

From Folk to Pop

Sing and learn about historical folk songs
that made their way to the pop charts.

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By Heather Morris
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Oh Mary Don't You Weep

Swing the 8th notes Early American

If I could I sure - ly would ___ Stand on the rock where Mo - ses stood. ___

Phar - aoh's ar - my got drown - ded ___ Oh Mar - y don't you weep.

Chorus:

Oh Mar - y don't you weep no more. Oh Mar - y don't you weep no more.

Phar - aoh's ar - my got drown - ded ___ Oh Mar - y don't you weep.

2. Brothers, sisters, don't you cry,
There'll be good times by and by.
Pharaoh's army got drowned.
Oh Mary don't you weep.

3. One of these nights about 12 o'clock
This old world is gonna rock.
Pharaoh's army got drowned.
Oh Mary don't you weep.

Music Activity - Sing the Song

Teach the song by rote, using the recording if you wish. Echo the song phrase by phrase, then combine phrases until the students can sing the entire song on their own.

Add a Descant

A descant is a harmony part that is sung higher than the song. When the students know the song well, try adding the descant during the chorus of the song. This melody may be sung an octave lower (especially for changing voices).

Oh weep no more. Oh weep no more.

Phar - aoh's ar - my got drown - ded. Oh Mar - y don't you weep.

Music Activity

Add an Accompaniment

Perform this body percussion pattern while singing the chorus of Oh Mary Don't You Weep:

ch ch ch ch

clap clap clap clap clap clap clap clap

stamp stamp stamp stamp

Perform the same rhythm pattern on the drum, woodblock and tambourine.
What an interesting change in tone color!

Looking at the time signature at the beginning of the song,
which number tells you how many beats are in each measure? _____
What are measures? They are the spaces between each bar line.

How many beats are there in each measure? _____
How many measures does this song "Oh Mary Don't You Weep" have? _____

The teacher is permitted to photocopy this activity for student use.

Oh Mary Don't You Weep

Swing $\text{♪} = \text{♪} \text{ } \overset{\text{3}}{\text{♪}}$

Early American, arr. C. Cassils

The piano introduction consists of four measures. The right hand features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and a half note in the second. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes.

5

If I could I sure-ly would Stand on the rock where Mo-ses stood.

The first line of lyrics is accompanied by musical notation for measures 5 through 8. The melody is simple and follows the rhythm of the words. The piano accompaniment continues with a consistent harmonic support.

9

Phar - oah's ar-my got drown - ded — Oh Mar-y don't you weep.

The second line of lyrics is accompanied by musical notation for measures 9 through 12. The melody concludes with a long note on 'ded' and a short phrase for 'Oh Mar-y don't you weep.' The piano accompaniment features some chordal textures and a final cadence.

13 **Chorus:**

Oh Mar - y don't you weep no more. Oh Mar - y don't you weep no more.

The chorus is marked with a '13' and the word 'Chorus:'. It consists of two lines of lyrics, each with its own musical notation. The melody is a simple, repetitive phrase. The piano accompaniment provides a consistent harmonic background.

My Landlord

Traditional

My land - lord rang the front door - bell. I let it ring for a
long, long spell. I went to the win - dow. I
peeked out the blind. I asked that man what was
on ___ his mind. He said, "Mon - ey hon - ey, oo - ee." ___ He said,
"Mon - ey hon - ey, oo - ee." ___ If you want to get a-long with me
___ If you want to get a - long with me." ___

The musical score is written on six staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. A large, faint watermark 'Singing' is visible across the middle of the page.

Music Activity - Sing the Song

Teach the song by rote, using the recording if you wish. Echo the song phrase by phrase, then combine phrases until the students can sing the entire song on their own.