

# *Recorder Karate Belt Songs*

*for*

*4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Recorder Students*

## **Contents:**

**White Belt:** Hot Cross Buns, Gently Sleep, & Merrily We Roll Along

**Yellow Belt:** It's Raining

**Orange Belt:** Old MacDonald Had a Farm

**Green Belt:** Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

**Purple Belt:** Amazing Grace

**Blue Belt:** Jingle Bells

**Red Belt:** Ode to Joy

**Brown Belt:** The Wedding March

**Black Belt:** Old Joe Clark



Pitches: GAB

# Hot Cross Buns

2 measures (8 beats) introduction on recording

Traditional

Hot cross buns! Hot cross buns!

One a pen - ny, two a pen - ny, hot cross buns!

## New things to learn for the White Belt song:

**half note = 2 beats**     
 **time signature = 4 beats in each measure**     
 **half rest = 2 beats of silence**  
**quarter note = 1 beat**

new notes:

G

A

B

counting: 1 2 3 4



Pitches: GAB

# Hot Cross Buns

2 measures (8 beats) introduction on recording

Traditional

Hot cross buns! Hot cross buns!

One a pen - ny, two a pen - ny, hot cross buns!

## New things to learn for the White Belt song:

**half note** = 2 beats     
 **time signature** = 4 beats in each measure     
 **half rest** = 2 beats of silence  
**quarter note** = 1 beat

new notes:

G

A

B

counting: 1 2 3 4

Pitches: GAB

# Gently Sleep

2 measures (8 beats) introduction  
on recording

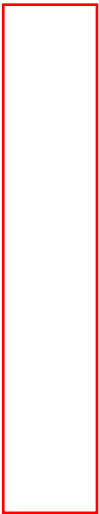
Gent - ly sleep, my sweet child. Gent - ly sleep, with that smile.

Traditional  
lyrics by Barb Philipak

Gent - ly sleep, lit - tle one. Gent - ly sleep, day is done.

New thing to learn for the Yellow Belt song:

- ’ **breath mark** When you see this symbol, take a breath.  
Try only to take a breath every two measures.



Pitches: GAB

# Merrily We Roll Along

2 measures (8 beats) introduction  
on recording

Traditional

Mer - ri - ly we roll a - long, roll a - long, roll a - long.

Mer - ri - ly we roll a - long, o'er the deep blue sea.



Pitches: E GA

# It's Raining

7 beats introduction  
on recording

Traditional

It's rain - ing, it's pour - ing, the old man is snor - ing.

Went to bed and he bumped his head and he could - n't get up in the morn - ing.

New things to learn for the Green Belt song:

**new rhythm:**

two eighth notes = 1 beat  
(Each single eighth note gets 1/2 beat.)

new note:

counting:



# Old MacDonald Had A Farm

4 measures (16 beats) introduction  
on recording

Traditional

Old Mac - Don - ald had a farm. E - I - E - I - O. And

on that farm he had some chicks. E - I - E - I - O. With a

chick chick here. And a chick chick there. Here a chick, there a chick. Ev'-ry-where a chick chick.

Old Mac - Don - ald had a farm. E - I - E - I - O.

**New things to learn for the Purple Belt song:**

**quarter rest** = 1 beat of silence

**dotted half note** = 3 beats  
(A dot after a note gets half the value of that note and makes it that much longer.)

**new note:**

D

Pitches: DEF<sup>#</sup>GAB

# Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

2 measures (8 beats) introduction  
on recording

Traditional

Twin - kle, twin - kle lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are.

Up a - bove the world so high, like a dia - mond in the sky!

Twin - kle, twin - kle lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are.

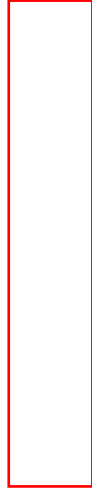
**New things to learn for the Red Belt song:**

**key signature**

These sharps (<sup>#</sup>), when placed at the beginning of a line, are for all C's and F's in the song. This is called a **key signature**. However, since there are no C's in this song, you only have to remember to play every F in this song as F<sup>#</sup>.

**new note:**





Pitches: DE GAB D'

# Amazing Grace

5 beats introduction on recording

Traditional

A - maz - ing— grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but  
 now I am found, was blind, but now I see.

