

HOLIDAY SONGS AND RHYTHMS

Hap Palmer

In planning this recording of holiday songs, my original idea was to select the best songs for each holiday based on their relevance to a child's experience and quality of melody and lyric.

I found few songs that "turned me on," especially for the holidays of Halloween, Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving and Easter, so the recording has ended up primarily original material. I hope in the process I have helped fill a need for those who are looking for new holiday songs. Several of the songs contain an "Instant Sing Line", enabling the children to actively participate right away.

1. WHAT A WORLD WE'D HAVE IF CHRISTMAS LASTED ALL YEAR LONG

Although there are many fine songs that present the religious and festive aspects of Christmas, I felt the need for a song that stressed the ideas of peace, brotherhood and love in a way that children of all faiths could relate to.

It's a time to think of love
A time for us to get along
What a world we'd have if
 Christmas lasted all year long,
It's a time for brotherhood
A time to sing a joyful song
What a world we'd have if
 Christmas lasted all year long,
Ring the bells loud and clear
 so our message all can hear
Everyone on this earth has
 their own special worth.

It's a time to stop the fighting
To understand when we are wrong

What a world we'd have if
 Christmas lasted all year long,
It's a time to work together
To know that everyone belongs
What a world we'd have if
 Christmas lasted all year long,
Ring the bells loud and clear
 so our message all can hear
Everyone on this earth has
 their own special worth

It's a time for brotherhood
A time to sing a joyful song
What a world we'd have if
 Christmas lasted all year long,

2. THINGS I'M THANKFUL FOR

On the first time through the song, the Children's Chorus sings some of the things they are thankful for. On the second and third verses, the members of your class are encouraged to think of things they are thankful for and sing them during the pauses. Each verse ends with "I'm thankful to be me," an important concept for everyone to learn.

There are many things
 I am thankful for
I can find them near and far
There are many things
 I am thankful for
Let me tell you what they are
I'm thankful for the earth
I'm thankful for the sea
I'm thankful for my friends
And I'm thankful to be me.

There are many things
 I am thankful for

And I know I'm not alone
Can you find some things
 you are thankful for
Can you do it on your own
I'm thankful for.....
I'm thankful for.....
I'm thankful for.....
And I'm thankful to be me.
(Repeat 2nd verse)

3. CINCO DE MAYO

In 1862, a band of outlaws led by the bandit Marquez and a French army of 6,000 men threatened to overthrow the government of Benito Juarez. "Juarez's answer was to send Porfirio Diaz of Oaxaco with an army of 4,000 patriots to occupy the city of Puebla. Toward this fortified stronghold, Marquez's band of outlaws and a French army of 6,000 men were marching. For a month the battle raged.

Besieged and besiegers alike knew its importance.....
On May 5, 1862, the French and rebel forces were compelled to retreat with Diaz's troops at their heels. The ragged Mexican army had beaten the most powerful and famous troops in the world."* The Fifth of May (Cinco de Mayo) is today a national holiday in Mexico, comparable in importance to the Unites States' FOURTH OF JULY.

* Emma Gelders Sterne: Benito Juarez: Builder of a Nation - New York: Alfred A. Knopf; 1967.

CINCO DE MAYO is holiday time,
Holiday time in Mexico
CINCO DE MAYO is holiday time
To a fiesta we'll

Go Go Go

La La La La La

Go Go Go

La La La La La

Go Go Go

La La La La La

Go Go Go

When we celebrate the independence
Of the people of Mexico
We'll be dancing through the streets
As the Mariachi trumpets blow

CINCO DE MAYO is holiday time,
Holiday time in Mexico
CINCO DE MAYO is holiday time,
To a fiesta we'll
Go Go Go
La La La La La
Go Go Go
La La La La La
Go Go Go
La La La La La
Go Go Go
La La La La La GO!

4. VALENTINES SONG

*Valentines Day can be more than cards and candy.
It's a good time to talk about friendship and caring.*

I'm going to make a heart of paper
And put it all together with glue
Valentine's Day is giving me a nice way
To say that I like you.
Take a lot of love and take a lot of care
And put them in an envelope
Add a wish that there will be much more we can share

And seal them up with hope.
You mean a lot to me
I'm glad you're a friend of mine
This I hope you'll see
When you read my Valentine.

(Repeat all)

(Repeat first four lines)

5. HAVE A GOOD TIME ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT

This song is done in "rock" style with a typical rock horn section of tenor sax, baritone sax and trumpet. It lends itself to rock dance and rhythm styles. In the first verse you will hear the phrase " Yummy snacks we collect in a sack by the pale moonlight." If you are working with younger children and want to encourage them not to stay too late, you can emphasize that the moonlight is pale because it is not yet dark.

