 1 - experience do
  - Grade 2 - review do; read and write do
    - “If so is on a line, then mi is on a line, AND do is on a line, and everything is fine”
    - “If so is on a space, then mi is on a space, AND do is on a space, and see my happy face”

Other “do” winners: Bee Bee Bumblebee; Pease Porridge Hot; Johnny One Hammer; Apples, Peaches, Pears and Plums

Another l-s-m-d winner…

In Grade One - Beat keeping

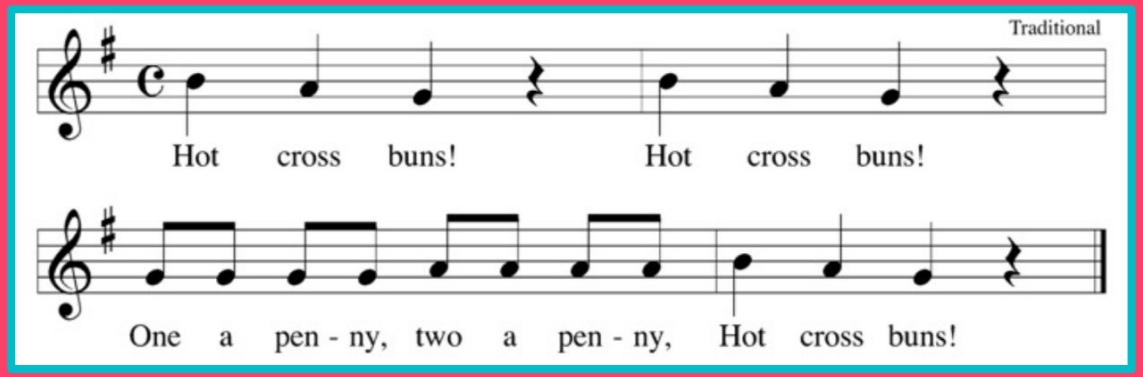
In Grade Two - do; teach tempo !



Bonus! Cute play complete with Orff, script, and instrument sound effects!!!

(Good old!) # Hot Cross Buns

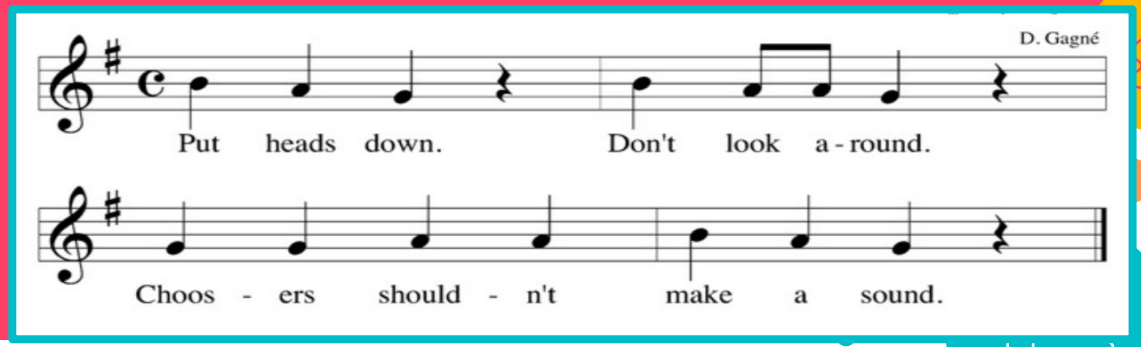
Grade 1 and 2 - ta, ti-ti, rest rhythms. Easy clapping game.



