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Singing as One Partnership Festival Spring 2021

In this resource pack, for each song you will find:

- Performance example track
- Backing track
- Song lyrics
- Suggestions and extra activities to help you learn the song
- Scores for each song can be found in the separate pack

The four songs for this year's festival are:

- *Let's Sing a Song* by Elena
- *Sun Arise* by Mark and Helen Johnson
- *Banyan Tree* Trad Jamaican
- *Little Moon* Tamil song adapted by Julia Partington, Mona Zeidan and Elena Browne

Track downloads

[Let's Sing a Song Performance example track](#)

[Let's Sing a Song Backing track](#)

[Sun Arise Performance example track](#)

[Sun Arise Backing track](#)

[Banyan Tree Performance example track](#)

[Banyan Tree Backing track](#)

[Little Moon Performance example track](#)

[Little Moon Backing track](#)



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Let's Sing a Song

by Elena Browne

Lyrics

*Let's Sing a song for **our school***
Let's sing a song in style
Let's sing a song as we know best
With a wave and a smile

Give me some hip hip hip hooray
Let's all sing for a sunny day
Yea yeah let's clap and cheer
Good times are here

Ba ba ba ba doo wop
Ba ba ba ba doo yeah
X2

Introduction

- Welcome your singers with a celebration of your school.
- Insert the name of your school: *Let's Sing a Song for* _____
- A perfect start to your singing session

Starting out

- Have a good stretch and a yawn, a wiggle and a shake, even a jog on the spot!
- Reach up to the sky and flop down to your toes with a big *whoooosh*.
- Pretend to chew a very big sticky toffee as it gets gradually smaller.
- Use a pretend mirror to make silly faces and exclamations such as 'Oooh' and 'Aaah'

Learning the song

- Listen to the performance track and encourage the children to listen out for and join in with some of the obvious actions (*smile and wave, clap and cheer, hip hip hip hooray, sunny day*)
- On the word *style* everyone to make their own funky frozen statue shape. (The bigger the better!)
- Learn the sections separately as there is quite a bit to take in. Learn from the beginning up to *with a wave and a smile* before doing the second part. Sing along and when you get to the second part go back to the actions.



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- When you are ready, go on to the next section, *Give me some*. Chant the words slowly and rhythmically first, emphasising with actions.
- Practice and repeat *Hip hip hip hooray* x 4. Pump fists high up in the air rhythmically.
- Practice and repeat *Clap and cheer* x 4 to get a punchy rhythm and make sure everyone claps together!
- Practise and repeat the start of the section *Give me some*. Count 1 2 3 first so everyone starts together ie; 1 2 3 *Give me some...* x 4
- Practice the *ba ba ba doo* part in four separate phrases:
 1. *Ba ba baba doo wop* (short)
 2. *Ba ba baba doo Yeah!*____ (long)
 3. *Ba ba baba doo wop* (short)
 4. *Ba ba baba doo Yeah!*____ (long)
- Emphasise the short sound of the *wop*. Pretend you are catching the sound like a small hard rubber ball in your hand. Then wiggle fingers out to the sides to illustrate the long sound on the *Yeah*.
- Note the first *Yeah* is low and the second time is higher. Show this with your hands. Can the children hear and identify the difference?

Take Note

- The words are quite fast moving for our younger singers so do take time to go through them slowly and carefully before using the backing track.
- Use the opportunities for musical learning and focus on the short and long sounds of *wop* and *Yeah* and the high and low sounds of the two *Yeah's*

Try this

- Discuss what we celebrate at our school. What makes our school special? Who are all the different people in school who we celebrate; what jobs do they do? Think of all the people who make up our school community. Link this discussion to your school values.



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Sun Arise

By Mark and Helen Johnson

Lyrics

Sun arise, see a new day dawn,
Spread you light on a sleeping world
Arise_____ let the morning in
Sun arise, let the day begin,
fill the skies, put the colours in
Arise_____ let the morning in x 2

*Shake off your slumber, awake to the wonder of sun rising.
Take up the chorus of life, there's a glorious song to sing*

There's a call to a brand-new day.
Greet the dawn with a song of joy
Arise_____ let the morning in
There's a call, let the song go round,
Fill the earth with a joyful sound
Arise_____ let the morning in x 2

*Shake off your slumber, awake to the wonder of sun rising.
Take up the chorus of life, there's a glorious song to sing*

