Happy Fingers

Easy Songs for
Braille Music Readers

Collected & Edited by
Christina Davidson & Karen Gearreald
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Book 1

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Braille Music Literacy

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Introduction & Dedication

The HAPPY FINGERS books are designed to challenge and encourage braille readers of all ages so that ears, voices, and fingers can work together in the enjoyment of music. Songs are presented in order of difficulty, beginning with the easiest.

The HAPPY FINGERS books are gratefully dedicated to Louis Braille and Bettye Krolick. In the nineteenth century, Louis Braille invented the braille music system so that visually impaired musicians could read, learn, and write music independently. In the twentieth century, Bettye Krolick stabilized and publicized braille music so that braille readers could continue to benefit. Throughout her many years of transcribing and teaching, Bettye insisted that braille music is not hard to learn. She knew that musical fulfillment must be more than mere imitation or rote learning. Bettye helped us understand that braille music skills enable visually impaired musicians to excel as creators and leaders.

Now in the twenty-first century, we are using the computer to share the joys and opportunities that Louis and Bettye have given to us.

Karen Gearreald
& Christina Davidson
November 2010

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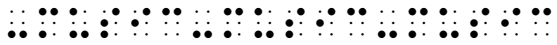
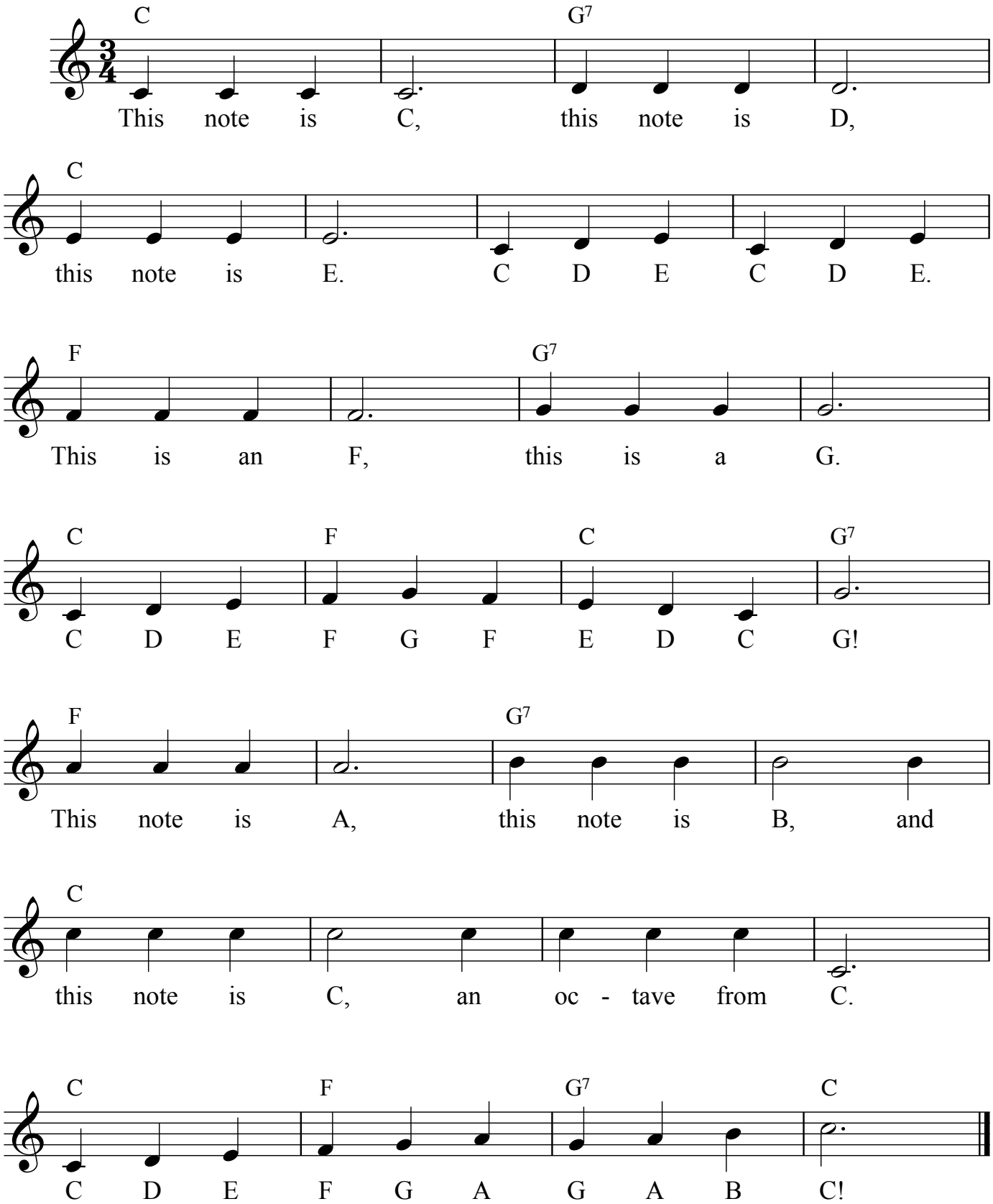


