

Happy Fingers

Easy Songs for Braille Music Readers

Collected & Edited by
Christina Davidson & Karen Gearreald
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Book 1

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Braille Music Literacy



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Introduction & Dedication

The HAPPY FINGERS books are designed to challenge and encourage braille readers of all ages so that ears, voices, and fingers can work together in the enjoyment of music. Songs are presented in order of difficulty, beginning with the easiest.

The HAPPY FINGERS books are gratefully dedicated to Louis Braille and Bettye Krolick. In the nineteenth century, Louis Braille invented the braille music system so that visually impaired musicians could read, learn, and write music independently. In the twentieth century, Bettye Krolick stabilized and publicized braille music so that braille readers could continue to benefit. Throughout her many years of transcribing and teaching, Bettye insisted that braille music is not hard to learn. She knew that musical fulfillment must be more than mere imitation or rote learning. Bettye helped us understand that braille music skills enable visually impaired musicians to excel as creators and leaders.

Now in the twenty-first century, we are using the computer to share the joys and opportunities that Louis and Bettye have given to us.

Karen Gearreald
& Christina Davidson
November 2010

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Go Tell Aunt Rhody

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

Slowly and sadly

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord markings 'C' and 'G7' are placed above the first and fifth notes of each staff. The lyrics are: 'Go tell Aunt Rhody, go tell Aunt Rhody, the old gray goose is dead.'

C
Go tell Aunt Rhody,

G7 C
go tell Aunt Rhody,

go tell Aunt Rhody the

G7 C
old gray goose is dead.

When the Saints Go Marching In

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

C

Oh when the saints go march - ing in,

G⁷

Oh when the saints go march - ing in,

C F

Oh Lord I want to be in that num - ber, _____

C G⁷ C

— when the saints go march - ing in.

2. Oh, when the sun begins to shine,
Oh, when the sun begins to shine,
Oh Lord I want to be in that number,
When the sun begins to shine.

Oh, How Lovely is the Ev'ning

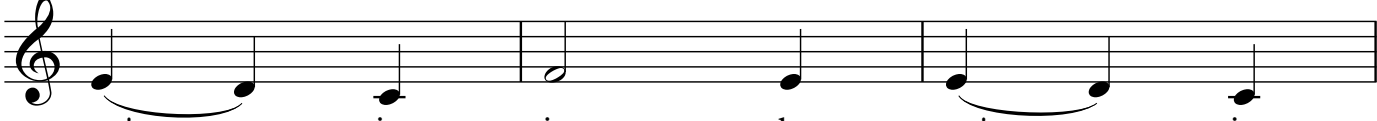
(A Round in 3 parts)

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

1.

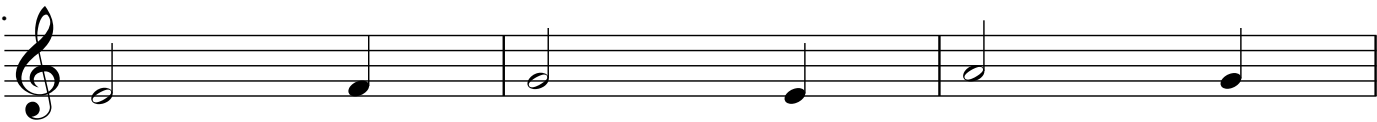


Oh, how love - ly is the

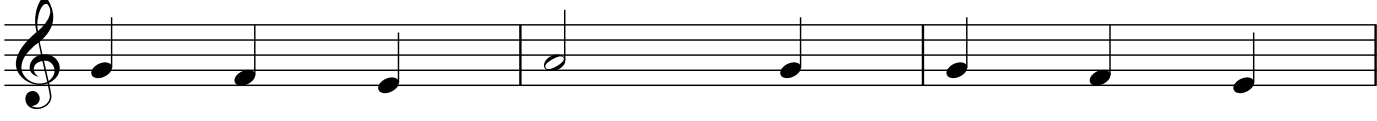


ev' - ning is the ev' - ning

2.

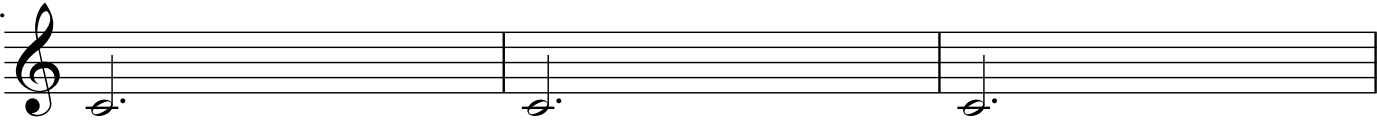


When the bells are sweet - ly

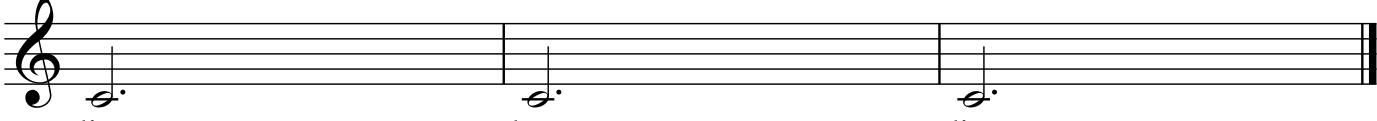


ring - ing, sweet - ly ring - ing,

3.