Sun arise, see a new day dawn,
spread you light on a sleeping world
Arise_____ let the morning in
Sun arise, let the day begin,
fill the skies, put the colours in
Arise_____ let the morning in x 4

Introduction

- Start your day with this joyful, heartening and stirring song by Mark and Helen Johnson
- A perfect school song of celebration with a positive and uplifting theme

Starting out

- Close eyes and put heads down covering face with hands. Count to 3 and children raise heads slowly and open arms with a SILENT Wow face and hold.
- Alternating big face small face. Scrunch up the face like a paper bag and suddenly on a given signal, stretch out as if painted on a blown-up balloon.



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- Roll the shoulders back and forth, up to the ears and relax, letting out a sigh.
- Raise heads, shoulders, eyebrows and cheeks with imaginary strings to open and wake up the face.

Learning the song

- Display the lyrics and listen to the performance track. As you listen notice and indicate with your hands the long notes
- Go through the words as a call and response, then chant together
- Learn the verses separately so the words of each are secure and do not get confused
- When singing *Arise*____ imagine the sound floating forwards rather than going up – gesture with hands going outwards. This will ensure a smooth transition and mean singers will not strain!

Take Note

- Remember to breathe when you are not singing!
- Enjoy the feeling and sound of the long, held notes. Raised eyebrows and cheeks and a smiley face will lift the sound and open the mouth creating space for a good sound.
- Keep arms free and relaxed with shoulders and chins down.
- Remember your *Wow* faces and keep this in mind as you sing to create a magical and stirring performance.

Try this

- Discuss all the things that we can look forward to at the start of each new day. What opportunities lie ahead. Discuss new beginnings and making the most of each new day.



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Banyan Tree

Traditional Jamaican song

Lyrics

Moonshine tonight, come make we dance and sing
Moonshine tonight, come make we dance and sing
Me deh rock so, you deh rock so, under banyan tree
Me deh rock so, you deh rock so, under banyan tree

Ladies make curtsey, gentlemen make bow,
Ladies make curtsey, gentlemen make bow
Me deh rock so, you deh rock so, under banyan tree
Me deh rock so, you deh rock so, under banyan tree

Then we join hands and dance round and round
Then we join hands, and dance round and round
Me deh rock so, you deh rock so, under banyan tree
Me deh rock so, you deh rock so, under banyan tree

Introduction

- This beautiful traditional Jamaican song, which some of you may know, has stood the test of time and a bit like the trees themselves has been around a while!
- This waltz version has 3 beats in a bar which gives the melody a lovely lilt and flow.
- Banyan trees are the largest and oldest of all trees, living for hundreds of years. Due to their size and far reaching branches they offer cool shade and make for a good local meeting place. On moonlit evenings, people used to gather under the branches to sing, dance and tell stories.

Starting out

- Do some fireworks and sirens up and down to *Aaaah* and *Eeeee*. Aim to make them last longer each time. Use your hand to show as you go up and down, ending each time with a long *Sssssh*
- Do some rhythmic call and response patterns on *Sshh*, *Fffff*, *Tssss*. Place hands on your tummy to feel your muscles.

Learning the song

- Listen to the performance track and ask the children to think about the mood and character of the song.



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- Notice and feel the three-beat waltz rhythm as you listen. Keep this rhythm tapping knees on Beat 1 for emphasis:

Me deh	rock	so	You deh	rock	so	Under	Ban-	yan	tree	-----	-----
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Tap	clap	clap	Tap	clap	clap	Tap	clap	clap	Tap	clap	clap

- Learn the chorus and join in with this each time as you listen to the track again. This gives the opportunity to embed the words of the verses as you listen as well as reinforcing the musical importance of starting and stopping.
- Sing the whole tune to *La* to feel the lilting, soft character of the song. Go a step further, turn down the volume even more and hum the tune.
- Add actions, mostly obvious from the words. *Me deh rock so* – point to self/ *You deh rock so* – point outwards/*Under banyan tree* – arms over head to indicate the umbrella shape of the branches.
- *Let's all join hands* can either be *Auld Lang Syne* style with hands across bodies to our partners or just hands to the sides. Pretending is also fine if holding hands not an option!

Take Note:

- Watch out for over enthusiasm if joining hands! Focus on the importance of being gentle and kind. Recap on the character and style of the song and discuss how we reflect this in our singing and our actions.