Octave Song

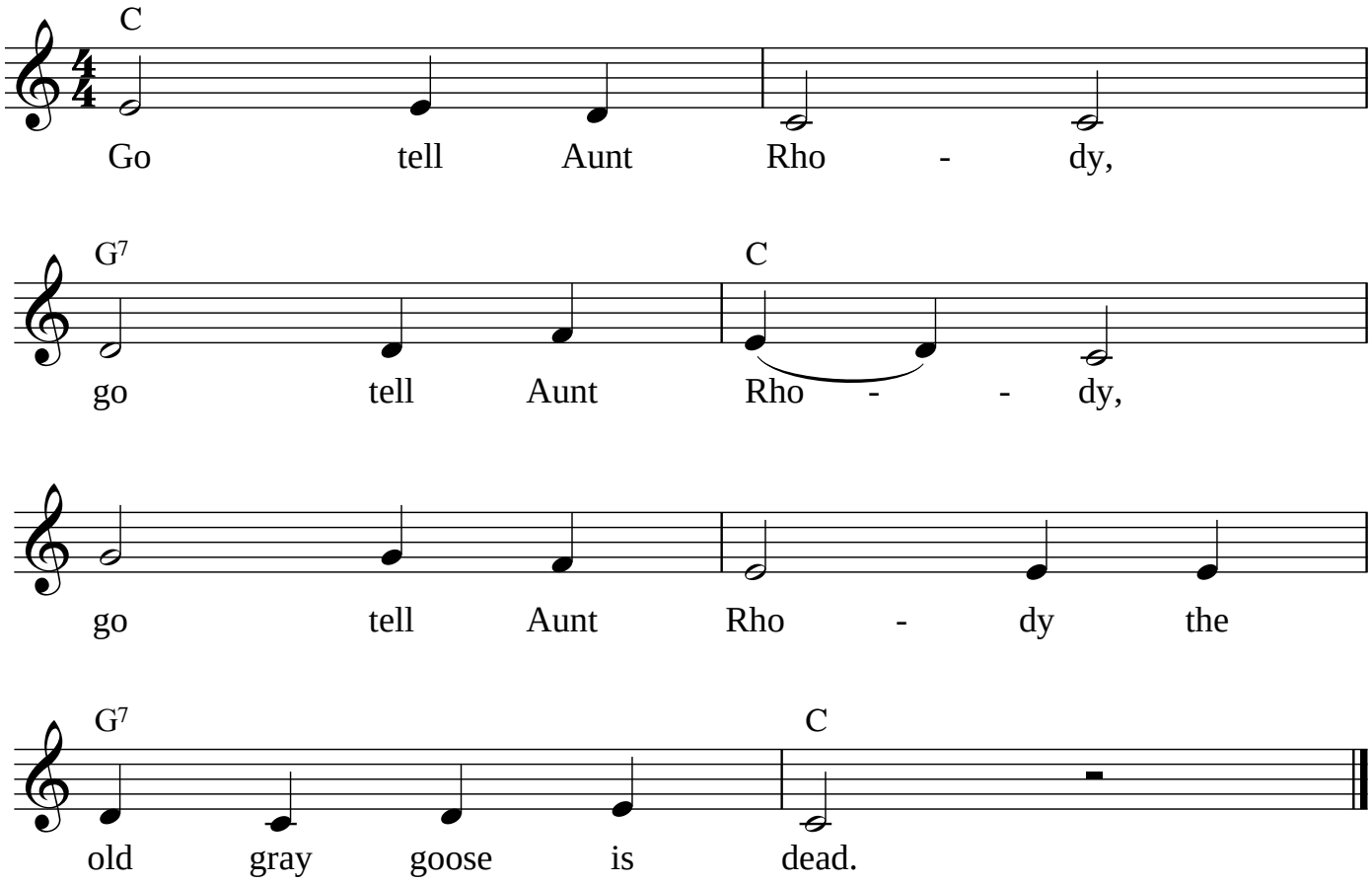
Words & Music by
Christina Davidson



Go Tell Aunt Rhody