Trick or Treat - Time to eat
Yummy snacks we collect in a sack by the pale moonlight
Oh, the sun is gone and the stars are here
Ghosts and goblins are nothing to fear
Happiness is gettin' dressed
To have a good time on Halloween night
Oh have a good time, have a good time
Be nice to your neighbors
Don't make them uptight
Ring bell and wish them well
And have a good time on Halloween night

You can be what you want to be
If a ghost is what you like most, well that's all right
Or a clown or a king, a gypsy with rings
A ragged old tramp or a bird that sings
Pumpkin, skeleton, prince or pirate
Have a good time on Halloween night.

Oh have a good time, have a good time
Be nice to your neighbors
Don't make them uptight
Ring the bell and wish them well
And have a good time on Halloween night

6. WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

This is a catchy traditional favorite which features the Young Peoples Chorus. I omitted the second verse and substituted verses suggesting actions followed by instrumental interludes where the class can respond by clapping, stamping and dancing.

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
Let's all do a little clapping
Let's all do a little clapping
Let's all do a little clapping
And spread Christmas cheer.

(2nd verse): Let's all do a little stamping

(3rd verse): Let's all do a little dancing

7. HANUKKAH

This is a traditional Jewish folk song which celebrates Hanukkah, The Festival of Lights. One of the verses speaks of the Dreydl, which is a four sided top used in a traditional Hanukkah game. On each side of the Dreydl there is a Hebrew letter, NUN, GIMMEL, HAY, SHIN. These four letters are the initials of the Hebrew words "Great Miracle Happened There." The Members of your class may want to play the Dreydl game.

At the start of the game, each player takes an equal number of nuts, leaving some in a bowl. Each player in turn spins the Dreydl. If the Dreydl stops on the

letter NUN, the player receives nothing. If the Dreydl stops on the letter GIMMEL, the player must put one nut into the bowl. If the Dreydl stops on the letter HAY, the player takes half of the nuts in the bowl. But when the Dreydl stops on the letter SHIN, the player takes all the nuts in the bowl.

Hanukkah, Hanukkah, festival of lights
Candles glow in a row, seven days, eight nights
Hanukkah, Hanukkah make your Dreydl spin
Round and round, round and round, everyone join in

Hanukkah, Hanukkah, what a merry time
Cakes to eat, what a treat, see the faces shine
Hanukkah, Hanukkah sing and dance this way.
Round and round, round and round, happy holiday

8. EASTER TIME IS HERE AGAIN

This is a short, lighthearted song about Mrs. Hen, Mr. Rabbit and getting together with friends to hunt for Easter eggs.

Easter time is here again
Got to speak to Mrs. Hen
Did she lay some eggs for Mister Rabbit
To hide outside
Easter time is here again
I'll get together with my friends
And hunt for colored eggs that are lyin' around
Waitin' to be found.
I'll keep my eyes wide open, looking everywhere
And if I find too many
I'll try real hard to share.
(Repeat first eight lines)

9. Star Spangled Banner

Because of the tremendous range, our National Anthem is, unfortunately, a very difficult song to sing, so be patient with your class. The song has been recorded in a lower key (A flat) to make it easier to sing and to show it can be done; the Young Peoples Chorus sings along.

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Suggestions For Use Of Instrumental Versions (Tracks 1- 18).

I. Rhythms

A. Fundamental Movement

1. Locomotor - walking, running, skipping, hopping
jumping, leaping, sliding.
2. Axial - bending, stretching, swinging,
twisting, shaking.

B. Clapping hands and tapping feet.

C. Playing rhythm instruments.

II. Musical accompaniment for use after a person has learned a song and would like to sing by him/herself.

III. Dance - Pantomime, combinations of fundamental movements, folk and contemporary dance steps.

IV. Entrance and Exit music for a program or performance.

10. **WHAT A WORLD WE'D HAVE IF CHRISTMAS
LASTED ALL YEAR LONG** (Instrumental)
11. **THINGS I'M THANKFUL FOR** (Instrumental)
12. **CINCO DE MAYO** (Instrumental)
13. **VALENTINES SONG** (Instrumental)
14. **HAVE A GOOD TIME ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT** (Instrumental)
15. **WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS** (Instrumental)
16. **HANUKKAH** (Instrumental)
17. **EASTER TIME IS HERE AGAIN** (Instrumental)
18. **STAR SPANGLED BANNER** (Instrumental)



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