“Make the Best Better”

Federal Cooperative Extension Service
Oregon State College  
Corvallis


Club Series A-42  
Revised 1960
"Open every meeting with a song" is a good motto for any 4-H Club. Music starts things off right; it unites club members and prepares the way for the work to follow.

If your club does not have the habit of singing together, here's your chance to get started. If you think you can't sing, make a joyful noise anyway even if you only hum the tune.

The music to most of these songs can be found in the song book, Oregon Sings.

1. **Roll on Columbia**

Green Douglas firs,  
Where the water cuts through,  
Down her wild mountains and canyons she flew,  
The Canadian Northwest to the Ocean so blue;  
Roll on Columbia, roll on

Other big rivers add power to you,  
Yakima, Snake, and the Klickitat, too;  
sandy, Willamette, and Hood River too.  
Roll on, Columbia, roll on; Roll on Columbia, roll on.  
Roll on Columbia, roll on.  
Your power is turning our darkness to dawn;  
Roll on Columbia, roll on.

At Bonneville now there are ships in the locks,  
And ship-loads of plenty'll steam past the docks.  
The waters have risen, they've risen so high;  
Roll on Columbia, roll on.

And on up the river is the Grand Coulee Dam,  
The biggest thing built by the hand of man,  
To run great factories and water the land,  
Roll on Columbia, roll on.

(Words and music by Woody Guthrie. Copyright 1957 by Ludlow Music, Inc., New York, N. Y. Used by permission.)
2. My Oregon

Land of the Empire builders,
    Land of the golden west,
Conquered and held by freemen,
    Fairest and the best;
Onward and upward ever,
    Forward and on and on;
Hail to thee, land of heroes,
    My Oregon.

Land of the rose and sunshine,
    Land of the summer’s breeze,
Laden with health and vigor,
    Fresh from the western seas,
Blest by the blood of martyrs,
    Land of the setting sun;
Hail to thee, land of promise,
    My Oregon.

3. Dreaming

My home must have a high tree above the open gate;
    My home must have a garden where little dreamings wait:
My home must have a wide view of field and meadow fair;
    Of distant hill, of open sky, with sunlight everywhere.

My home must have a friendship with every happy thing;
    My home must offer comfort for any sorrowing;
And every heart that enters shall hear its music there;
    And find some simple beauty that every life may share.

My home must have its mother—
    May I grow sweet and wise;
My home must have its father with honor in his eyes;
    My home must have its children—
God grant the parents grace
To keep our home through all the years a kindly, happy place.

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4. The Plowing Song

1. A growing day and a waking field
And a furrow straight and long;
A golden sun and a lifting breeze,
And we follow with a song.

Chorus
Sons of the soil are we
Lads of the field and flock,
Turning our sods, asking no odds;
Where is a life so free?
Sons of the soil are we,
Men of the coming years;
Facing the dawn, brain ruling brawn,
Lords of our lands we’ll be.

2. A guiding thought and a skillful hand,
And a plant’s young leaf unfurled;
A summer’s sun and a summer’s rain,
And we harvest for the world.

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5. 4-H Friendship

Everybody needs a bit of friendship,
Friendship that is tried and true.
Everybody needs a bit of friendship
Whether skies are gray or blue.
Everybody everywhere must have it,
Every day the whole year through.
Everybody needs a bit of friendship,
And I need you.

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6. The 4-H Candle

1. This little 4-H light of mine,
   I’m going to let it shine. (Repeat three times)
   Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.
2. All around the neighborhood . . .
3. Hide it under a bushel, no!! . . .
4. Don’t you go and (blow) it out . . .
5. (Repeat first line of the last three verses)
7. I'm Looking Over a 4-H Clover

I'm looking over a 4-H clover,  
That I've overlooked before.  
One is for head,  
The second for heart,  
Third is for hands,  
They're doing their part.  
There's no need explaining,  
The one remaining,  
It's health that we're striving for.  
I'm looking over a 4-H clover,  
That I've overlooked before.

8. Happy Wanderer

1. I love to go a wandering,  
   Along the mountain track,  
   And as I go, I love to sing,  
   My knapsack on my back.

