

CD 54

HOLIDAY SONGS AROUND THE WORLD



**Arranged and Adapted by
Catherine Slonecki, M.S.**

Patriotic Holidays

Track 1 THIS IS MY COUNTRY/THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND – USA

This rousing patriotic medley is appropriate for use on Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, or any occasion that calls for spirited American music. Students may enjoy marching along with these stirring anthems, or may play rhythm band instruments.

*This is my country, land of my birth.
This is my country, grandest on earth.
I pledge thee my allegiance
America the bold.
'Cause this is my country
To have and to hold.*

*This is my country, land of my choice.
This is my country, hear my proud voice.
I pledge thee my allegiance
America the bold.
'Cause this is my country
To have and to hold.*

Chorus:

*This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island.
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.*

*As I was walking the ribbon of highway,
I saw above me that endless skyway.
I saw below me a bright green valley.
This land was made for you and me.*

REPEAT CHORUS

Track 2 CHIAPANECAS - MEXICO

Cinco de Mayo, or the Fifth of May, is a holiday when Mexicans celebrate an historical victory over Napoleon III. This holiday has become an important fiesta, or festival, filled with songs, parades, speeches, and pageants. Chiapanecas can be used for Cinco de Mayo festivities, or at any time when you wish to celebrate Latin American culture. Children can sing this in Spanish and English. Students should clap, snap, and tap along with this familiar Mexican tune as directed. During the verses, the group may join hands and circle.

*Una canción que en México
Les gusta cantar Chiapanecas.
Mayo es el mes y día de sol
Cantarán, bailarón, "Chiapanecas."*

*With our hands we'll clap, with our fingers snap,
With our toes we will tap "Chiapanecas."
When our work is done, then we'll dance for fun,
And we'll sing "Chiapanecas" and clap. Olé!*

Chorus:

*Sing "Chiapanecas" and clap.
Stretch out those fingers and snap.
Wiggle your toes and then tap.
Sing "Chiapanecas" and clap. Olé!*

*Baila, baila, todos bailando.
Canta, canta, todos cantando.
Méceste, méceste, todos lo hacen bien.
Con la música,
Dance, dance, everyone dancing;
Sing, sing, everyone singing;
Sway, sway, everyone happy
Dancing the Mexican way. Olé!*

Repeat Chorus

Track 3 NO ONE IS AN ISLAND – Canada

In celebration of Canada Day/Dominion Day, (July 1-2) a national holiday in our friendly neighbor to the north, we've included this beautiful Canadian ballad which could really be an anthem for all the countries of the world. It's performed in both Canadian languages, English and French. This uplifting number works particularly well at the conclusion of a holiday program.

*No one is an island, no one stands alone.
Each one's joy is joy to me,
Each one's grief is my own.*

*We need one another,
So I will defend
Each one as my brother,
Each one as my friend.*

Bridge:

*The people came together.
I heard the music start,
The songs that they were singing,
Still ring inside my heart.*

*Personne est une isle.
Personne reste tout seul.
La joie de chaque'un c'est le mien.
Leur douleur est aussi le mien.
We need one another,
So I will defend
Each one as my brother,*

Each one as my friend.

*Personne est une isle.
Personne reste tout seul.
Each one is my brother.
Each one is my friend.*

Hanukkah/Christmas/New Years

Track 4 DREYDL SONG - Israel

Hanukkah is an eight-day festival that usually falls in December. Israelis and Jewish people around the world light one candle each day in the menorah, or candlelabra, until all eight have been lit on the last day of Hanukkah. This joyous holiday is celebrated with games, plays, gifts, and special meals. Playing with the dreydl, or spinning top, is a favorite Hanukkah game.

Children will enjoy this special dreydl dance. They join hands in a circle and sing while one child in the middle is the dreydl. The circle moves clockwise for 16 counts while the dreydl turns in the opposite direction. At the end of the verse, the dreydl chooses a partner to join him in the middle of the ring. During the chorus, the two children join hands and whirl around as the other students clap hands. At the end of the chorus, the first child rejoins the circle, and the partner becomes the new dreydl. This continues until all of the children have had a chance to be the dreydl.