## New things to learn for the Brown Belt song:

### new rhythms:



**single eighth note** = 1/2 beat

Until now, you have seen two eighth notes joined together with a beam ( ). Together, two eighth notes = 1 beat.



**dotted quarter note** = 1 1/2 beats

Again, the dot adds half the value of that note and makes it longer.

$1 + 1/2 = 1 \frac{1}{2}$  beats



A **fermata** placed above a note means that the note is held a little longer than its usual count.



**time signature** The top number tells us that there are only three beats in each measure.

3 4 1 2 3

3 4

counting:

# Jingle Bells

2 measures (8 beats) introduction  
on recording

Traditional  
arr. Paul Jennings

Jin - gle bells, jin - gle bells, jin - gle all the way!

5 Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one - horse o - pen sleigh! \_\_\_\_\_

9 Jin - gle bells, jin - gle bells, jin - gle all the way!

13 Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one - horse o - pen sleigh!

### Featured notes:

D'

C'

### Things to know:

- **4/4 Time Signature** means 4 beats per measure.

- dotted quarter note = 1 ½ beats

- single eighth note = ½ beat

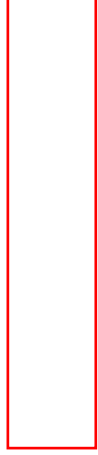
- whole note = 4 beats

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

### Quick Facts about "Jingle Bells":

- Written by James Pierpont in 1857.
- It took many years to become a popular holiday song.
- Also known as "One-Horse Open Sleigh."
- On December 16, 1965, two astronauts aboard the Gemini 6 capsule played a trick on Mission Control. They said they saw a UFO with a pilot in a red suit. Then, they played "Jingle Bells" on a harmonica and sleigh bells. These instruments are in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and are considered the first musical instruments played in space.

Pitches: D GABC'D'



# Ode To Joy

2 measures (8 beats) introduction  
on recording

Ludwig van Beethoven

# The Wedding March

2 measures (8 beats) introduction  
on recording

(from *Lohengrin*)

Richard Wagner  
arr. Paul Jennings

Featured notes:

Things to know:

- Remember to check your **Key Signature** – all F's are F#'s throughout the entire song.
- dotted quarter note = 1 ½ beats
- quarter rest = 1 beat of silence
- dotted half note = 3 beats
- single eighth note = ½ beat
- half note = 2 beats

Quick Facts about “The Wedding March”:

- This song is from the opera *Lohengrin* by Richard Wagner, a German composer.
- It was written in 1850.
- Today, it is a march that is often played for the bride’s entrance at weddings in the Western world.
- It is also known as “Here Comes The Bride.”

# Old Joe Clark

Traditional  
arr. Paul Jennings

4 measures (8 beats) introduction  
on recording

Old Joe Clark he had a house. Eighteen stories high. Ev' - ry sto - ry

in that house was filled with chick - en pie. Fare thee well Old Joe Clark,

fare thee well I say. Fare thee well Old Joe Clark, I'm a - goin' a - way.

**Featured note:**

**Tips for playing Low C:**

- All fingers on (except left pinky).
- Use barely any air pressure at all when playing low C.
- If still having difficulty, try “yawning inside your mouth.” Pretend to sneek a yawn. Then, play the recorder with this shape in your mouth. This usually helps play low C.

**Things to know:**

- Remember in **2/4 Time Signature** – there are only 2 beats per measure.
- Remember to check your **Key Signature** – all F's are F#'s throughout the entire song.

dotted eighth beamed to sixteenth note = 1 beat

- When you have sixteenth notes, since it takes 4 sixteenth notes to equal 1 beat, we have to subdivide the beat into 4 parts. So we use '1e & a' for counting. Make sure you use '1e & a' on all notes so that your rhythm is very smooth and steady.

1e & a 2e & a 1e & a 2e & a

**Quick Facts about “Old Joe Clark”:**

- This song is a mountain folk song which tells tall tales about Old Joe Clark's life.
- This popular folk ballad has more than 90 verses in the various versions.
- Joe Clark was born and lived in Clay County, Kentucky, in 1839 and died in 1886.
- He was one of the first to enlist in the Civil War.