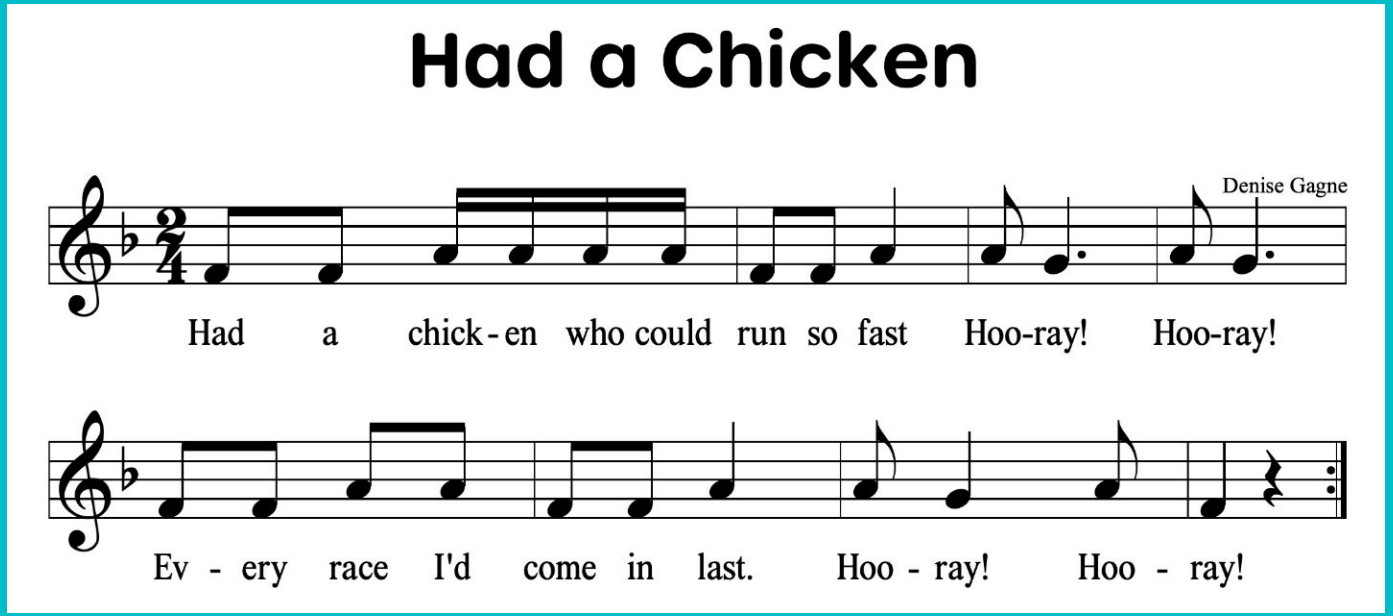
Grade 2 - m-r-d melody

Grade 3 - step-wise melody. A recorder classic. Music 7-Up game.

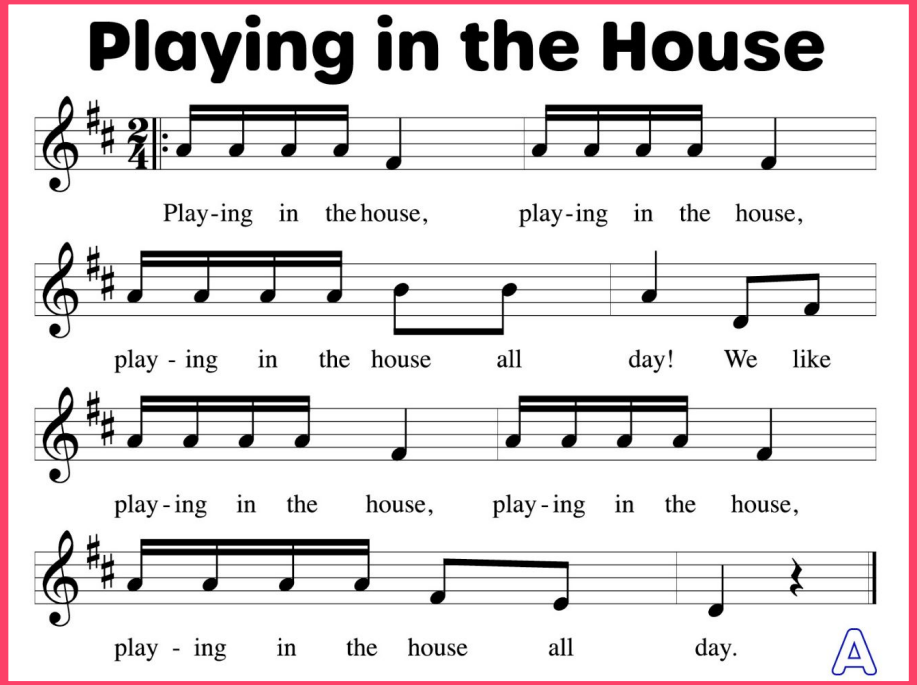
Seven Up



Sixteenth Notes (and eighth to dotted quarter, and ti-ta-ti)