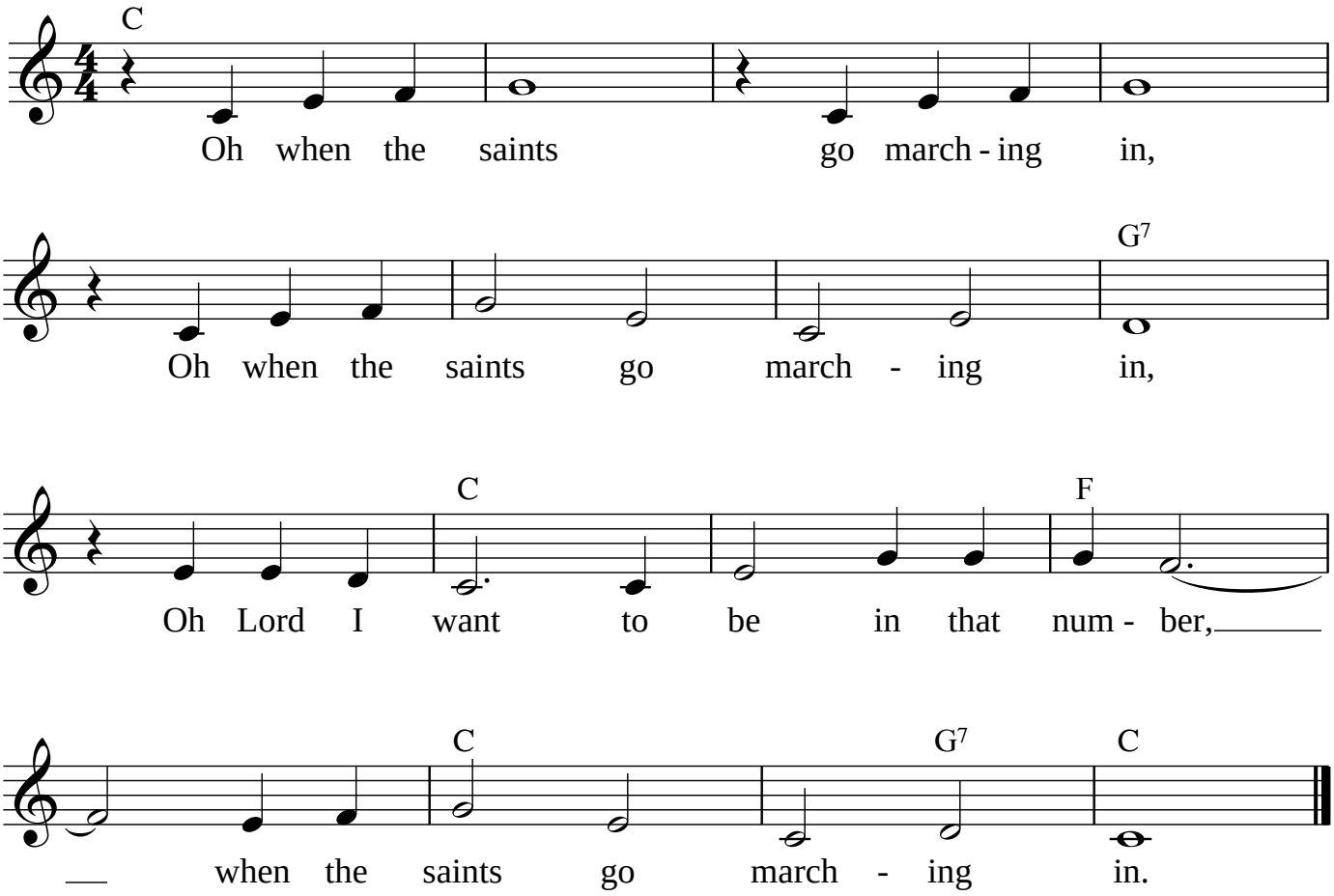
Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