*I have a little dreydl,
I made it out of clay,
And when it's finished drying,
The dreydl game we'll play.*

*Oh, dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,
I made it out of clay,
Oh, dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,
The dreydl game we'll play.*

*It has a squarish body,
Its leg is short and thin.
And when it's fin'lly tired,
It drops so I can win.*

*Oh, dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,
Its leg is short and thin.
Oh, dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,
It drops so I can win.*

*My dreydl's fun to play with.
It loves to dance and spin.
Let's play a game of dreydl.
We're ready, let's begin.*

*Oh, dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,
It loves to dance and spin.*

*Oh, dreydl, dreydl, dreydl,
We're ready, let's begin.*

Track 5 FELIZ NAVIDAD – Puerto Rico

This popular Latin American favorite has become a Christmas standard that is sung in many parts of the globe.

Chorus:

*Feliz Navidad. Feliz Navidad.
Feliz Navidad, próspero año y felicidad.*

Repeat

*I want to wish you a Merry Christmas!
With lots of good times to make you happy.
I want to wish you a Merry Christmas
From the bottom of my heart.*

*I want to wish you a Merry Christmas,
With mistletoe and lots of cheer.
With lots of laughter throughout the years
From the bottom of my heart.*

REPEAT SPANISH CHORUS AND FADE

Track 6 LIPPAI – Austria

This traditional Christmas tune comes from the Austrian mountain region. This story song can be enacted by two students, can be sung as a duet, or can be performed by the entire group split into two sections.

Verse 1

1. *Lippai, wake up, don't sleep!*
2. *"What was that you said?"*
1. *I don't know how you can sleep.*
2. *"I'm still in bed."*
1. *Let's go now to the field.
We'll see a wonder revealed.
Look! It's as light as day!*
2. *"What did you say?"*

Verse 2

1. *Sweet music fills the air.*
2. *"I don't hear a thing."*
1. *Wake up and take your pipe.*
2. *"Wait! I'm coming!"*
1. *Can you hear angels on high?*

- A new babe in stable does lie.
He's born a king today.*
2. *"Is that what they say?"*

Verse 3

1. *Let's go to play for him
In the stable now.*
2. *"He's lying with the animals
Right next to a cow."*
1. *Let's ask his mother to tell
His name so we'll wish him well.
Come, my friend, come with me.
Oh, yes. Let's go see. (Both repeat last line.)*

Track 7 CAROL OF THE BELLS – Ukraine

This soaring carol from the Ukraine has become a Christmas tradition in many parts of the globe.

*Oh, hear the bells, hark to the bells,
Telling us all Christmas is here.
Strongly they chime, sounding the time,
Christmas is here! Christmas is here!*

*Peal out the news from hill and dale,
Go 'round the town telling the tale.
Oh, hear the bells, hark to the bells,
Telling us all Christmas is here.*

*Come one and all happily sing
Songs of good will, Come now let's sing.
Ring, silvery bells, Sing, merrily bells!
Strongly they chime, sounding the time
Telling us all Christmas is here.
Oh, hear the bells, hark to the bells.
Telling us all Christmas is here.
Ring, ring, ring, bells!*

Track 8 FEAST OF LANTERNS – China

Chinese New Year is the main holiday on the Chinese calendar, and is celebrated in Chinese communities around the world. This holiday **season** which takes place in January and February features masked parades and dragon dances. Children join in lantern processions carrying elaborate paper lanterns in the shape of various animals. New Year's is a time for cleaning houses, for giving small gifts of "lucky money" to children, and for feasting.

Children may enjoy making their own paper lanterns and parading around the room to the sounds of "Feast of Lanterns."

Tcing-a-ring-a-ring-tching, Feast of Lanterns.

