



Marlys Swinger has been singing with children for 60 years. What more can I say? She wouldn't want me to list her college degrees. In fact, she'll tell you that degrees are no use if you don't genuinely love music, love children, and love to bring them together. That's all it takes.

-Editor

Singing-Time

The joy of singing together should be a part of every growing child's education. In this frazzled world of increasing violence and fear, broken homes and disrupted lives, and too-much TV and loud "music" coming into the minds and hearts of children, they need the stabilizing effect of true music. In the midst of a busy classroom day, hopefully you can find a time for gathering, a Singing-Time with your children. It is a natural thing to greet the day, to sing for the birthday-child, or about seasonal changes or whatever activities inspire the children. The important thing about singing is that whoever leads it needs enthusiasm for the song and a strong "lead" voice, to draw the children in. Don't worry about the "monotone" or the kid who doesn't want to join in. Those things will change in time if the joy of the group's singing takes over. If you make this Singing-Time an important part of each day, it will grow in quality and quantity as the weeks roll by.

We as the makers of Community Playthings are a group of families and singles who live in community and look after each other as we try to live out our beliefs. Our children's caregivers value the importance of music, and if you visit one of our child care centers, you are guaranteed to hear one of these time-tested songs being sung energetically! Your center may already have one of our community's songbooks on your shelf. Several of the songs below are drawn from *Sing Through the Seasons* or *Sing Through the Day*, two anthologies that are a singing tribute to the life of a child: waking up, going to school, learning to ride a bike, pumping a swing, splashing in mud puddles, and on through the day, till the head hits the pillow in the evening... a child can turn all of these into singable events.

Here's to a joyous Singing-Time with the children you love and care for!

🎵 Marlys Swinger



Good Morning to You

F

* Good morn - ing to you, Good morn - ing to you,

C7

Hel - lo, hel - lo, Good morn - ing to you.

* This may be sung as a round if desired

Traditional

Merrily, Merrily, Greet the Morn

**C*

Mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly greet the morn, **C* Cheer - i - ly, cheer - i - ly sound the horn;

C hark to the ech - oes, hear them play, *C* O'er hill and dale and far a - way.

* This may be sung as a round if desired

Unknown

Sunlight, O Sunlight

C Sun - light, O sun - light, *G7* Come now all burn - ing bright, *C*

G7 Shine in my heart a - right, *C* Af - ter the *G7* night.

Words and Music
Eileen Taylor

(Peter) Has a Birthday

With joy

The musical score for "(Peter) Has a Birthday" is written in 2/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The lyrics "(—) has a birth-day, Tra-la-la-la-la, Tra-la-la-la-la." are written below the notes. Above the staff, there are six asterisks (*) and six chord symbols: C, F, C, F, C, C. The second staff continues the melody with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The lyrics "Let us all be mer-ry, Tra-la-la-la-la," are written below. Above the staff, there are six asterisks (*) and six chord symbols: G7, C, G, G, C, C. The third staff continues the melody with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The lyrics "Let us all be mer-ry, Tra-la-la-la-la." are written below. Above the staff, there are six asterisks (*) and six chord symbols: G7, C, G, G, C, C.

(—) has a birth-day, Tra-la-la-la-la, Tra-la-la-la-la.

Let us all be mer-ry, Tra-la-la-la-la,

Let us all be mer-ry, Tra-la-la-la-la.

* Children should clap three times for each set of "Tra-las"

Let Us Sing Together

The musical score for "Let Us Sing Together" is written in 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics "Let us sing to-gether, Let us sing to-gether, One and all a joy-ous song." are written below. Above the staff, there are three asterisks (*) and three chord symbols: G, D7, G. The second staff continues the melody with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The lyrics "Let us sing to-gether— One and all a joy-ous song." are written below. Above the staff, there are three asterisks (*) and three chord symbols: D7, G, G. The third staff continues the melody with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The lyrics "Let us sing a-gain and a-gain, Let us sing a-gain and a-gain," are written below. Above the staff, there are three asterisks (*) and three chord symbols: D7, G, G. The fourth staff continues the melody with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The lyrics "Let us sing a-gain and a-gain, One and all a joy-ous song." are written below. Above the staff, there are three asterisks (*) and three chord symbols: G, D7, G.

Let us sing to-gether, Let us sing to-gether, One and all a joy-ous song.

Let us sing to-gether— One and all a joy-ous song.

Let us sing a-gain and a-gain, Let us sing a-gain and a-gain,

Let us sing a-gain and a-gain, One and all a joy-ous song.

* This may be sung as a round if desired

Adapted from a Czech Folk tune