Slowly and sadly



When the Saints Go Marching In

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald

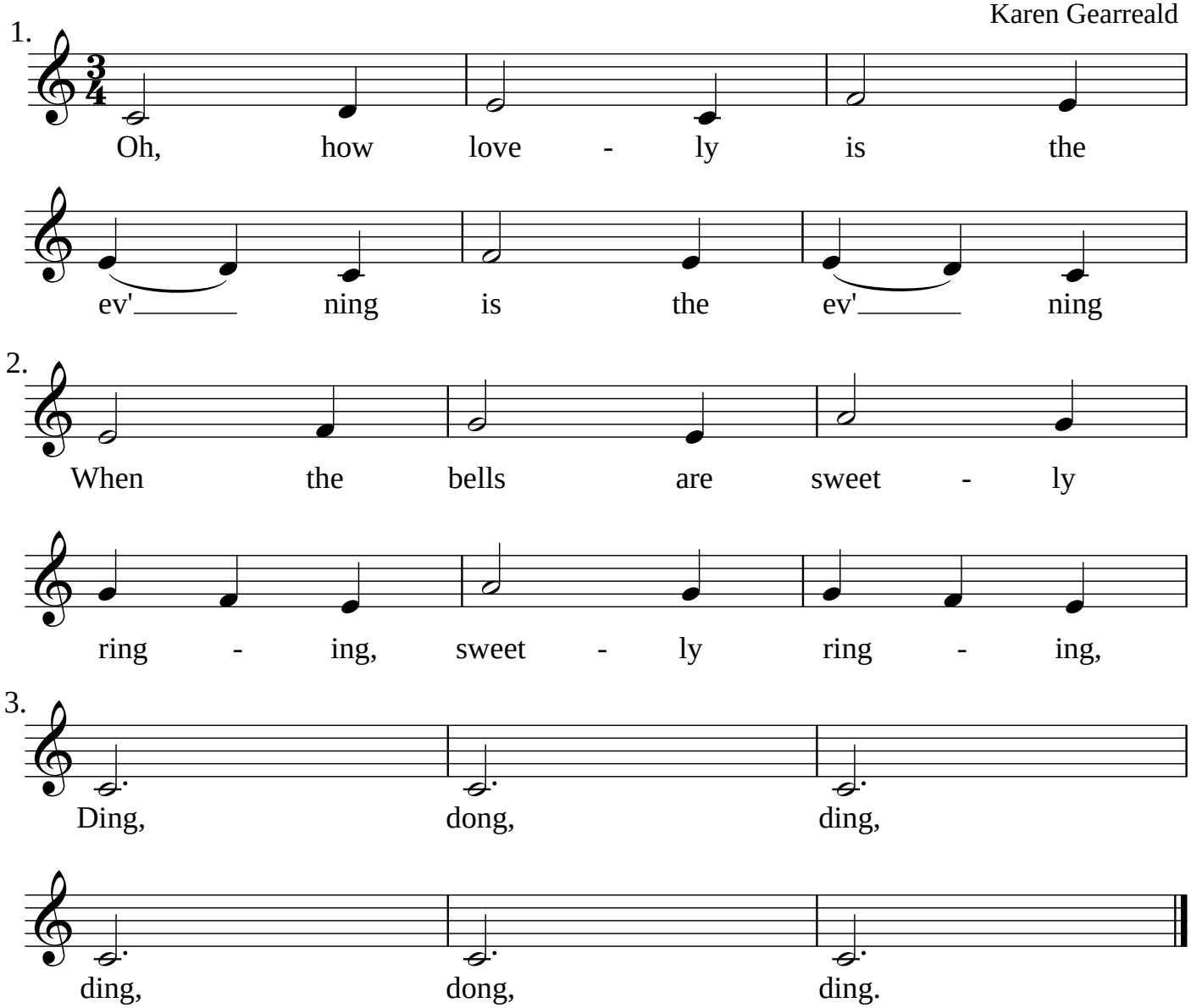


2. Oh, when the sun begins to shine,
   Oh, when the sun begins to shine,