Also - Clock Round for 16ths

Sixteenths - Playing in the House - Grade 3

Rondo form

Use to review instrument families - Instrument Family Sort

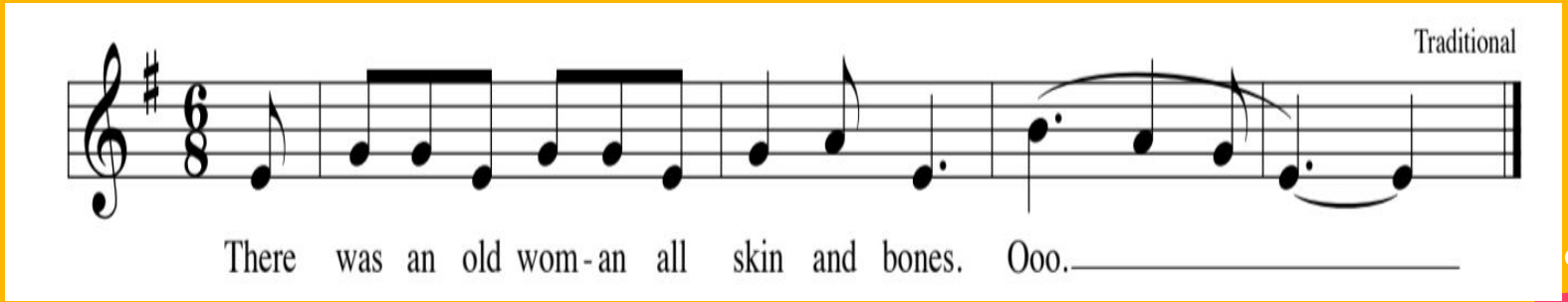
Pentatonic

Also -
Frere Jacques,
Raindrops Round

Skin and Bones

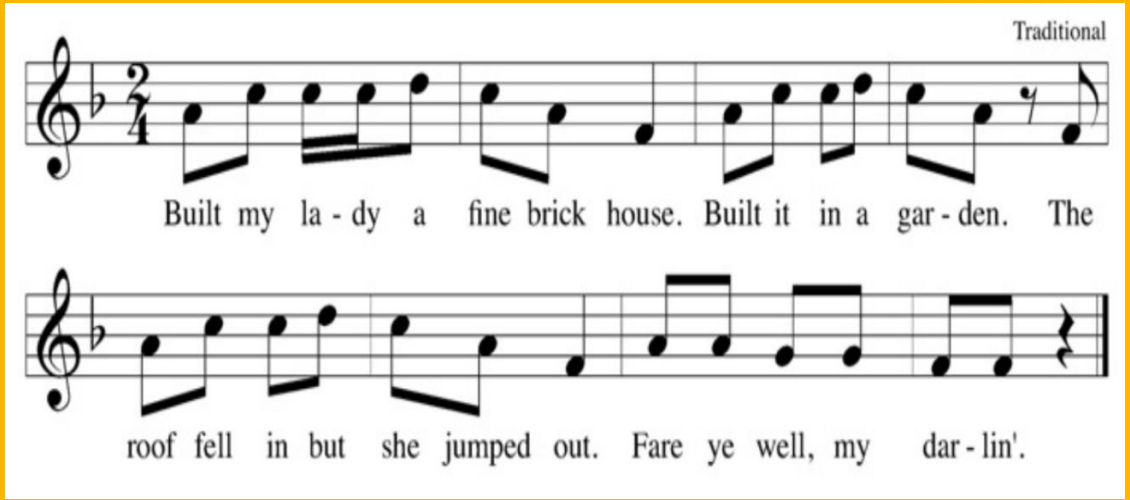
Also for 6/8 time - I'se the By
How to Make an Ugly Stick

- ★ Dynamics - so fun to sing the first time!
- ★ Low la; minor key
- ★ Rhythm - dotted half note (3/4 time); dotted quarter note (6/8 time)
- ★ Recorder! - slurs vs. ties; sing and play
- ★ One chord uke/guitar; Orff; Boomwhackers

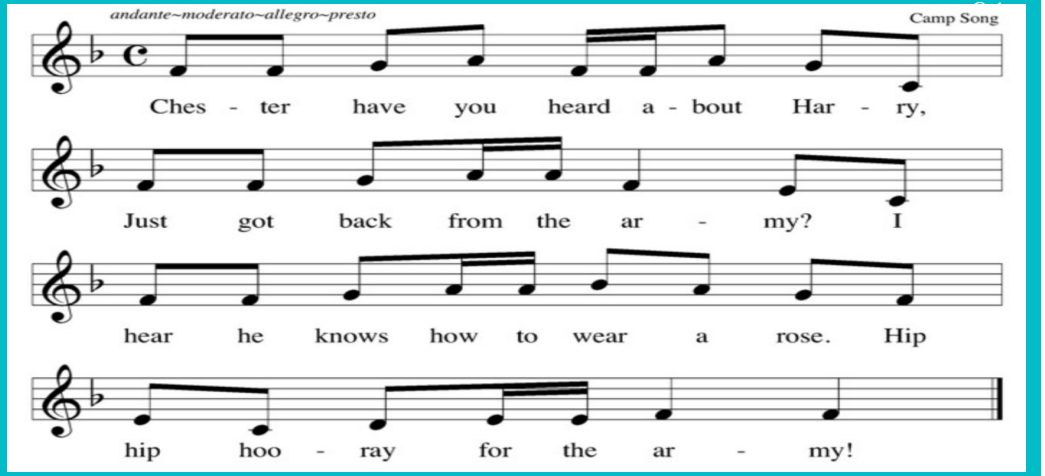


Built My Lady

- ★ Melody- pentatonic
- ★ Rhythm - tika-ti; single eighth rest and single eighth note
- ★ Great game!