Try this:

- Display pictures of banyan trees for the children to describe. Has anyone seen a banyan tree?
- Discover the beauty and majesty of the magnificent banyan tree. Think about and discuss the magic and majesty of these trees.
- Share experiences of family gatherings and sharing of stories of songs and discuss the other special places people might gather.



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Little Moon

Adapted from a Tamil song

Lyrics

Golden sun, golden sun, fade away

Sink in the sky, fade away.

Blending all the colours of a beautiful day.

Light up the sky for the stars to play

Ev'ry butterfly, ev'ry bee, can fly around them peacefully

Ev'ry butterfly, ev'ry bee, can fly around them peacefully

Little moon, little moon, shine on me

High in the sky, shine on me

Bring me some flowers from the jasmine tree,

light up our lives for all to see

Ev'ry butterfly, ev'ry bee, can fly around them peacefully

Ev'ry butterfly, ev'ry bee, can fly around them peacefully

Hum

Ev'ry butterfly, ev'ry bee, can fly around them peacefully

Ev'ry butterfly, ev'ry bee, can fly around them peacefully

Hum

Introduction

- Little Moon has been adapted from a traditional Tamil song from South India.
- The song's original title is 'Nila', which in Tamil means 'moon'.
- The tune is based on an Indian mode, or *rag*, which is supposed to be sung in the evening.
- Perfect for celebrating quiet, calm singing.
- Sing at the end of a busy day or session to establish stillness and for thoughtful reflection

Starting out

- This is quite a 'wordy' song for younger singers. The words need to be clear, though soft and smooth and not over emphasised.
- Relax faces and mouths with some laughing and crying.
- Imagine your body is like jelly – wobble your limbs, shoulders, even your eyebrows
- Display some pictures of sleeping characters; a sleeping tiger; a bunny rabbit; a sloth; a teddy bear. Ask the children to keep an image in their heads as they listen and sing.



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Learning the song

- Listen to the performance track with your pictures displayed.
- Focus on the beautiful melody first. This allows younger singers to access the song immediately without getting caught up on the words. Use hand gestures to show the shape of the melody and how the pitch moves up and down. This will help embed the musical shape as singers visualize the movements.
- Learn the words to the chorus style refrain *Every butterfly, every bee, can fly around them peacefully*. Listen to the track and join in each time with this refrain.
- Once the melody is secure, go through the words of the verses carefully and add them in.
- Take care - The third verse which has no lyrics is an altered tune. It is not the same tune as the verses so will be worth learning this separately.

Take Note:

- This is a real opportunity to focus on soft singing. Use remote controls to bring the volume right down. Use as a competition and a challenge; how quietly can you sing, especially for the end fade out - who will be the last singing? Hold on to this moment for as long as possible. Ask the children to count to 10 at the end before they can move. Again, who can be the best statue?

Try this:

- Discuss lullabies. What musical ways can we sing to create the correct atmosphere? How do lullabies make us feel? What other lullabies do we know – perhaps you have some in your school repertoire?
- Do the children have siblings or other relatives; a pet or even a special toy that they can imagine singing the lullaby to.



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Video recording recommendations

- Use the backing track to sing to, **not** the performance track. Do not worry about the recording capturing the backing track, this will be added to the complete performance once collated.
- Place the video camera/mobile phone camera as close as possible to your singers. But don't crop anyone out!
- Use a TRIPOD wherever possible.
- If you are able, use a room that has some degree of sound absorption. Try to avoid big halls that are very echoey. * (NB - in the current climate this may not be possible!)
- When filming, the camera aspect MUST BE HORIZONTAL (NOT upright!!) This is essential.
- **The audio player that is transmitting the backing track to the singers must be pointing straight at the choir and NOT at the camera. *Your recording should have as much of the singing as possible and very little of the backing track. The backing track for the montage will added later in the studio.***
- In most cases it will be the microphone on the camera that is capturing the audio, but in some cases some schools may have a remote microphone fitted to the camera via a long audio cable. In this situation place this microphone very close to singers for best results.
- A good camera angle to film a choir is to look down at a gentle angle so pupils near the back can be seen.
- Make sure there is adequate LIGHTING across the whole group. Avoid backlit scenarios like large windows.
- If your filming device gives you the option to choose filming settings, set it to: 1080p HD at 30fps.



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