   **Chorus**
   Val de ri, Val de ra, Val de ra  
   Val de ha ha ha ha ha Val de ri,  
   Val de ra. My knapsack on my back.

2. I love to wander by the stream,  
   That dances in the sun,  
   So joyously it calls to me,  
   "Come! Join my happy song!"

3. I wave my hat to all I meet,  
   And they wave back to me,  
   And blackbirds call so loud and sweet,  
   From ev'ry green-wood tree.

4. Oh, may I go a wandering,  
   Until the day I die!  
   Oh, may I always laugh and sing,  
   Beneath God's clear blue sky!

(Words by Antonia Ridge and music by Frieda W. Moller.  
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9. Marching to Pretoria

I'm with you and you're with me,
And so we are all together,
Sing with me, I'll sing with you,
and so we will sing together,
As we march along.
We are marching to Pretoria, Pretoria,
    Pretoria,
We are marching to Pretoria,
    Pretoria, hurrah!
We have food, the food is good,
and so we will eat together,
So we will eat together,
so we will eat together,
When we eat, 'twill be a treat,
and so let us sing together;
As we march along.
We are marching to Pretoria,
    Pretoria, Pretoria,
We are marching to Pretoria,
    Pretoria, hurrah!

(From "Songs from the Veld" by Josef Marais. Copyright 1942 by G. Shirmer, Inc. Used by permission.)

10. Down in the Valley

Down in the valley, the valley so low,
    hang your head over,
Hear the wind blow.
Hear the wind blow dear,
    hear the wind blow.
Hang your head over,
    hear the wind blow.

Roses love sunshine, violets love dew,
    Angels in Heaven know I love you;
Know I love you dear, know I love you.
    Angels in Heaven know I love you.

Build me a castle, forty feet high,
    so I can see him as he rides by;
As he rides by, dear, as he rides by;
So I can see him as he rides by.
11. Vi-ve l'Amour

1. Let every good fellow now join in a song,
   Vi-ve la compagnie!
   Success to each other and pass it along,
   Vi-ve la compagnie!

Chorus
   Vi-ve la, vi-ve la, vi-ve, l'amour,
   Vi-ve la, vi-ve la, vi-ve, l'amour,
   Vi-ve l'amour, vi-ve l'amour,
   Vi-ve la compagnie!

2. A friend on your left and a
   friend on your right,
   Vi-ve la compagnie!
   In love and good fellowship let us unite,
   Vi-ve la compagnie!

3. Now wider and wider our circle expands,
   Vi-ve la compagnie!
   We sing to our comrades in far away lands,
   Vi-ve la compagnie!

12. Sing Your Way Home

Sing your way home at the close of the day,
   Sing your way home, drive the shadows away.
Smile ev'ry mile for wherever you roam,
   It will brighten your road,
   It will lighten your load, if you sing your way home.

13. Sweetly Sings the Donkey
    (Round)

Sweetly sings the donkey at the break of day,
   If you do not feed him, this is what he'll say,
   “Hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw.”

14. Chairs to Mend
    (Round)

Chairs to mend, old chairs to mend,
   Mackerel, fresh mackerel,
   Any old rags, any old rags?
15. I Love the Mountains
(Round)
I love the mountains, I love the rolling hills,
I love the flowers, I love the daffodils,
I love the fireside when all the lights are low.
Boom-dee-ah-da, Boom-dee-ah-da,
Boom-dee-ah-da, Boom-dee-ah-da.

16. Kum-Ba-Yah
(meaning: Come by Here)
1. Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah,
   my Lord, Kum ba yah!
   Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah! oh Lord,
   Kum ba yah.
2. Someone’s crying, Lord, Kum ba yah!
3. Someone’s singing, Lord, Kum ba yah!
4. Someone’s praying, Lord, Kum ba yah!

17. Grace Song
For health and strength and daily food,
We praise Thy name, O Lord.

18. Follow the Gleam
To the knights in the days of old—
   Keeping watch on the mountain height,
   Came a vision of the Holy Grail—
   And a voice thru the waiting night.
Follow, follow, follow the gleam,
   Banners unfurled o’er all the world,
   Follow, follow, follow the gleam
   of the Chalice that is the Grail.

