



trumpet, oboe, tuba, piano
holiday, culture, movement

Deck the Halls

Deck the Halls Rondo

Dance this carol that combines an ancient festive time (Yule) with a newer tradition.

Deck the Halls

Key F, first note C(so), count-in: 1,2,3,4,Deck...

melody: Wales
words: England
carol

first dance pattern here ----- change to "Fa la la" pattern -----



Deck the halls with boughs of hol - ly, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.
See the blaz-ing Yule be- fore us,
Fast a-way the old year pass-es,

first dance pattern here ----- change to "Fa la la" pattern -----



'Tis the sea-son to be jol - ly, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.
Strike the harp and join the cho-rus,
Hail the new, ye lads and lass-es,

different dance pattern here -----either repeat "Fa la la" pattern or vary it somehow



Don we now our gay ap-par - el, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.
Fol - low me in mer - ry meas-ure,
Sing we joy - ous all to-geth - er,

first dance pattern here ----- change to "Fa la la" pattern -----



Troll the an-cient Yule-tide car - ol, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.
While I tell of Yule-tide treas-ure,
Heed-less of the wind and weath - er

The music is from 17th Century Wales where it was played as a dance tune. All "carols" were originally dance music. Later, in England, words were added. The "Fa-la-la's" were probably originally played by harp. Most of the references are to a New Year's celebration. Although the words are dated, they capture the culture of the time. Singing words and melodies from different eras builds a rich repertoire.

PocketChart Composition

1 By now your students are experienced pocket chart composers. Place 8 hearts on the pocket chart ("B" shown below) and the decoration cards to one side for selection.

1. fill the hearts with decorations
2. read/clap the rythm symbols
3. read/clap the decoration words

2 If students are not familiar with "Deck the Halls" teach the first two lines. The melody repeats making it simple to learn. If extra "fa-la-la's" keep popping in try having students count them off on the tips of their fingers as they sing using both hands. It's fun, you may want to try it even if it isn't needed.

3 Now put the rondo together as shown. The spoken decoration words follow immediately after the singing. The second singing of "Deck the Halls" begins immediately after the last decoration word.

4 If there's time, change the decoration words for a new variation of the rondo.

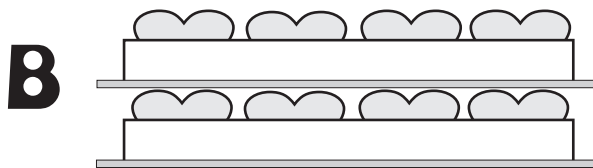
Deck the Halls Rondo

Key F, first note C(so),
a cappella count-in: 1,2,3,4,Deck...

A

Deck the halls with boughs of hol-ly, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

'Tis the sea-son to be jol - ly, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.



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Deck the halls with boughs of hol-ly, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

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Deck the Halls

Key F, first note C(so), count-in: 1,2,3,4,Deck...

melody: Wales
words: England
carol

first dance pattern here ----- change to "Fa la la" pattern -----



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See the blaz-ing Yule be- fore us,
Fast a-way the old year pass-es,

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Sing we joy - ous all to-geth - er,

first dance pattern here ----- change to "Fa la la" pattern -----



Troll the an-cient Yule-tide car - ol, Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.
While I tell of Yule-tide treas-ure,
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- | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| boughs of holly | - | evergreens were used as decoration |
| | | adding colour and scent to winter festivities |
| Yule | - | old English reference to Christmas time |
| | | the evening festivities would last as long as a huge log(Yule log) burned, |
| | | the bigger the log, the better the party |
| merry measure | - | following in the dance steps |

Dance Step Basics

Sometimes dance is free and spontaneous. Sometimes it's planned. These ideas are for planned dances, and it's easy. Just teach one step at a time, literally.

Planned "folk" dances are like making music with the rest of the body. There's a beat, and it goes on relentlessly. The steps are done to the beat.

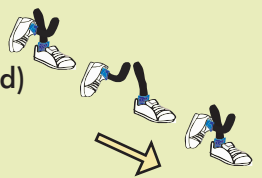
Begin by trying each step as you say the words. Then think a count-in of: 1, 2, ready, dance, and do the step to that steady count-in beat. Practice each step until it feels simple. Also practice changing steps without pausing between (remember that beat --it keeps on going).

Dancing involves the whole body in moving to a beat or rhythm. It's one of the kinds of learning that helps make physical connections between the right and left brain.

