JUST THE BLACK KEYS For The Younger Pianist

30 TRADITIONAL AND ORIGINAL SONGS FOR THE BLACK KEYS

COVER DESIGN, LAYOUT & INTERIOR ILLUSTRATIONS: DORIS OLSEN @ WWW.DORISOLSEN.GALLERY

ISBN: 9781794397323 INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED

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Author's Biography



Dana Thynes* has been teaching piano and composing and arranging music for over thirty years. With a music education degree from Seattle Pacific University, Dana is the creator of the popular website www.music-for-music-teachers.com.

Along with maintaining and continually adding new music to her website, Dana has a busy teaching schedule at her private music studio in Alaska.

^{*}pronounced "DAN-nuh TEA-ness"

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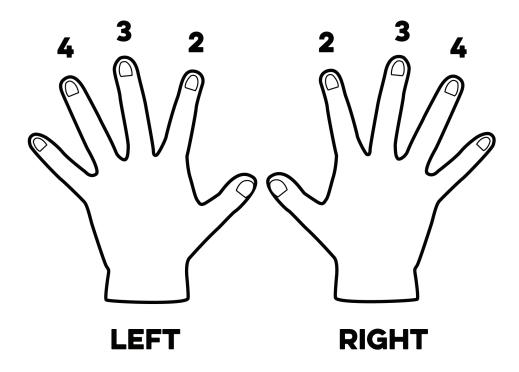
Why This Music Book?

"Just the Black Keys" engages the youngest of students and those who need a slower pace. These children may start piano with only one applicable skill - knowing how to count to ten!

For them, beginning to use their fingers in a coordinated manner is a big task.

How much easier it is when only one thing needs to be remembered:

Where are fingers 2, 3, and 4?



Students quickly learn to count using the black-keys-only approach, as without a staff, there are fewer distractions.

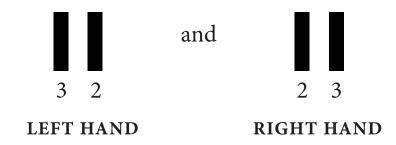
Over the weeks, refinements in recognition of musical symbols will grow: the double bar line, repeat dots, ties, even octave change indications will become part of their knowledge base. From this small skill set, their confidence to try new songs will increase.

How To Use This Book:

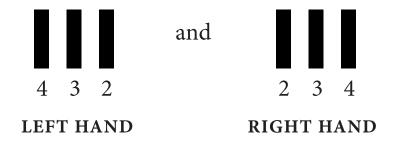
Little ones will quickly learn to recognize the difference between the two black key groups:



The "DOG HOUSE" uses just two fingers:



Playing on a "GRANDMA'S HOUSE" always requires three fingers:



Right vs. Left Hand

Next comes recognizing when to use **RIGHT** versus **LEFT** hand.

The direction of the note stems is the clue.





Notes with stems pointing **DOWN** are always played by the **LEFT HAND**, also called "bottom," "low," or "down" hand.

Notes with stems that go **UP** are always played by the **RIGHT HAND**, also called the "top," "high," or "up" hand.

Whole Notes Are A Puzzle ...

When whole notes appear, students can be assisted by asking:

What is the note next to? An "up" stem or a "down" stem?



Is the note under or over the lyrics? The lyrics are always in between the hands.



Helpful Tips

My favorite and fastest way to help students remember which hands the parts go with is to use red and lime green pens to loop around the notes. Red for right; lime green for left.

Further, the finger numbers "2, 3, 4" can be drawn directly on your student's fingers (with non-toxic ink, of course!) if the student is comfortable with that.

If you wish your students to learn these songs in order of difficulty, I suggest starting with the left hand version of Hot Cross Buns or Pizza Please (they are the same melody).

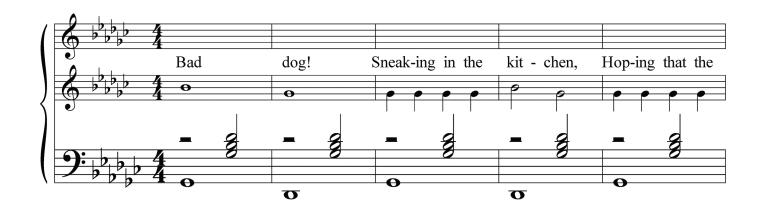
From there it will be easy to add the single right hand note of Mary Had a Little Lamb, or two new right hand notes with Once There Was a Humpback Whale. Sandhill Cranes is perhaps even easier than Humpback Whale.

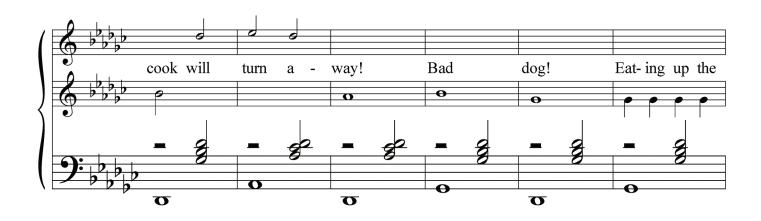
Playing both hands together, as in portions of Halloween Monsters and Jabberwocky, seems like a hurdle to get over for students. Once they have done it, they love the power of the harmony. Morning Sun Upon the Mountain is almost entirely harmony, and therefore very satisfying to play even without the teacher duet.

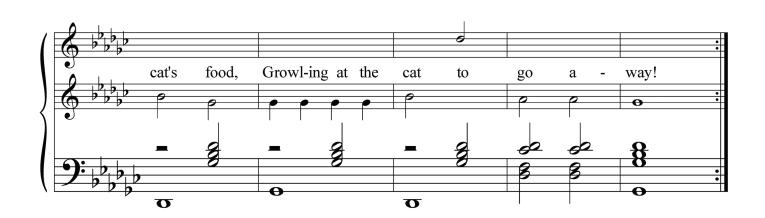
Difficulties in this book? Only for the accompanist, who ought to be able to play on the black keys.

Bad Dog

RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE





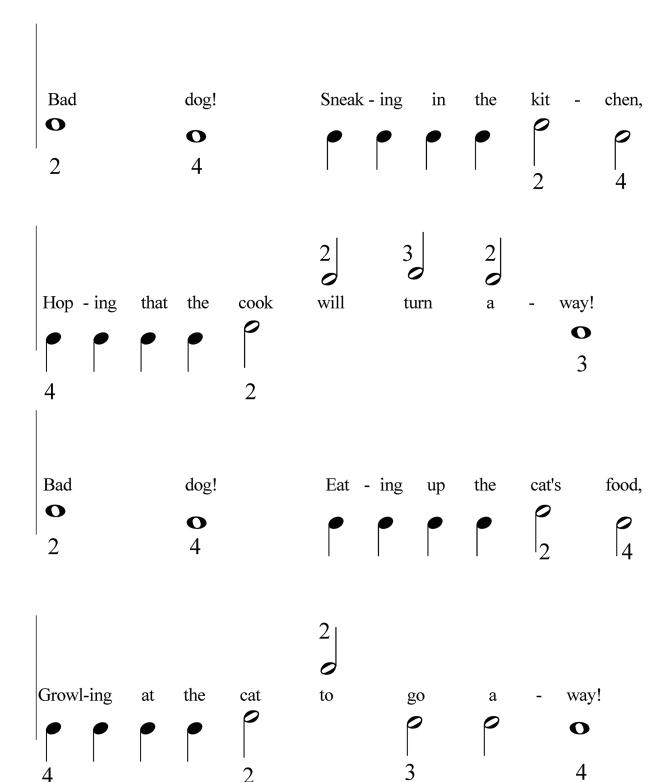


Bad Dog

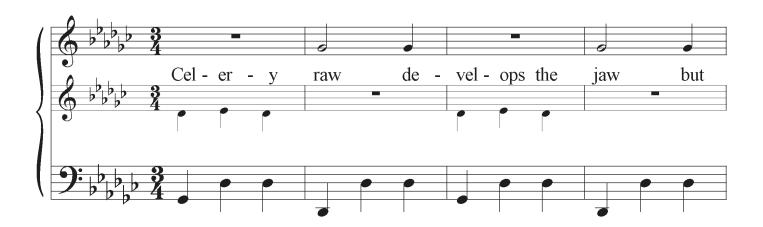


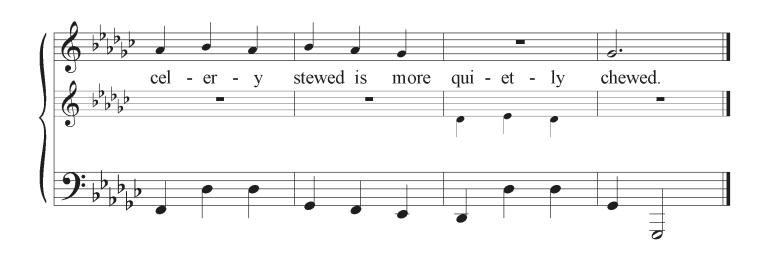
RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE



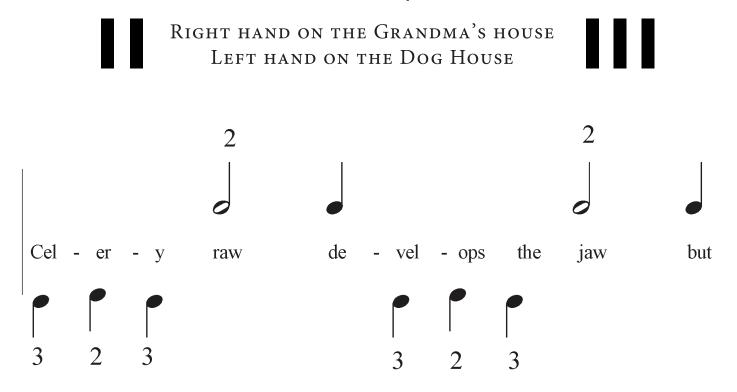


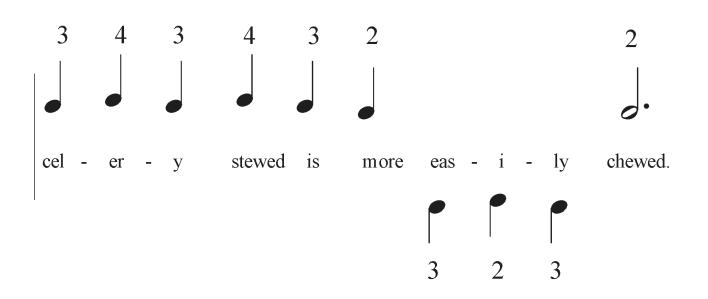
Celery





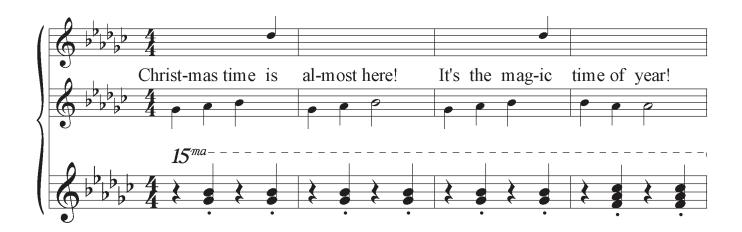
Celery

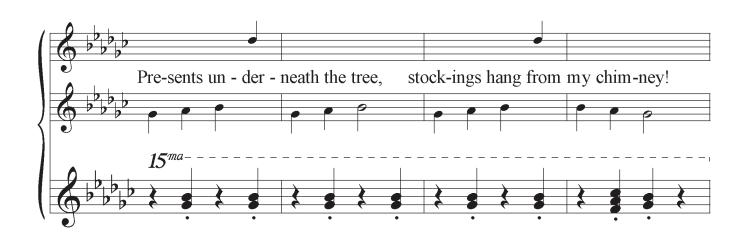


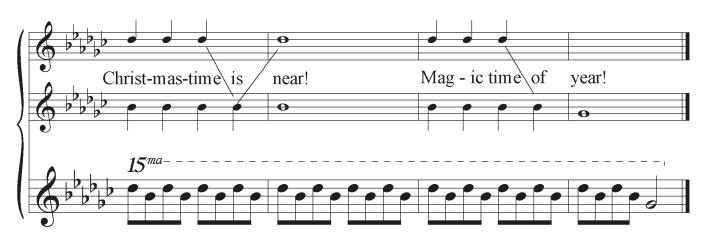


Christmas Time is Almost Here

RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE







Christmas Time is Almost Here



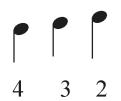
RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE Left hand on Grandma's house



Christ-mas time is al - most here! It's the mag - ic time of year!





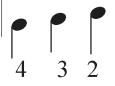


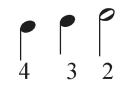


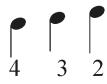
Pre - sents un - der - neath the tree,

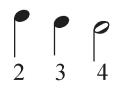


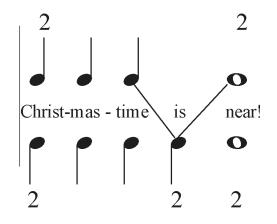
stock-ings hang from my chim - ney!

