

CD 538

Recorded in 1971

HOLIDAY SONGS AND RHYTHMS

Hap Palmer

This album features original songs for the holidays of Christmas, Halloween, Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, Cinco de Mayo, and Easter. Traditional songs for Hanukkah and Christmas are also included. For Fourth of July, a lower pitched, easier to sing, version of our national anthem rounds out the collection. The songs are easy to sing and offer opportunities to create movements and rhythms to go with the music.

All the songs are repeated in instrumental versions enabling children to sing on their own and offering an ideal accompaniment for school holiday programs.

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.

This is the original version written during the 1960's Vietnam War era. In the 1990's I was inspired to create new lyrics to be more positive and timeless. Those lyrics can be found at the end of this manual and can be used with the instrumental version of this song (Track 10).

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.

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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)

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3. CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo means "the fifth of May" and is the anniversary of a battle that took place between the Mexicans and the French in 1862. The battle is known as the Battle of Puebla, and the Cinco de Mayo holiday celebrates Mexico's victory over the French.

Sometimes, Cinco de Mayo is confused with Mexico's Independence Day. However, Mexico's Independence Day is September 16th.

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 freedom
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
(Repeat 2nd verse)
La La La La La GO!

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4. VALENTINE'S SONG

*Valentine's 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 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)

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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 the 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 or a big green frog
An angel with wings or a floppy old dog
Pumpkin, skeleton, princess, 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

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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

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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.

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
(Repeat all)

Traditional Hanukkah Song

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)

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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 thro' 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?

Lyrics [Francis Scott Key](#) Music [John Stafford Smith](#)

Suggestions For Use Of Instrumental Versions (Tracks 10- 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.

Tracks 10 - 18

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. VALENTINE'S 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)

Additional lyrics for Track 10 - **WHAT A WORLD WE'D HAVE IF CHRISTMAS
LASTED ALL YEAR LONG** (Instrumental)

It's a time for love and sharing
A time to sing a joyful song
What a world we'd have
If Christmas lasted all year long

It's a time for hope and caring
For learning how to get along
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 think of others
To open up our hearts with song
What a world we'd have
If Christmas lasted all year long

It's a time to work together
To sing of peace with voices strong
What a world we'd have
If Christmas lasted all year long

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