*Look at all the dragons, lamps, and gongs.
People everywhere have Crink-um-crank-ums.
Listen to the bells and the dingdongs.*

*Tcing-a-ring-a-ring-tcing, Feast of Lanterns.
Every house is scrubbed and clean, you see.
Such delicious smells are in the air now.
People everywhere feast and drink tea.*

*Tcing-a-ring-a-ring tcing, Feast of Lanterns.
Celebrate and welcome this New Year.
Fam'lies everywhere will come together
For the special days that are now here.*

Fall Holidays

Track 9 KUM BA YA - Nigeria

Harvest festivals are common in Africa, and around the world, as people celebrate the gathering of another year's food crop. Harvest festivals are celebrated any time from late summer through December. Kwanza is a traditional African harvest celebration which has been adopted by many African Americans. Kwanza lasts for seven days, (December 26-January 1) and a candle is lit on each day. People discuss important life principles, and the holiday is celebrated through storytelling, song, drama, and poetry. On the final day a feast of thanksgiving is held, children receive gifts, and honor their elders.

Children should sing or play rhythm instruments along "Kum Ba Ya," or "come by here." This traditional African song is often sung at Kwanza or other harvest celebrations.

*Kum ba ya, my Lord, kum ba ya.
Kum ba ya, my Lord, kum ba ya.
Kum ha ya, my Lord, kum bay ya.
Oh, Lord, Kum ba ya.*

*Someone's singing Lord, etc.
Someone's dancing, Lord, etc.
Someone's hoping, Lord, etc.*

Track 10 PSALM OF THANKSGIVING - Dakota Indian

Adapted from a Dakota Indian Hymn. Giving thanks for bringing the harvest home and for the blessings in our lives is an American tradition dating back to the pilgrims and beyond. Children may sing, shake bells, or beat drums along with this adaptation of a native American song of Thanksgiving.

*We offer thanks for so many things.
We're blessed with the earth and sky;
We look up above at the heavens and stars;
Gaze at the spread of the mountains and plains.*

*We offer thanks for so many things.
We're blessed with the earth and sky.*

*Blessings are ours each day on this earth.
We have the gifts of life.
Birds in the air, each flow'r that unfolds.
The blue shining waters of crystal clear lakes.
Blessings are ours each day on this earth.
We have the gifts of life.*

Winter Holidays

Track 11 THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE - African-American

On Martin Luther King Day Americans celebrate Dr.King's dream that all Americans, no matter what their race or beliefs, should have the same rights and opportunities in this great country of ours. This African-American spiritual celebrates the right that all Americans have to live up to our highest potential.

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*All around my neighborhood, I'm gonna let it shine.
All around my neighborhood, I'm gonna let it shine.
All around my neighborhood, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*Everywhere we go, we're gonna let it shine.
Everywhere we go, we're gonna let it shine.
Everywhere we go, we're gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Track 12 LA CONGA – Brazil

Your children will have fun with a Brazilian Conga line while they celebrate the February festival, Carnival. They simply put their hands on the waist of the person in front of them forming a line that snakes around the room.

Steps: *Step left, right, left, kick right foot.
Step right, left, right, kick left foot.*

*First we play maracas "boom-chick, boom-chick, boom-chick!"
Then we play the claves, tapping "click-a-click-click.!"*

Chorus:

*One, two, three kick! Make a line to do it!
One, two, three kick! There is nothing to it!*

*Listen to the drumbeat played upon the bongo.
And you know it's time for us to do La Conga.*

Repeat Chorus

*Right behind each other snake around the room now.
Come and join "La Conga." It's easy once you know how.*

Repeat Chorus and Fade

Track 13 'TIS IRISH I AM/IRISH WASHERWOMAN – Ireland

On St. Patrick's Day (March 17), many of us around the world become Irish for the day as we celebrate by wearing green and decorating with shamrocks and leprechauns.