Ding, dong, ding,

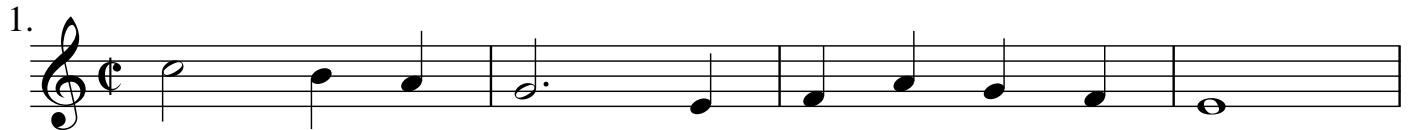



ding, dong, ding.


White Coral Bells


(A Round in 4 parts)

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

1. 
White cor - al bells up - on a slend - er stalk,

2. 
Lil - ies of the val - ley deck my gar - den walk.

3. 
Oh, don't you wish that you could hear them ring?

4. 
That will hap - pen on - ly when the fair - ies sing.

Scarborough Fair

(Dorian Mode)

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

Dm Am Dm

Are you go - ing to Scar - bor - ough Fair?

G Dm

Pars - ley, sage, rose - mar - y and thyme;

Am Dm C

Re - mem - ber me to one who lives there, — For

Dm C Am Dm

she once was a true love of mine.

Alphabet Song

(Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

C

A B C D E F G

G⁷ C G⁷ C

H I J K L M N O P

C G⁷ C G⁷

Q R S T U V

C G⁷ C G⁷

W _____ X Y and Z.

C F C

Now I know my A B C's,

G⁷ C G⁷ C

Next time won't you sing with me?

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

CHORUS:

The musical score for the chorus is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of six lines of music. The first line starts with a C chord and contains the lyrics 'He's got the whole world, in His hands, He's got the'. The second line starts with a G7 chord and contains 'whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world'. The third line starts with a G7 chord and contains 'in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands. 1) He's got the'. The fourth line starts with a C chord and contains 'it - ty bit - ty ba - by in His hands, He's got the'. The fifth line starts with a G7 chord and contains 'it - ty bit - ty ba - by in His hands, He's got the it - ty bit - ty ba - by'. The sixth line starts with a G7 chord and contains 'in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands.' The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

2) He's got you and me brother, in His hands,
He's got you and me brother, in His hands,
He's got you and me brother, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands. CHORUS

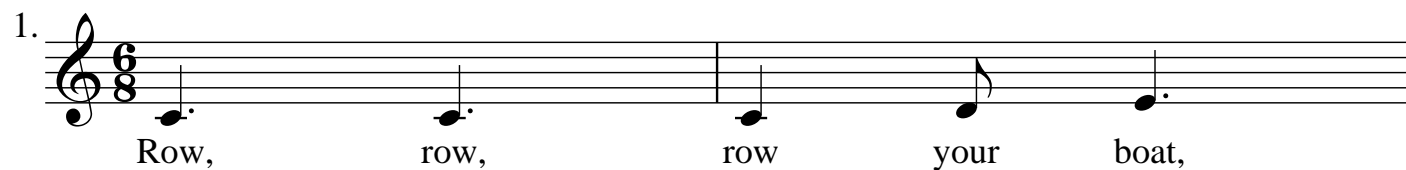
3) He's got you and me sister, in His hands (etc...) CHORUS

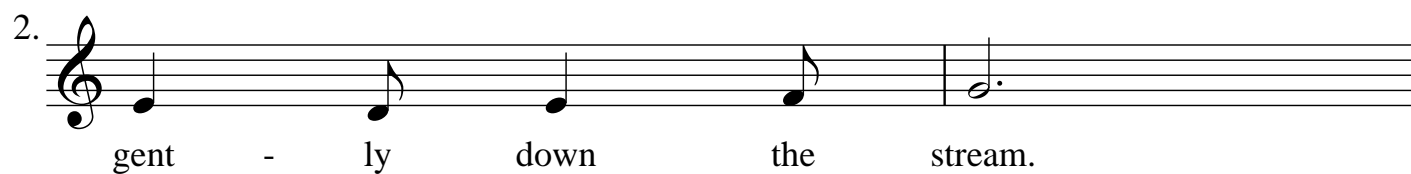
4) He's got everybody here, in His hands (etc...) CHORUS