   And we who would serve the King—
   And loyally Him obey,
   In the consecrate silence know
   that the challenge still holds today.
Follow, follow, follow the gleam,
   Standards of worth o’er all the earth,
   Follow, follow, follow the gleam
   of the light that shall bring the dawn.

(Words by Helen H. Miller and music by Sallie Hume Douglas. Used by permission from Rodeheaver Hall-Mack Co.)
19. Jacob's Ladder

1. We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
   We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
   We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
   Soldiers of the cross.

2. Every round goes higher, higher, . . .
3. Rise, shine, give God glory, . . .
4. If you love Him, why not serve Him, . . .
5. We are climbing higher, higher, . . .

20. Tell Me Why

Tell me why the stars do shine,
   Tell me why the ivy twines.
Tell me why the ocean's blue,
   And I will tell you just why I love you.

Because God made the stars to shine,
   Because God made the ivy twine,
Because God made the ocean blue,
   Because God made you,
That's why I love you.

I do believe that God above,
   Created you for me to love,
And picked you out from all the rest,
   To be the one that I love best.

21. Chester

(Tune: Yankee Doodle)

(O, Chester, have you heard about Harry
   (Chest) (ear) (hair)
   He just got back from the army,
   (chest) (back) (left arm—right arm)
   I hear he knows how to wear a rose
   (eye) (ear) (nose) (both hands on heart)
   Hip Hip Hooray!
   (right hip) (left hip) (right hand up)
   For the Arm—y!
   (left arm—right arm)
22. How Do You Do?

How do you do, Mister ..........? How do you do?
Is there anything that we can do for you?
We'll do the best we can; We'll stand by you like a man;
How do you do, Mister ..........? How do you do?

(Use names according to circumstances. "Thanks to you"
may be substituted for "How do you do.")

23. We All Clap Hands

(Tune: Mulberry Bush)

My head, my shoulders, my knees, my toes,
(Repeat three times)

(Touch each part as words are sung.)

We all clap hands together.

(Reverse word and action by beginning with toes and mov-
ing upward.)

24. If You're Happy

(Tune: Mulberry Bush)

1. If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
   (Clap hands twice)
   If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.
   (Clap hands twice)
   If you're happy and you know it,
   then your life will surely show it,
   If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands,
   (Clap hands twice)

2. If you're happy and you know it,
   stomp your feet . . .
   (Stomp feet twice)

3. If you're happy and you know it, say Amen . . .
   (Shout Amen)

4. If you're happy and you know it, do all three . . .
   (Clap hands, stomp feet, and shout Amen together)

25. Know Your Neighbor

(Tune: Mulberry Bush)

If you do not know your neighbor, say hello.
   (Shout hello)

If you'd like to know your neighbor, say hello.
   (Shout hello)

If you do not know your neighbor,
   and you'd like to know your neighbor,
Take a "gander" at your neighbor, and say hello.
   (Shout hello)
26. Today is Monday

(Divide group into seven “days,” first group larger than “days” later in week. Entire group sings 1st and 3rd lines together. Each “day” stands and sings own line in turn.)

Today is Monday, today is Monday, Monday, wash day,
   Everybody happy? Well I should say.
Tuesday, string beans.
Wednesday, soup.
Thursday, roast beef.
Friday, fish.
Saturday, pay day.
Sunday, church.

27. Club Work

(Tune: Jingle Bells)

Club work girls, club work boys, club work every day;
   Oh, what joy it is to work and oh what joy to play.
Head and Heart, Hands and Health—that is what we say,
   Stands for club work everywhere in our good old U.S.A.
### Song Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song Title</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairs to Mend</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club Work</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Down in the Valley</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreaming</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow the Gleam</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Song</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy Wanderer</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Do You Do</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If You’re Happy</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Love the Mountains</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob’s Ladder</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know Your Neighbor</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kum-Ba-Yah</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marching to Pretoria</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Oregon</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plowing Song</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll on Columbia</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sing Your Way Home</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweetly Sings the Donkey</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell Me Why</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today is Monday</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vi-ve l’Amour</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We All Clap Hands</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Candle</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Clover</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Friendship</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>