*'Tis Irish I am, and proud I am of it,
When far away I know Erin's my home.
Those wee leprechauns and the lakes and green meadows
Just stay in my mem'ry wherever I roam.*

Chorus:

*Let's sing together now, "Erin go braugh,"
Patricks and Bridgets all Irish are.
Though rocky the road as it heads to town,
It never can keep the Irish down.*

*'Tis Irish I am, and proud I am of it.
I talk about Ireland to all that I know.
I proudly wear green on St. Patrick's day,
And sport the shamrock wherever I go.*

Repeat Chorus

Spring Holidays

Track 14 CHERRY TREES (SAKURA) – Japan

The Japanese celebrate the coming of Spring with their famous Cherry Blossom Festival. Your children may enjoy performing this dance of the Cherry Blooms. (Each movement lasts for one measure.)

1. *Nod head right and left.*
2. *Repeat.*
3. *Open arm to right; Step right.*
4. *Open arm to left; Step left.*
5. *Turn body halfway to left from waist; Sweep right arm to right and step with right foot.*
6. *Turn body to right from waist; Sweep left arm to left and step with left foot.*

7. *Body left, arms forward, palms down, bend knees, look right.*
8. *Body right, arms forward, palms down, bend knees, look left.*
9. *Turn body to left from waist; Both arms extend right; Step with right foot.*
10. *Turn body to right from waist; Both arms extend left; Step with left foot.*
11. *Step right; Swing arms right; Look left.*
12. *Step left; Swing arms left; Look right.*
13. *Left arm across chest, right arm raised; Look left.*
14. *Right arm across chest, left arm raised; Look right.*
15. *Kneel with arms across chest during interlude.*
16. *Repeat.*

*Cherry trees, cherry trees, bloom each year in April's breeze
Like the puffy clouds in the sky.
Sweet smells in the air float by.
Shadows dance like butterflies.
Come and see! Come and see! Lovely cherry trees.*

*Sakura! Sakura! Yayoi no sora wa.
Miwatasu kagiri; Kasumi ka kumoka?
Nioi zo izuru;
Iza ya! Iza ya! Mini yuka-n.*

Track 15 LITTLE GAZELLE – Egypt

Egyptians welcome the first day of Spring with a holiday called Sham al-Nassem, or "the Smell of Spring." Everyone spends the day out of doors having big picnics and taking special trips to the beach or desert. They greet each other with "Peace be with you."

Children may try this Arabic line dance. All stand in a semicircle, fingers intertwined, arms slightly back. Leader guides the line in a count of eight which is repeated as needed.

1. *With weight on right foot, stamp left forward; Bend knees.*
2. *Step back on left foot.*
3. *Raise right knee; Hop on left foot.*
4. *Step right with right foot.*
- 5,6,7, 8. *Take four diagonal steps to right beginning with right foot.*

*Little Gazelle do you remember
Times long ago we played together?
Days in the Spring seemed never ending.
We didn't care about the wind or weather.*

*One day I woke, but you had departed.
Why did you leave me with no warning?
Now Spring returns and hope is dawning.
I look for you now every morning.*

*Little Gazelle, please come back quickly.
When you return there's no more sorrow.*

*We'll make a feast and have a party.
Singing and dancing until tomorrow.*

Track 16 THE MAYPOLE SONG – England

On May 1, children gather May flowers, select a May Queen, and dance around a Maypole, interweaving brightly colored streamers. This holiday celebrates the rebirth of Spring.

*You lassies and lads, and Mothers, and Dads,
Come to the Maypole now.
For each May day we will dance and play,
Come join, we'll teach you how.
For Jackie will dance with Jill.
Johnny, you dance with Joan.
Let's trip it, trip it, merrily skip it,
Trip it up and down.
Trip it, trip it, merrily skip it,
Trip it up and down.*

*Come Jenny and Jean to honor the Queen
Who rules over this Mayday.
In a bright spring gown and a flowery crown
She sees us prance and play.
With streamers we'll dance along
Singing our maypole song.
As we trip it, trip it, merrily skip it,
Trip it up and down.
Trip it, trip it, merrily skip it,
Trip it up and down.*

CREDITS

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