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

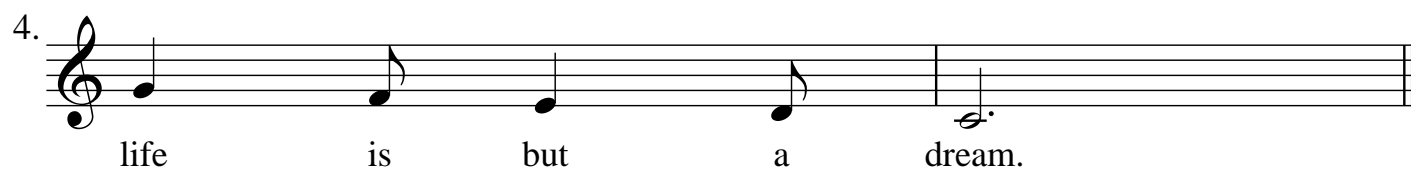
(A Round in 4 parts)

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

1. 
Row, row, row your boat,

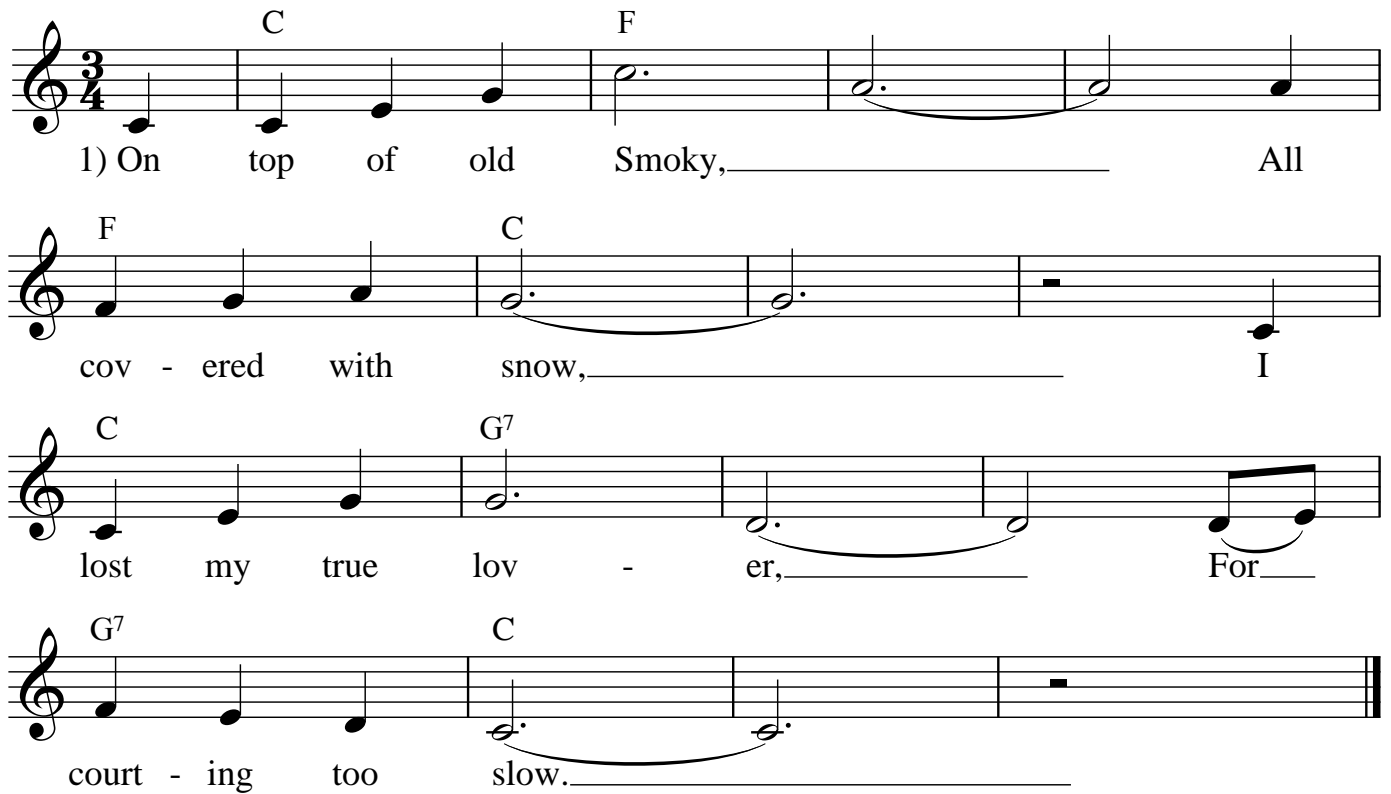
2. 
gent - ly down the stream.

3. 
Mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly,

4. 
life is but a dream.

On Top of Old Smoky

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald



1) On top of old Smoky, All
cov - ered with snow, I
lost my true lov - er, For
court - ing too slow.

- 2) For courting's a pleasure but parting is grief,
And a false-hearted lover is worse than a thief.
- 3) A thief will just rob you and take all you have,
But a false-hearted lover will lead you to the grave.
- 4) The grave will decay you and turn you to dust,
Not one boy in a hundred, a poor girl can trust.
- 5) They'll hug you and kiss you and tell you more lies
Then cross ties on a railroad, or stars in the sky.
- 6) They tell you they love you to give your heart ease,
But as soon as your back's turned, they court whom they please.