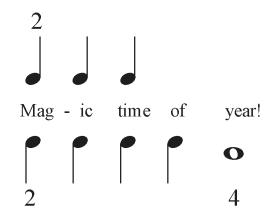








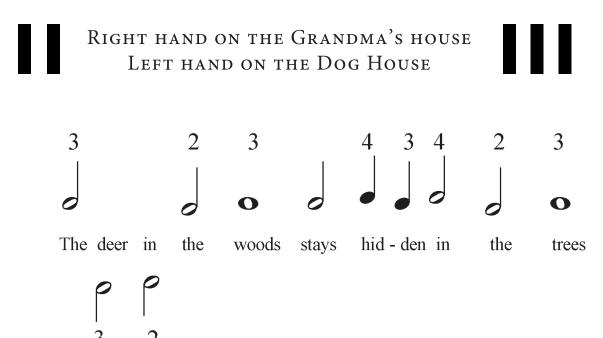


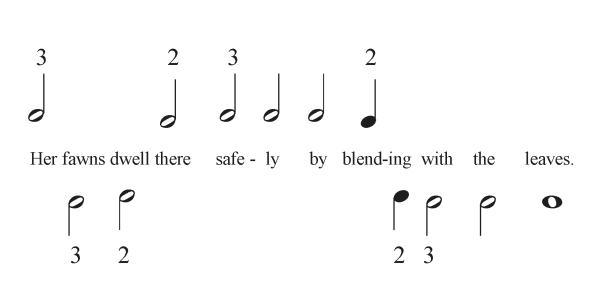


The Deer in the Woods



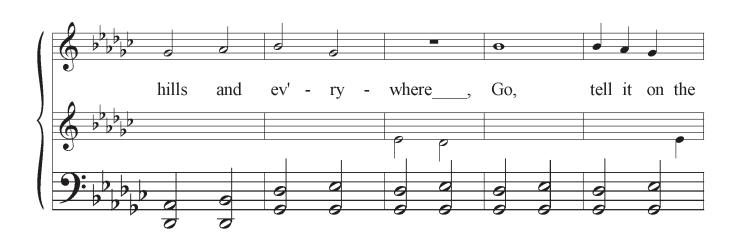
The Deer in the Woods

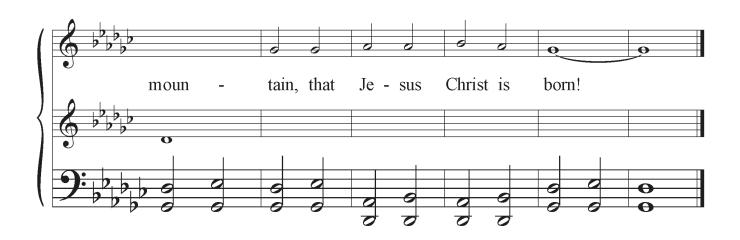




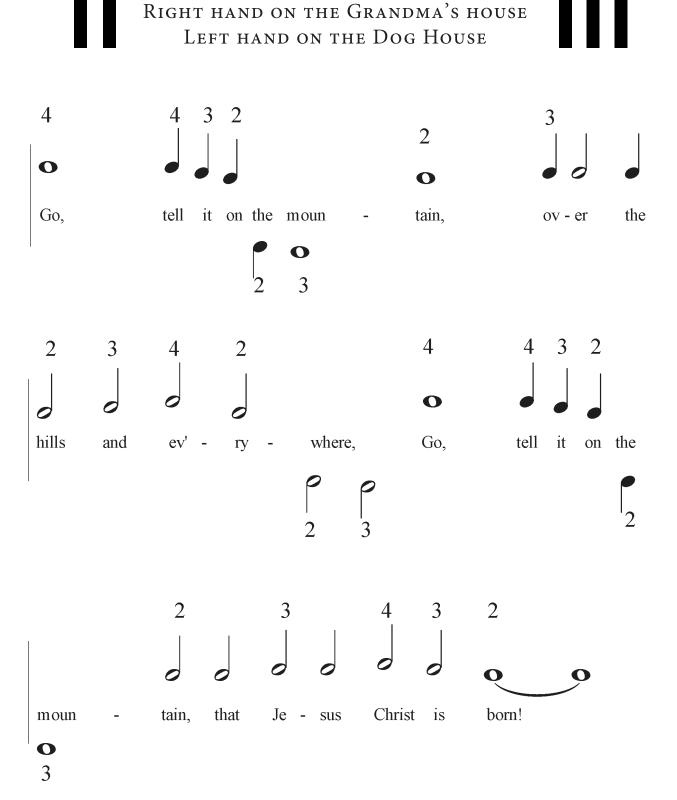
Go Tell It On the Mountain



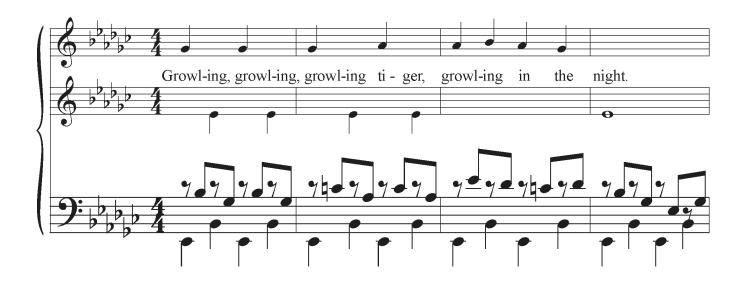




Go Tell It On the Mountain

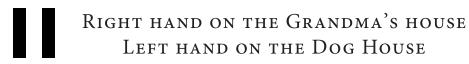


Growling Growling Tiger

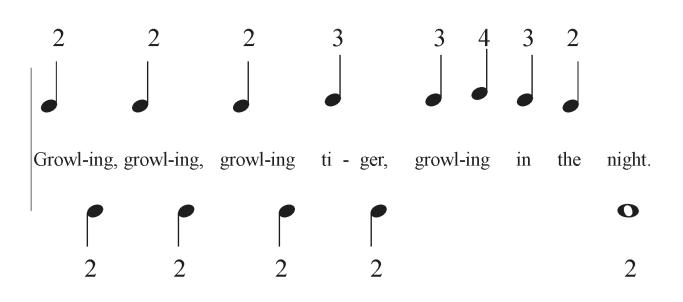


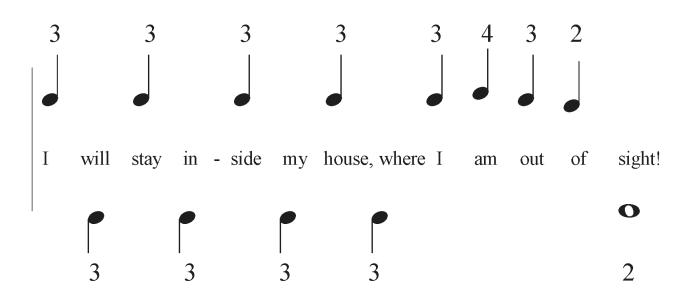


Growling Growling Tiger

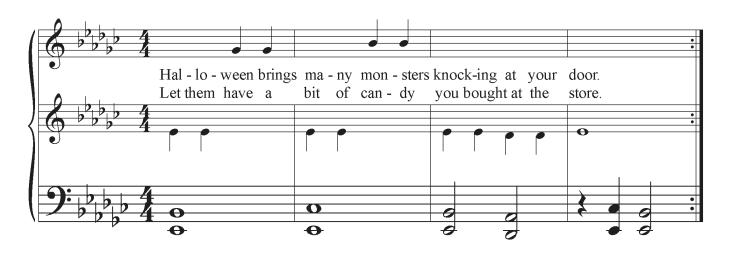


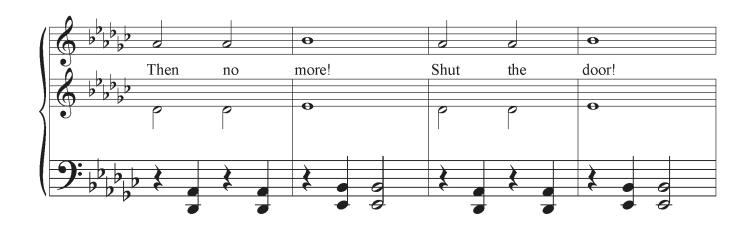


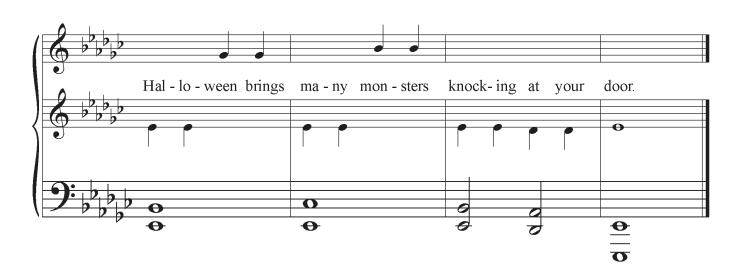




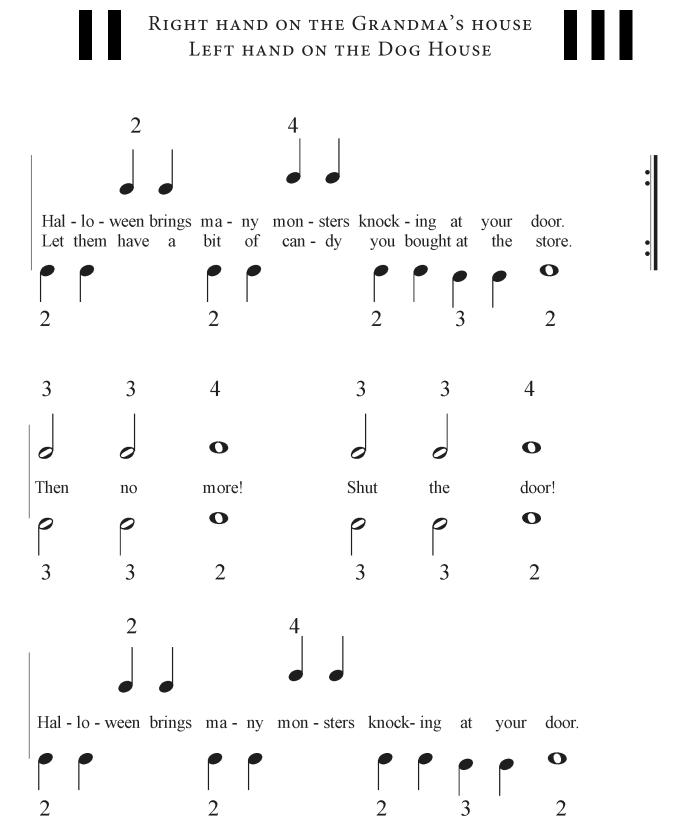
Halloween Monsters







Halloween Monsters



Hiding In the Forest

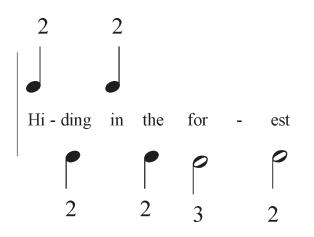


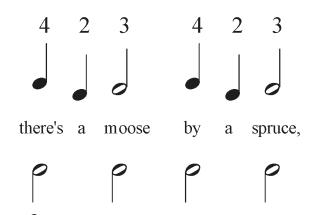


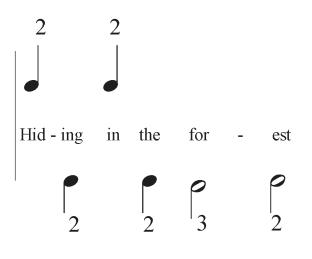
Hiding In the Forest

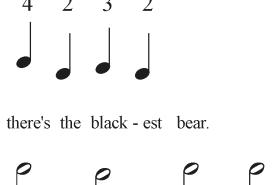


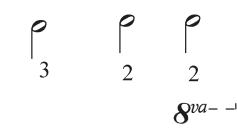










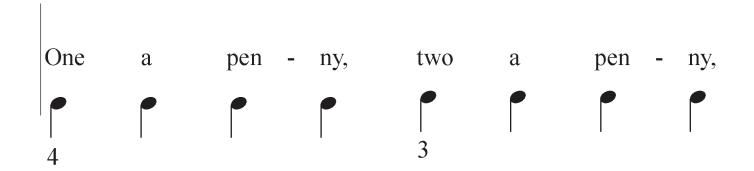


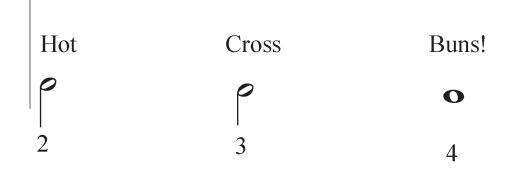
Hot Cross Buns



Left hand only - on Grandma's house

Hot	Cross	Buns!	Hot	Cross	Buns!
	0	O	0	P	0
2	3	4	2	3	4

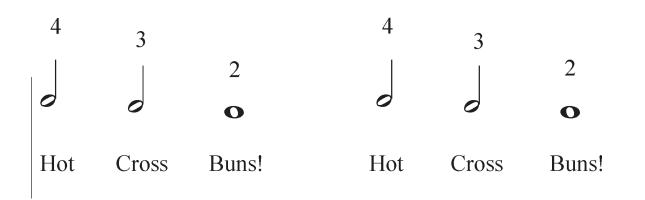


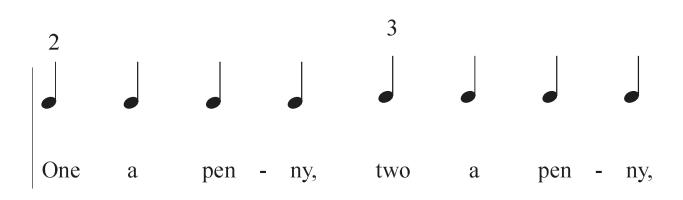


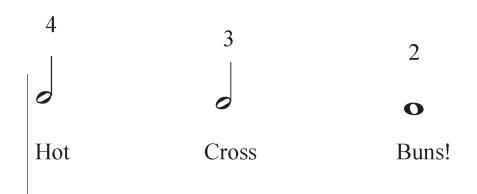
Hot Cross Buns

Right hand only - on Grandma's house

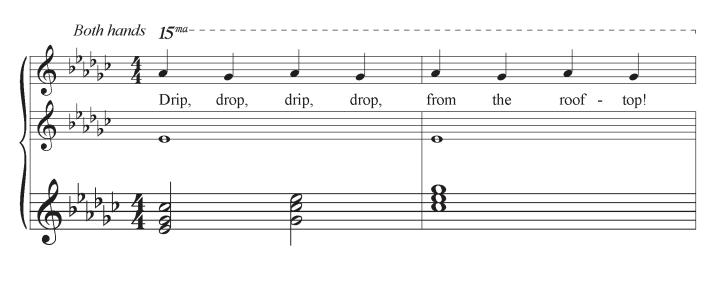


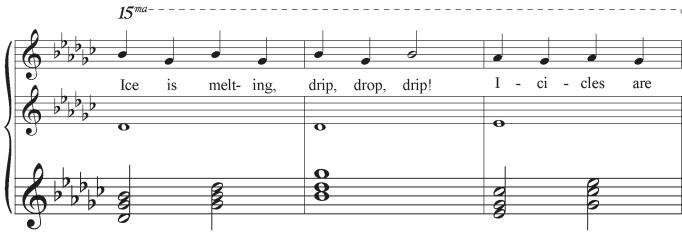


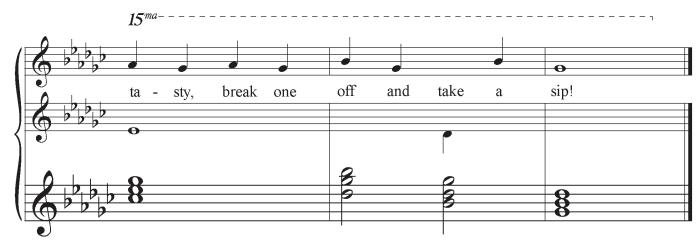




Icicles



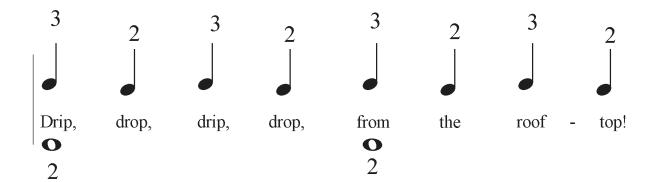


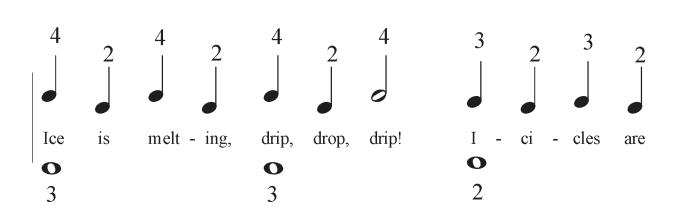


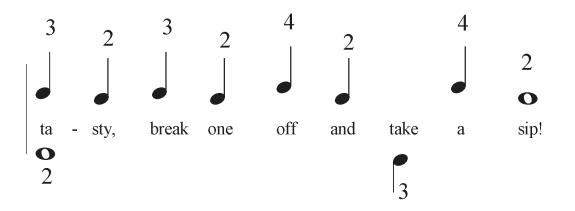
Icicles











Jabberwocky



Jabberwocky



START WITH:

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE Left hand on the Dog House



Lewis Carroll

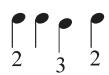






'Twas bril-lig & the sli-thy toves did gyre & gim-ble in the wabe, all mim-sey were the "Be-ware the Jab-ber-wock, my son! The jaws that bite, the claws that catch! Beware the Jubjub







SWITCH TO:

RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE Left hand on Grandma's house



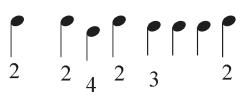


Fine

He took his vor-pal sword in hand; long



bird, and shun the__ frum-ious Bandersnatch!"





time the manxome foe he sought-So rest-ed he by the Tumtum tree, & stood awhile in thought.







Jabberwocky PAGE 2



To end the song, go back to the beginning, and repeat just verse one: "Twas brillig and the slithy toves..."

Jabberwocky PAGE 2

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE



To end the song, go back to the beginning, and repeat just verse one: "Twas brillig and the slithy toves..."

Mary Had a Little Lamb

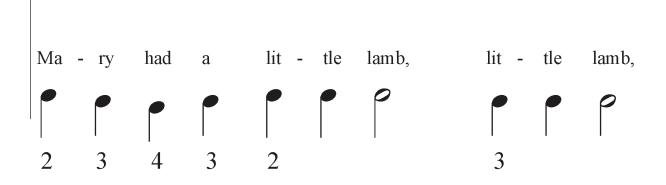
RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE

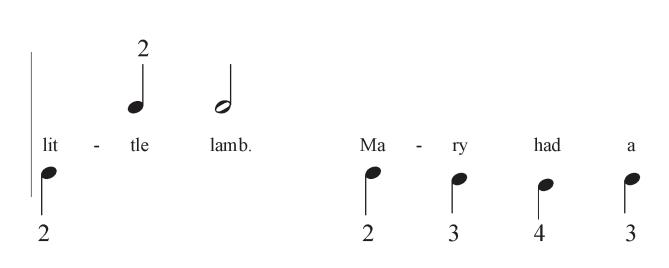


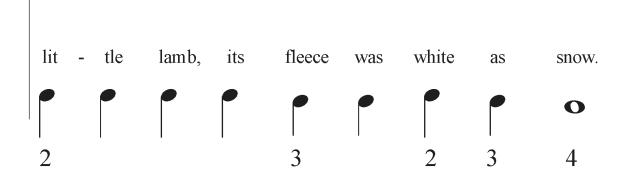
Mary Had a Little Lamb







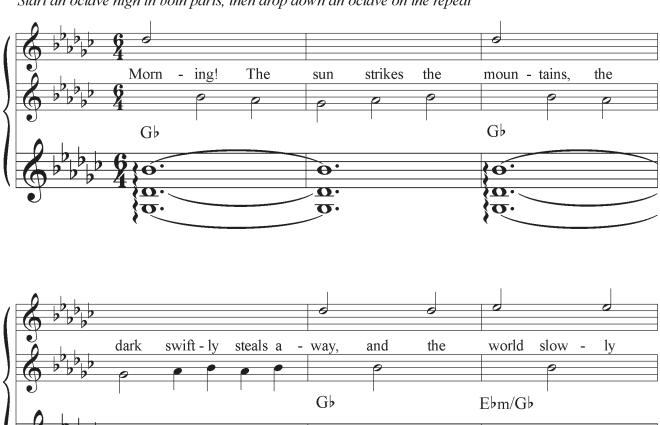




Morning Song

RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE

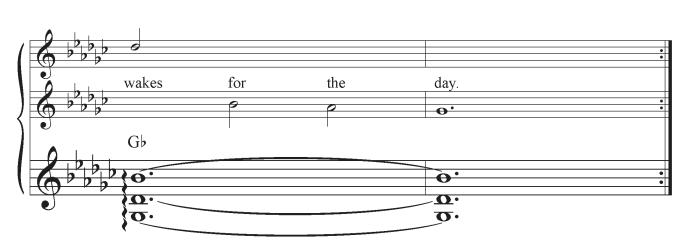
Start an octave high in both parts, then drop down an octave on the repeat



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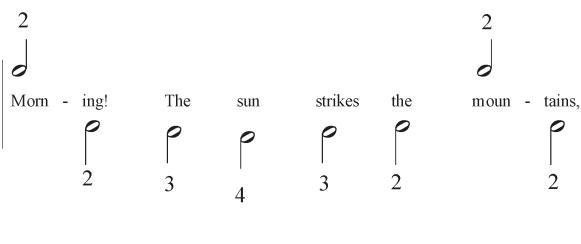


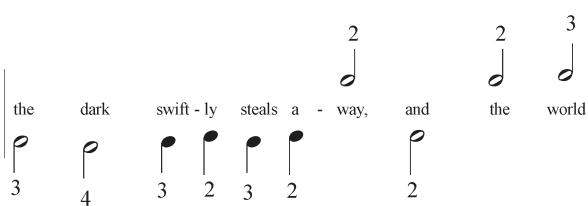
Morning Song

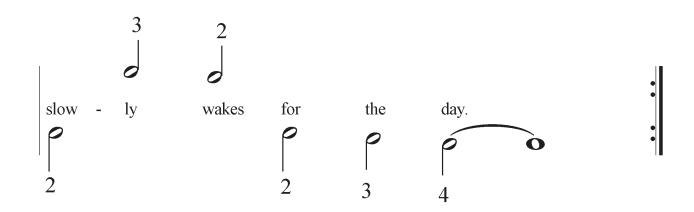


RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE





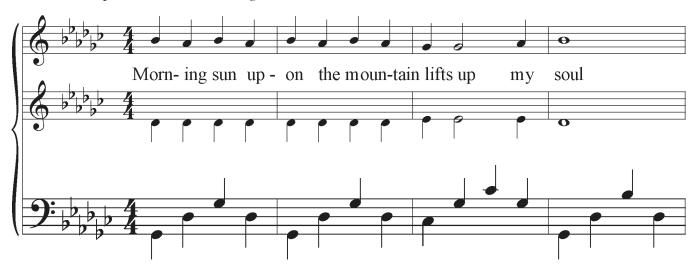


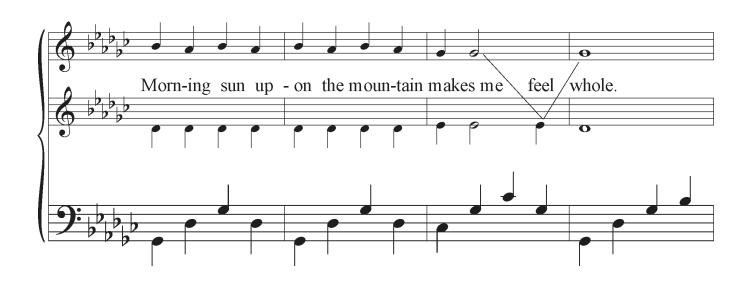


Morning Sun Upon the Mountain

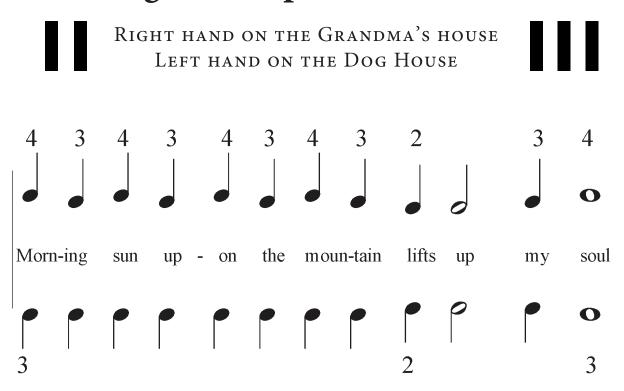
RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE

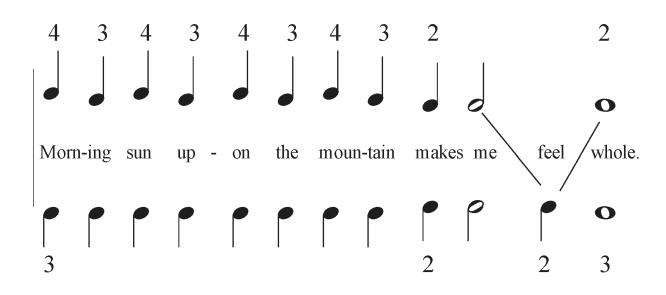
Primo up an 8va or more throughout





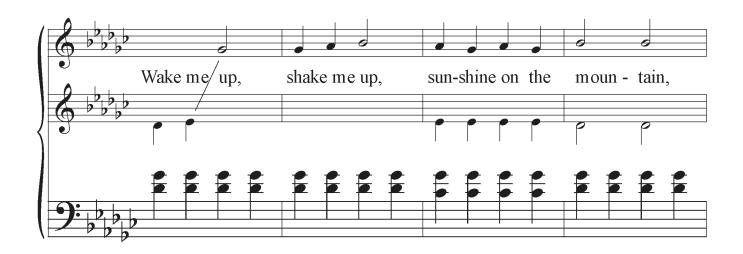
Morning Sun Upon the Mountain

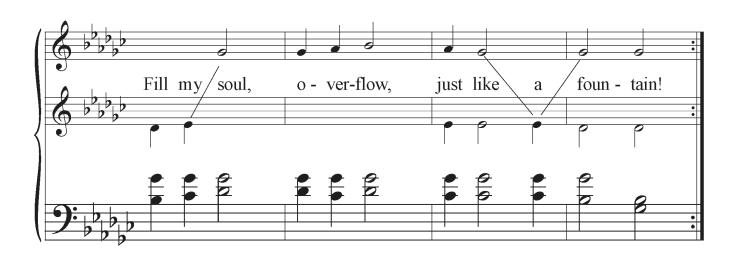




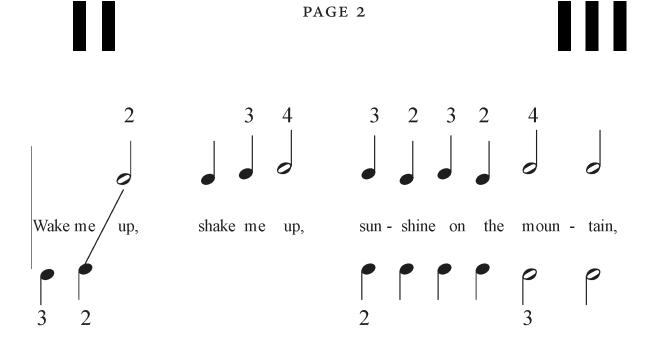
Morning Sun Upon the Mountain

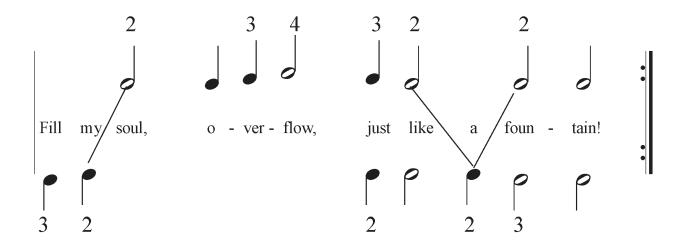
PAGE 2





Morning Sun Upon the Mountain





RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE

LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE

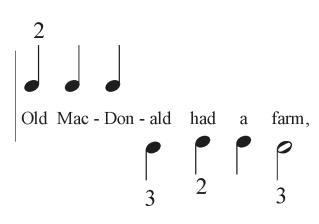


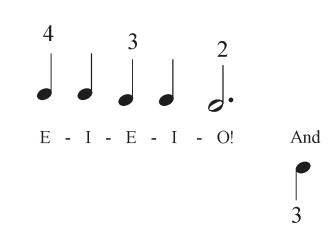


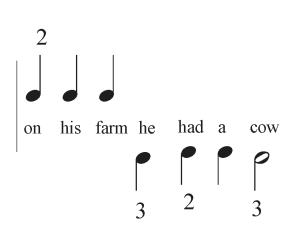
RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE

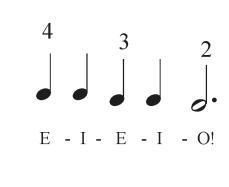
LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE



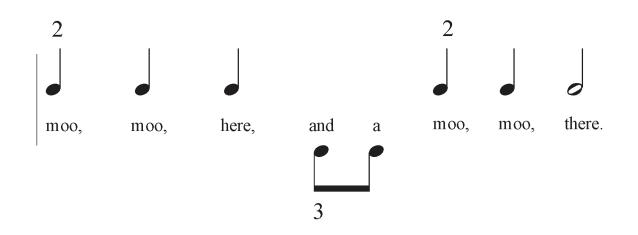




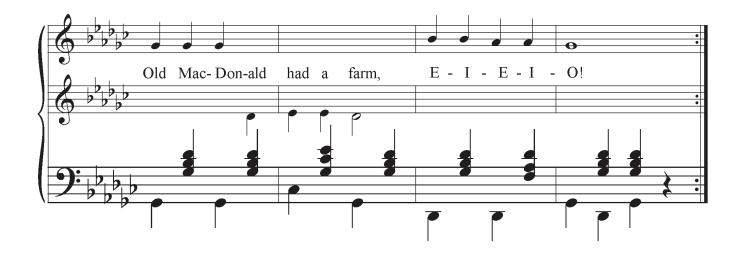








PAGE 2



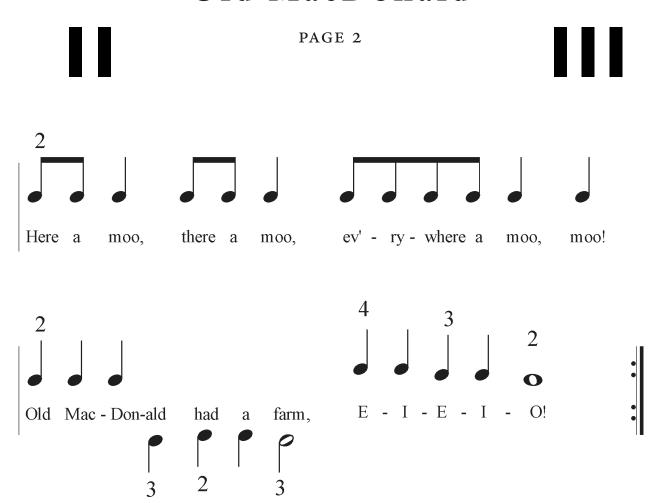
Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had a pig, E-I-E-I-O! With a oink oink here, & a oink oink there, here a oink, there a oink, everywhere a oink oink Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had a duck, E-I-E-I-O! With a quack quack here, & a quack quack there, here a quack, there a quack, everywhere a quack quack Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had a horse, E-I-E-I-O! With a neigh neigh here, & a neigh neigh there, here a neigh, there a neigh, everywhere a neigh neigh Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had a lamb, E-I-E-I-O! With a baa baa here, & a baa baa there; here a baa, there a baa, everywhere a baa baa Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had some chickens, E-I-E-I-O! With a cluck cluck here, & a cluck cluck there; here a cluck, there a cluck, everywhere a cluck cluck Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!



Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had a pig, E-I-E-I-O! With a oink oink here, & a oink oink there, here a oink, there a oink, everywhere a oink oink Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had a duck, E-I-E-I-O! With a quack quack here, & a quack quack there, here a quack, there a quack, everywhere a quack quack Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

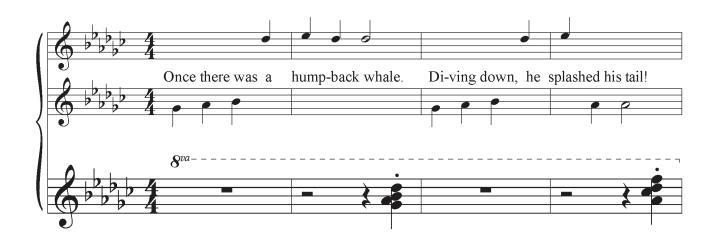
Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had a horse, E-I-E-I-O! With a neigh neigh here, & a neigh neigh there, here a neigh, there a neigh, everywhere a neigh neigh Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

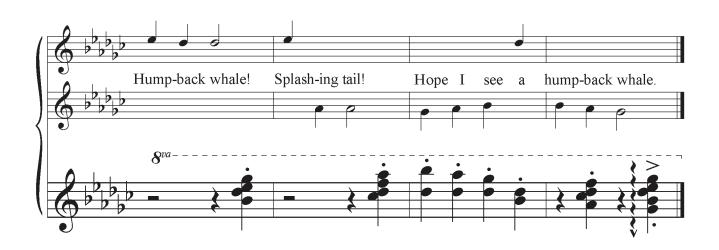
Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had a lamb, E-I-E-I-O! With a baa baa here, & a baa baa there; here a baa, there a baa, everywhere a baa baa Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on his farm he had some chickens, E-I-E-I-O! With a cluck cluck here, & a cluck cluck there; here a cluck, there a cluck, everywhere a cluck cluck Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O!

Once There Was a Humpback Whale

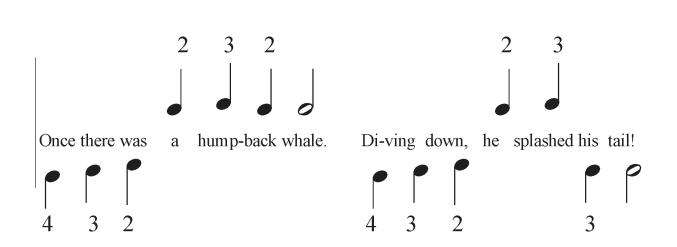
RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE

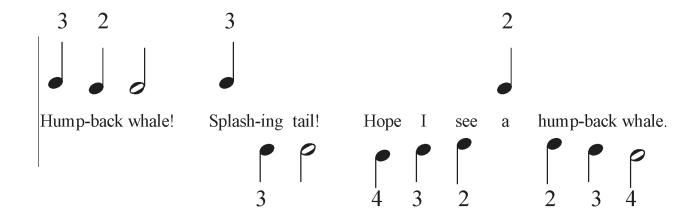




Once There Was a Humpback Whale





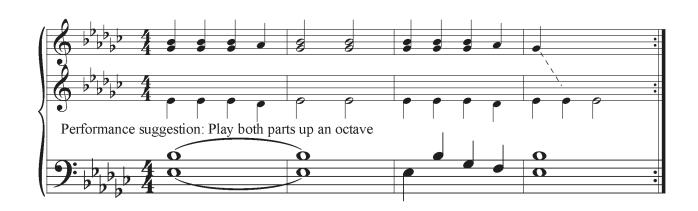


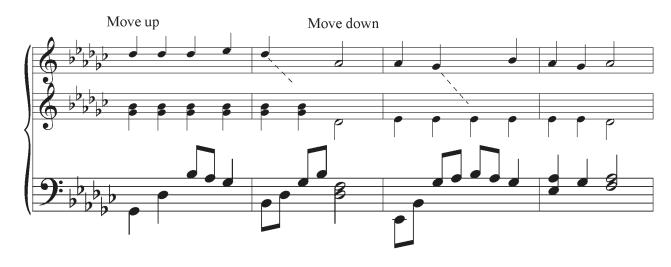
One Star in the Darkness

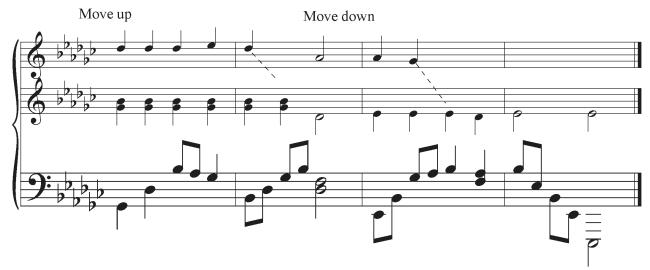
RIGHT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE

RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE

SWITCHING BACK & FORTH







One Star in the Darkness

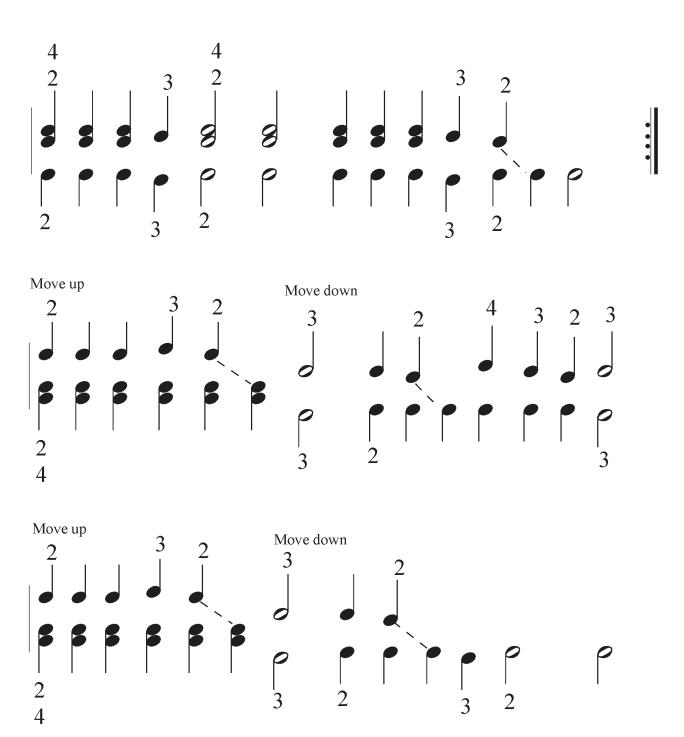




RIGHT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE

RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE

SWITCHING BACK & FORTH

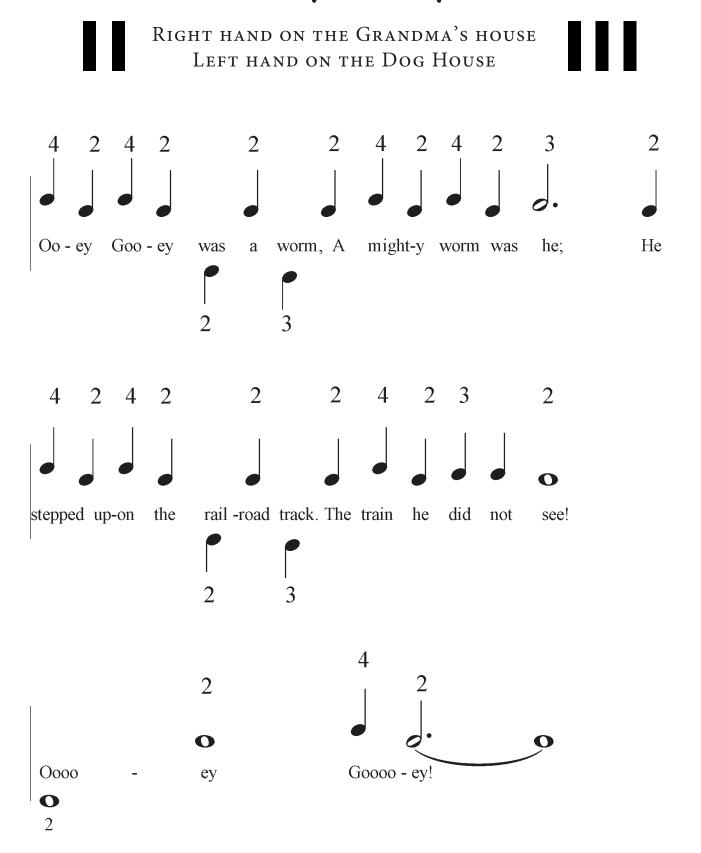


Ooey Gooey

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE



Ooey Gooey



Pirate!

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE



Pirate!

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE Left hand on the Dog House Pi - rate! Pi - rate! A pi - rate, be - ware! Dan-ger! Hur-ry! Take co - ver, take care! Run, run, run a - way! Run, run, run a - way!

Pizza Night

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE



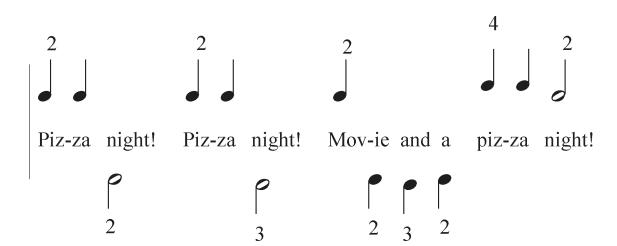


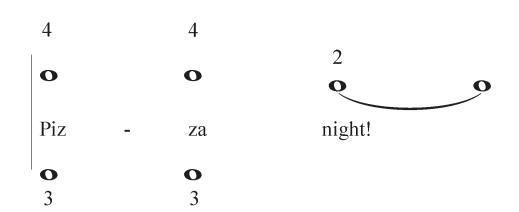
Pizza Night



RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE







Pizza Please

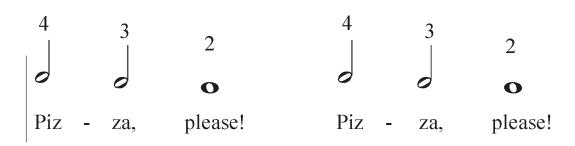


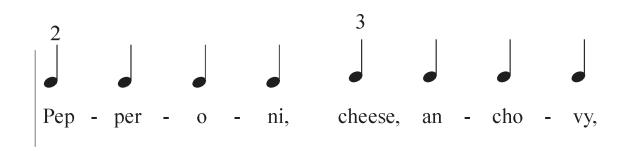
Left hand on the Grandma's house

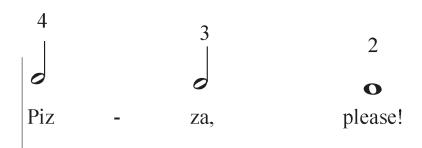
Pizza Please

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE



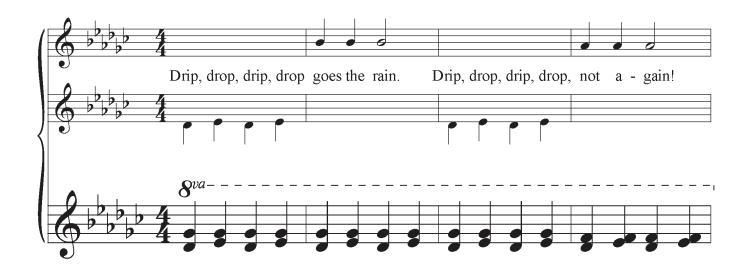






Rain Again

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE





Rain Again



RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE



4

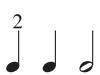


Drip, drop, drip, drop goes the rain. Drip, drop, drip, drop, not a - gain!



Drip, drop, drip, drop, not a - gan

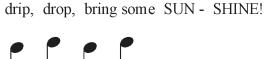






Drip, drop, Wea - ther, please be fine,

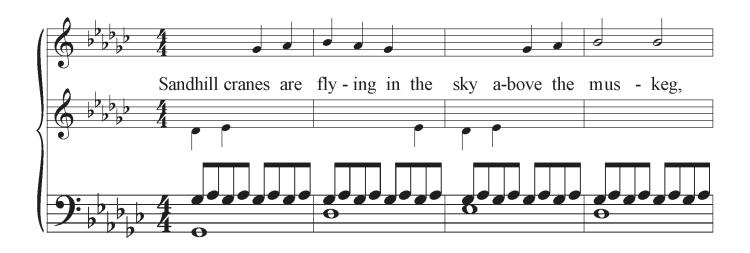




Sandhill Cranes

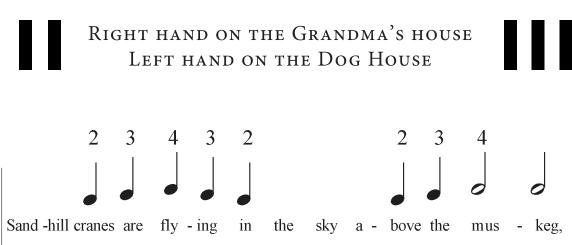
RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE

LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE

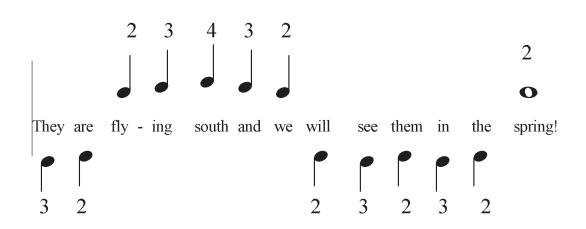




Sandhill Cranes



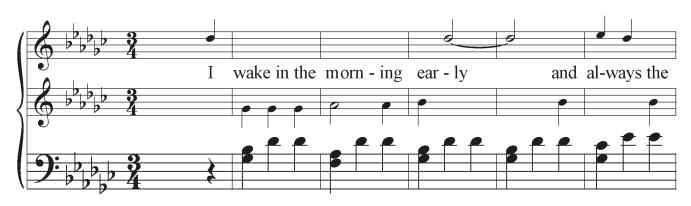


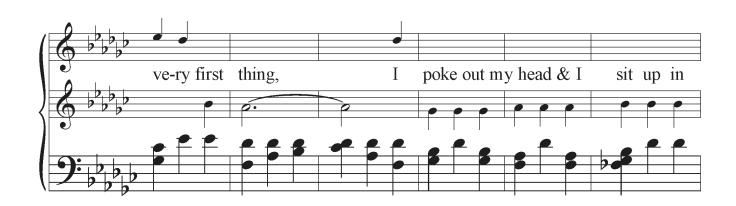


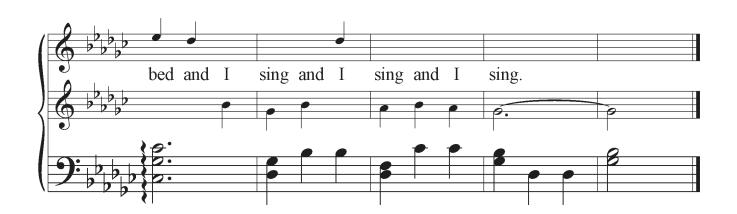
Singing Time

RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE

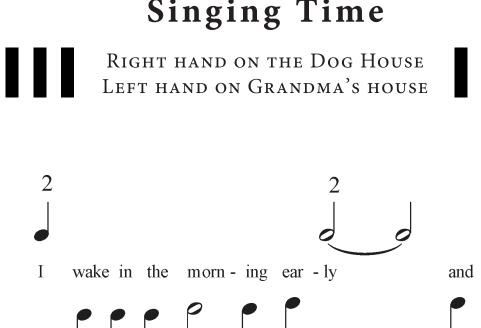
Rose Fyleman



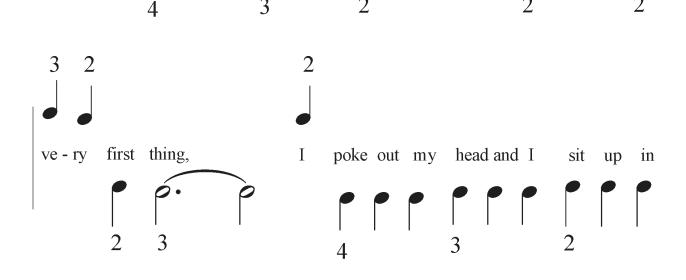


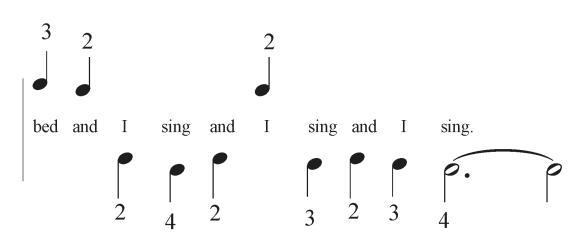


Singing Time



Rose Fyleman

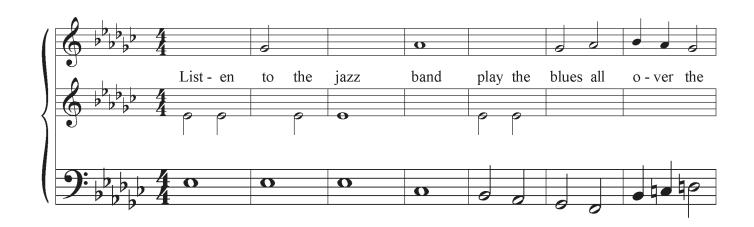


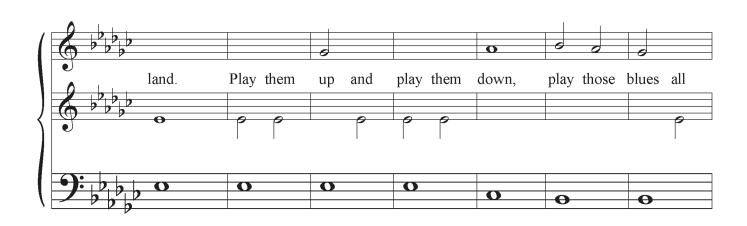


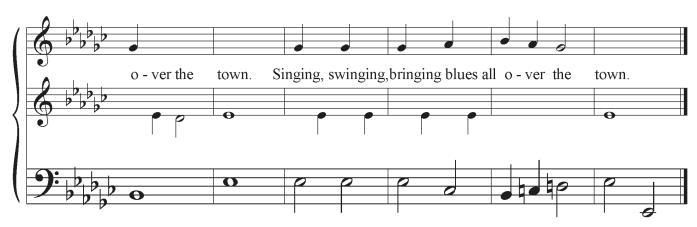
al- ways the

Sing the Blues

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE







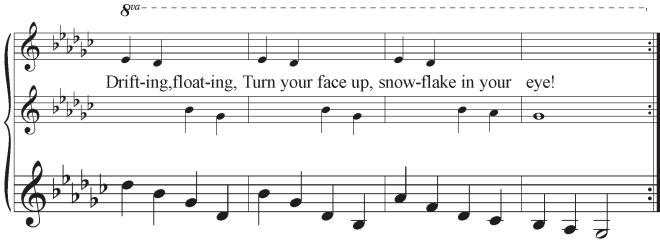
Sing the Blues



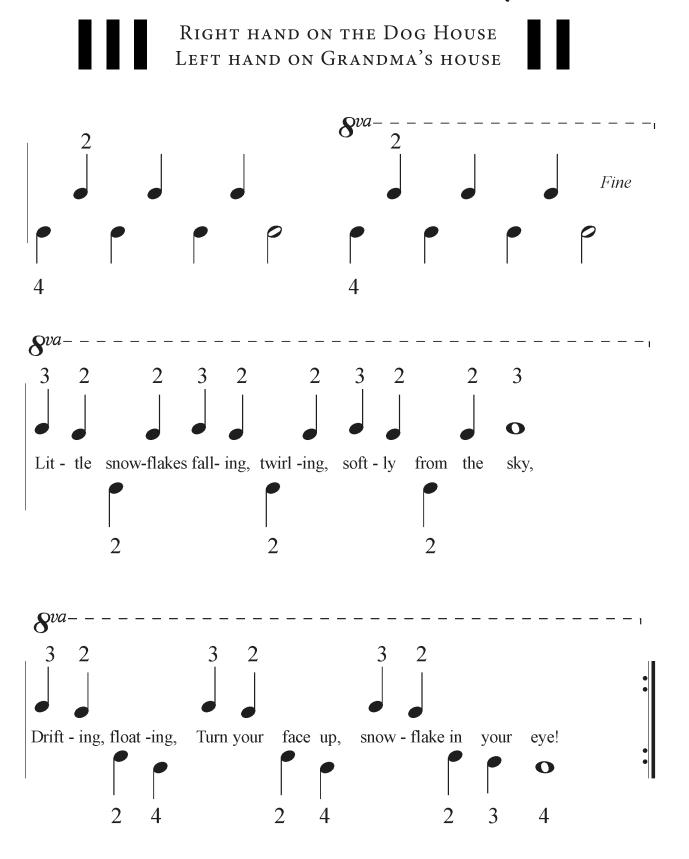
Snowflake in Your Eye

RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE



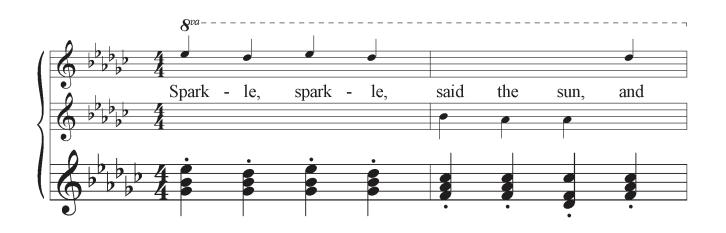


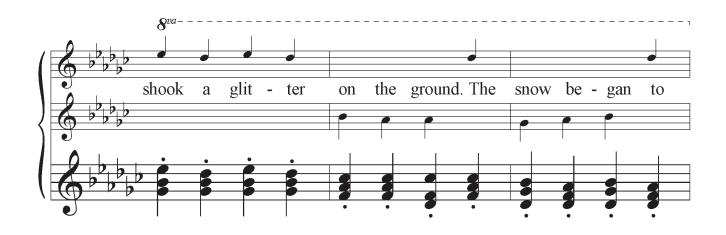
Snowflake in Your Eye

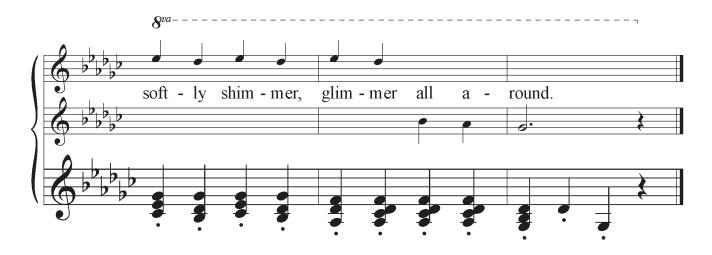


Sparkle, Sparkle, Said the Sun

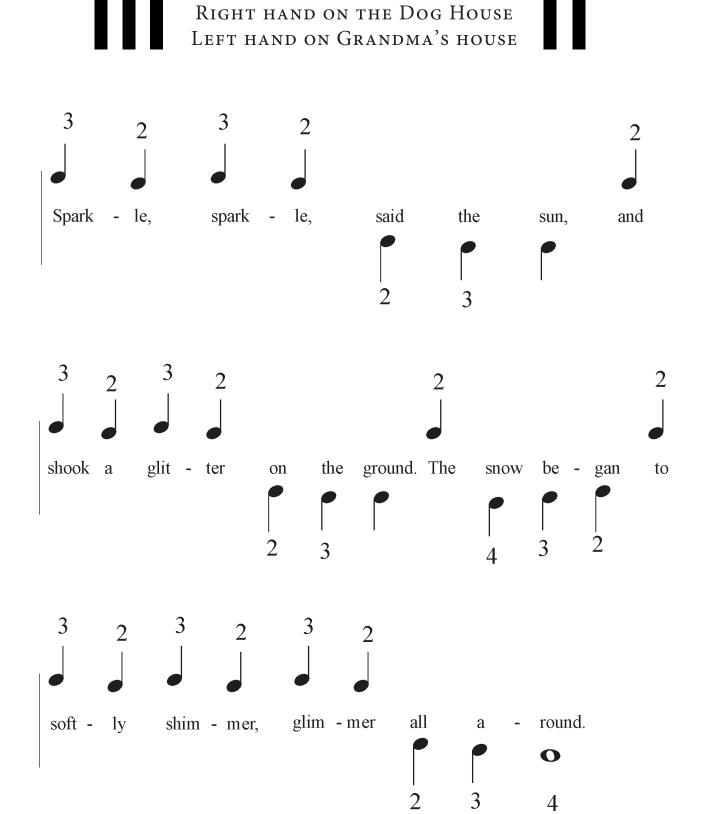
RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE





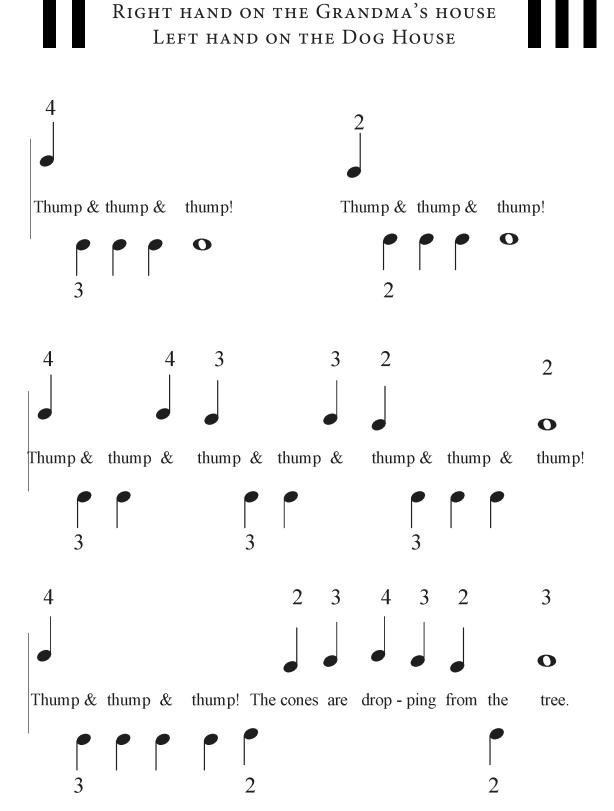


Sparkle, Sparkle, Said the Sun

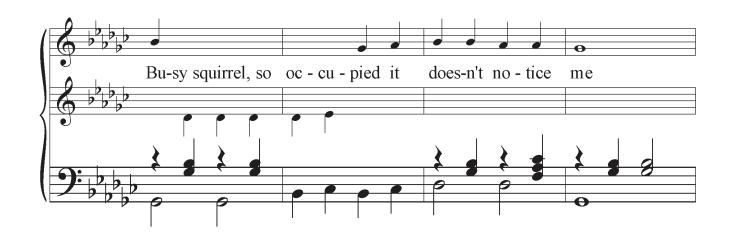


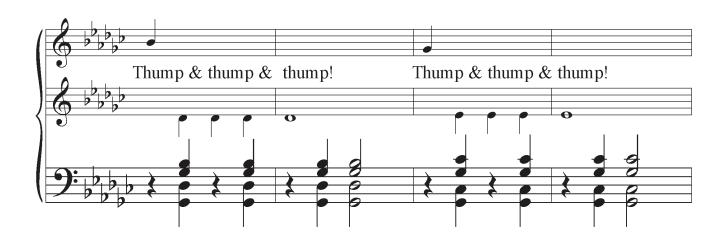
RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE



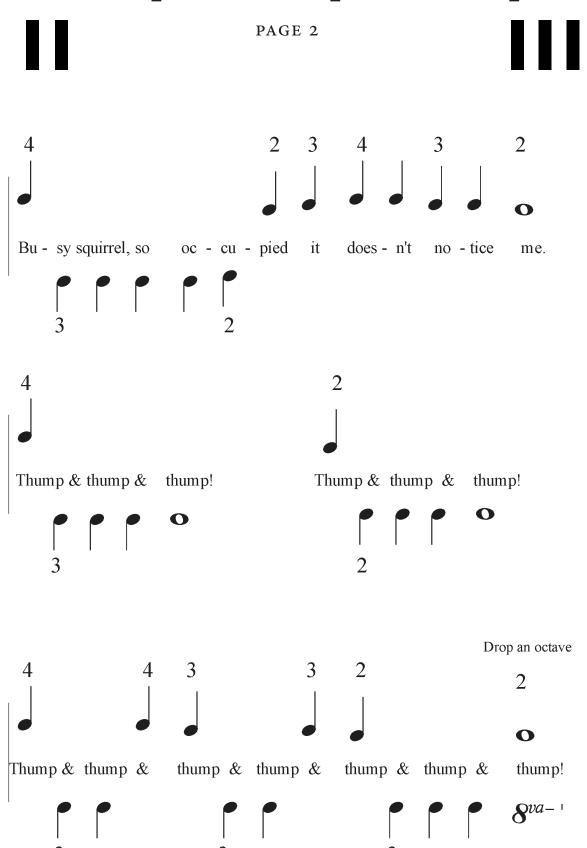


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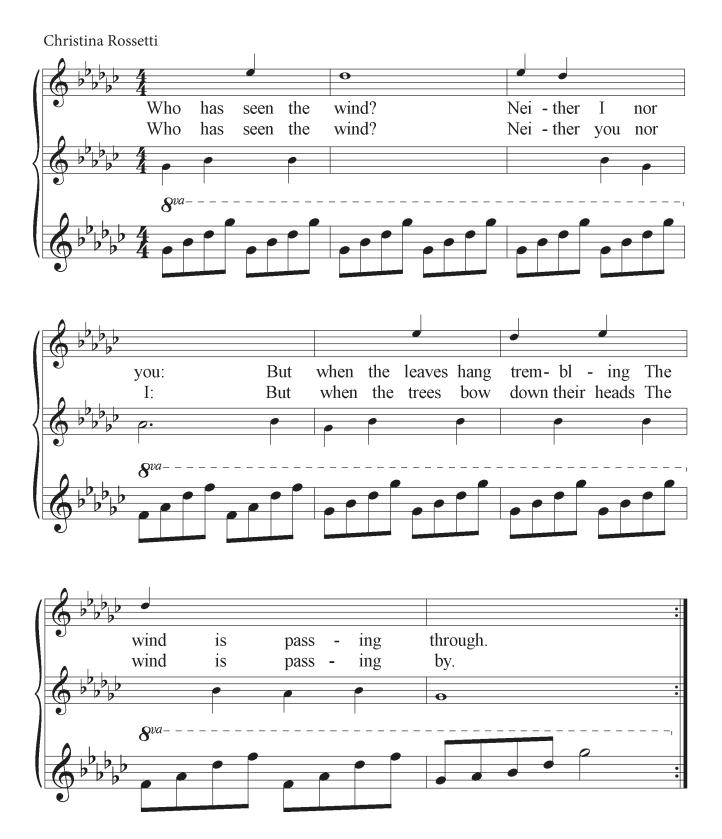




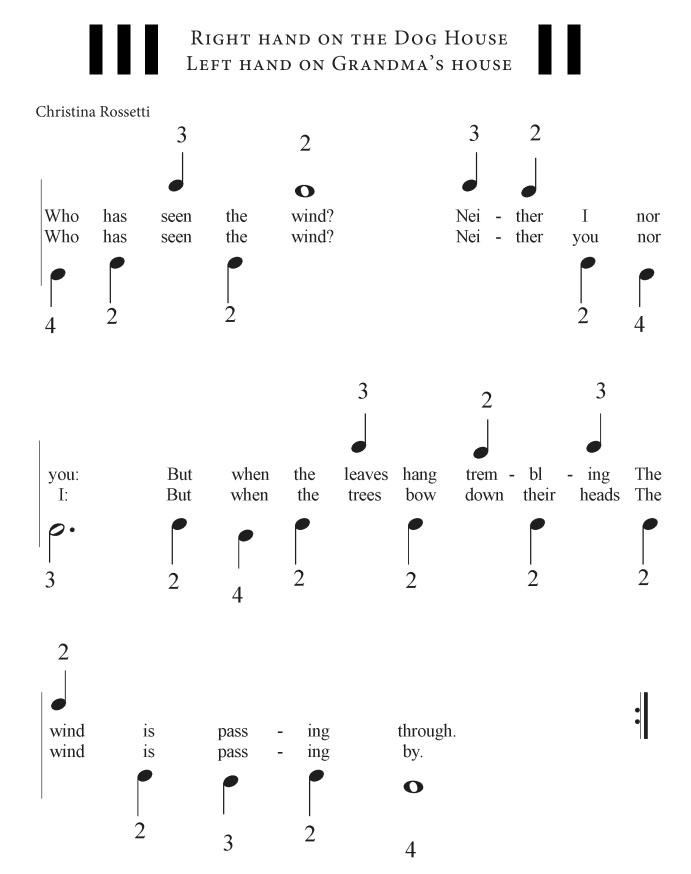


Who Has Seen the Wind?

RIGHT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE LEFT HAND ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE



Who Has Seen the Wind?



Whole Duty of Children

RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE



Whole Duty of Children



RIGHT HAND ON THE GRANDMA'S HOUSE LEFT HAND ON THE DOG HOUSE



Robert Louis Stevenson