Chester

- ★ Ti ti-ka; ti-ka ti
- ★ Melody - low do, la, ti
- ★ Tempo activities; fun actions
- ★ Tempo Interactive - check out the tempo posters
- ★ Artie Almeida has great activities for this song

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More Ali recommended hits for Upper Elementary...

La Bamba!

- ★ Find it in Middle School
- ★ Go Oilers !!!!!!!!!!
- ★ Bucket drumming
- ★ Ukulele (start with Projectables)
- ★ Guitar (challenging)
- ★ Lots of connections - Cinco de Mayo, song history, Ritchie Valens bio
- ★ Also works with Sevens !

Scoo Be Doo Song

Susie and Phil Splitter

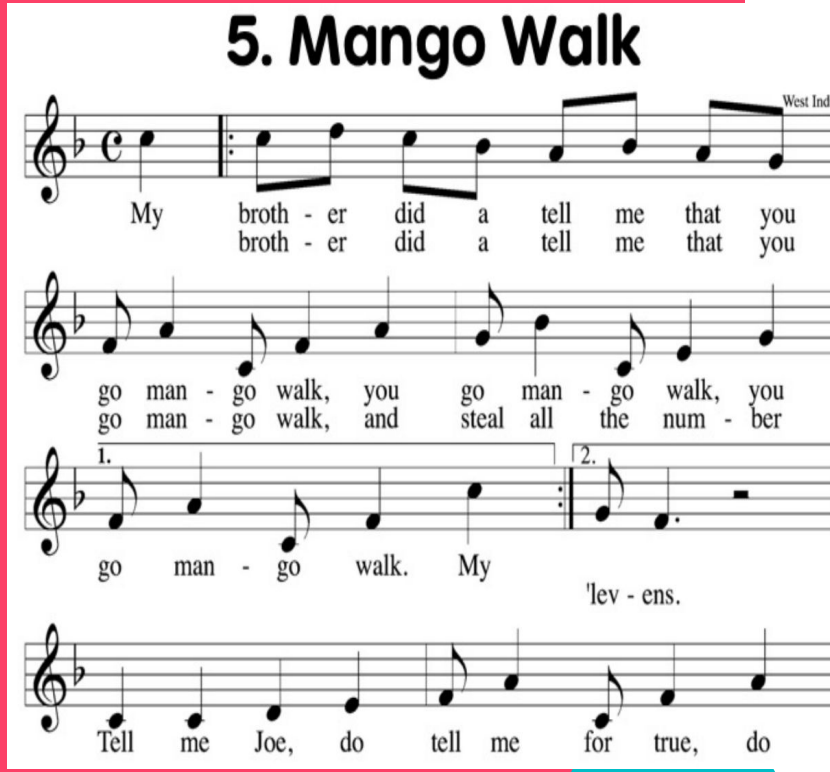
- ★ Connects to jazz and scatting
- ★ History of Jazz unit
- ★ Four part singing and/or playing
- ★ Ostinato on Orff or Boomwhackers - Orff was a hit with Ali's students!
- ★ Movements for the younger crowd - introduce in a younger grade and revisit
- ★ 2-chord ukulele/guitar

What a Wonderful World

- **Connect to jazz genre**
- **Ukulele arrangement - very challenging - take a look at The Macarons Project YouTube version in C**
- **Books - Just a Lucky So and So: The Story of Louis Armstrong**
  - **What a Wonderful World**

Mango Walk

- ★ Rhythm - syncopation
- ★ Form - 1st & 2nd ending, Pick-up
- ★ Key Signature
- ★ Ostinato - check out “Ostinato Explained” Brian Gossard on YouTube
- ★ Also on YouTube - good demo’s of vocal ostinato, syncopation, dance
- ★ Connects to steel pan drums
- ★ Interactive Activities
- ★ Orff and djembe arrangements
- ★ Uke arrangements (F & C7)



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Use the filter to search for a concept

Go to Discover - option to select grade - choose “Add Filter”

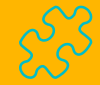
Thank you so much!

Any questions?

You can find me at joyce.holoboff@wolfcreek.ab.ca

Remember…. I'm Canadian!

Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

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