1

"Walk 'n Clap"

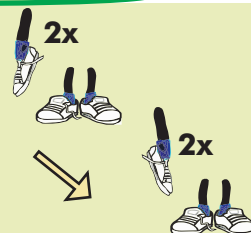
- 1 walk (forward)
- 2 walk
- 3 walk
- 4 clap



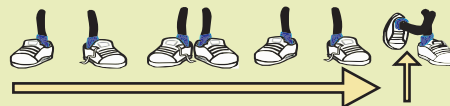
2

"Two Taps, Together"

- 1 tap toe twice
- 2 feet together
- 3 tap other toe twice
- 4 feet together



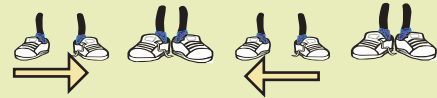
- 2nd 1 step back
 2nd 2 step back
 2nd 3 step back
 2nd 4 clap



3

"Side, Together, Back, Together"

- 1 step to the side
- 2 feet together
- 3 step return
- 4 feet together



4

"Side, Together, Side, Hop"

- 1 step to the side
 - 2 feet together
 - 3 step to the side
 - 4 hop
- 2nd 1 step to the other side
 2nd 2 feet together
 2nd 3 step to the side
 2nd 4 hop

Teaching Tips

- *post large copies of the dance steps where you can see them while teaching
- *instead of saying "right-left", name your classroom walls e.g. sink, clock, door, phone
- *everyone says the words while learning the steps

Be My Mirror

The simplest way to teach dance steps is to have students stand in front of you and "mirror" what you are doing (like an action "echo"). Say, "Be my mirror." Move one hand slowly up and around a bit. If you are using your left hand, students should be using their right hands. Continue till all students are using the correct hand, then add the other hand. When that is going smoothly, pull both hands together as if playing a keyboard and take one step sideways. Continue changes until students are mirroring fairly smoothly. (With adults, the dance teacher turns their back to students and has them copy ---maybe not such a good idea in Grade One?)



Carols were originally written as dancing music. "Deck the Halls" lends itself to creating a simple line dance. The bars of music have strong 1st and 3rd beats.

Music & Movement/Dance

1 "A long time ago, in a country called Wales, someone composed/wrote the music for "Deck the Halls." He didn't write it for singing. He wrote it for dancing. Carols all used to be dancing songs. The words came much later in another country called England. We've tried the words, now we're going to try some dancing. First we need to warm-up by stretching. When I say "Go," spread out a bit so that you have room to move. "Go."

Do some simple stretches e.g.

- *reach up to the sky
- *touch the floor
- *move your shoulders in circles
- *turn your head one way, now the other

2 "There are many ways to feel the beat in music ---hands on knees, bending knees, walking, swaying. While the music is playing, find a way to show the beat with your body. (Play the first verse of "Deck the Halls.")

3 "Excellent ---many ways to move. We're going to do a dance where everyone moves the same way to the music. So we need to practice some dance steps we could use."

Teach 4 simple dance steps using either the basic ones here or your own. If using your own, give each one a name that describes its moves.

4 With the students, choose one dance step for lines 1, 2 and 4 of the song and a different dance step for the 3rd line. Clap, or tap feet to the rhythm for the "Fa-la-las".

Play the music and try your dance.

If there is time, evaluate the choices of steps with students, make any changes wanted, and dance again.

Dance step #1

Deck the halls with boughs of holly

Clap or tap rhythm

Fa-la-la-la-la, La-la-la-la

Dance step #1

'Tis the season to be jolly

Clap or tap rhythm

Fa-la-la-la-la, La-la-la-la

Dance step #2

Don we now our gay apparel

Clap or tap rhythm

Fa-la-la, La-la-la, La-la-la

Dance step #1

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol

Clap or tap rhythm

Fal-la-la-la-la, La-la-la-la

New Repertoire

- O Christmas Tree
- Deck the Halls Rondo
- Deck the Halls

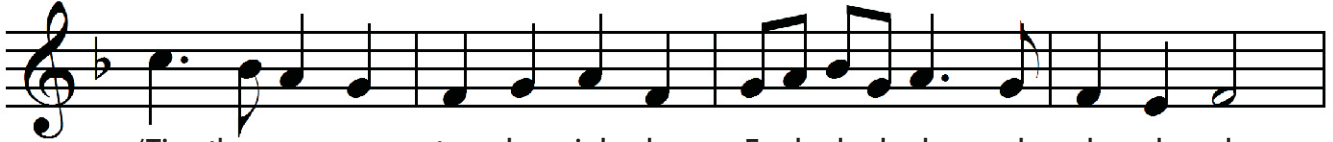
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boughs of holly

- evergreens were used as decoration
adding colour and scent to winter festivities

Yule

- a celebration of the winter solstice
the evening festivities would last as long as
a huge log(Yule log) burned,
the bigger the log, the better the party

merry measure

- following in the dance steps

For a simple, karaoke version with pictures of current cartoon/tv characters, try:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3DyXEqLz6Y&feature=related>

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Don we now our gay apparel
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol

See the blazing Yule before us
Strike the harp and join the chorus
Follow me in merry measure
While I tell of Yuletide treasure

Fast away the old year passes
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses
Sing we joyous all together
Heedless of the wind and weather