   Oh Lord I want to be in that number,
   When the sun begins to shine.

Oh, How Lovely is the Ev'ning

(A Round in 3 parts)

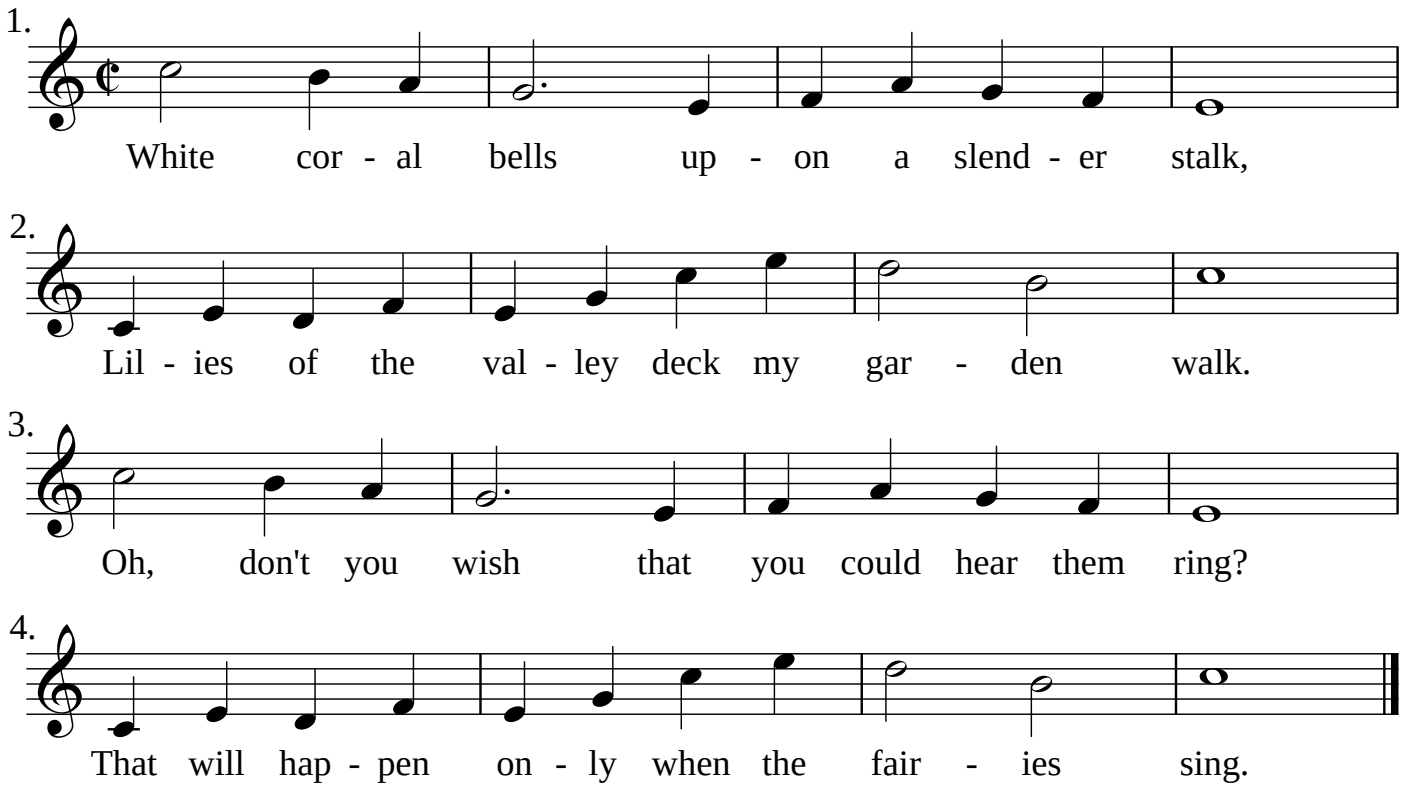
Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald



White Coral Bells

(A Round in 4 parts)

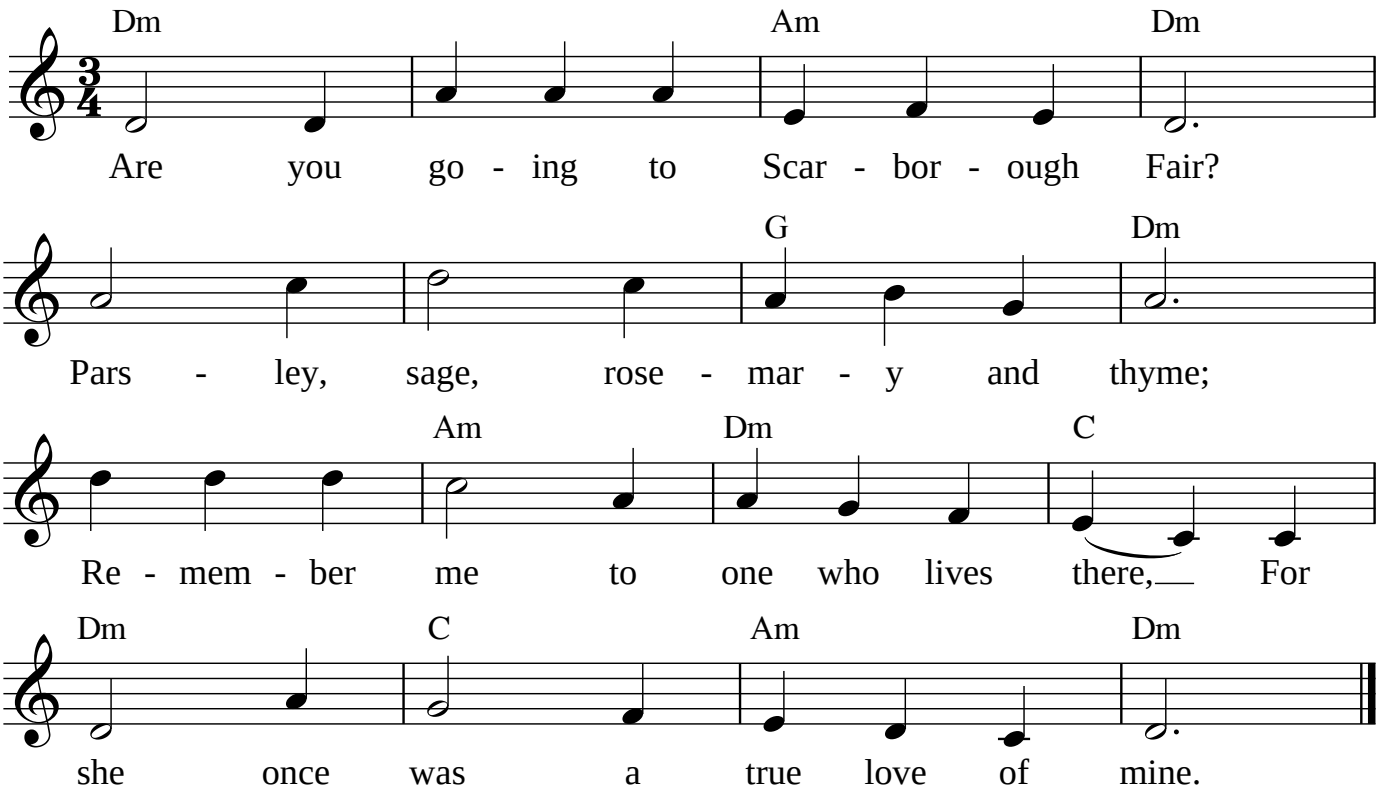
Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald



Scarborough Fair

(Dorian Mode)

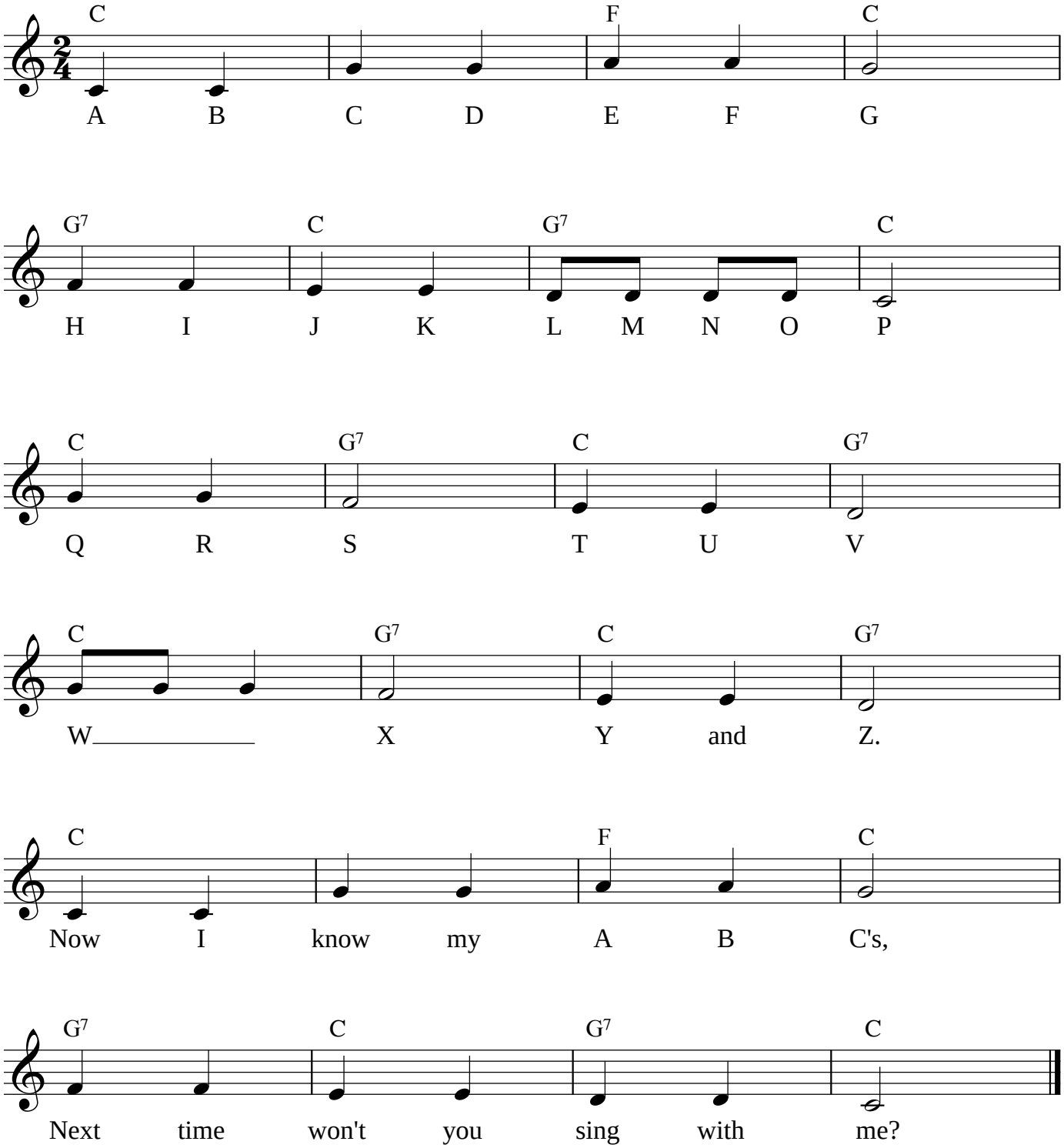
Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald



Alphabet Song

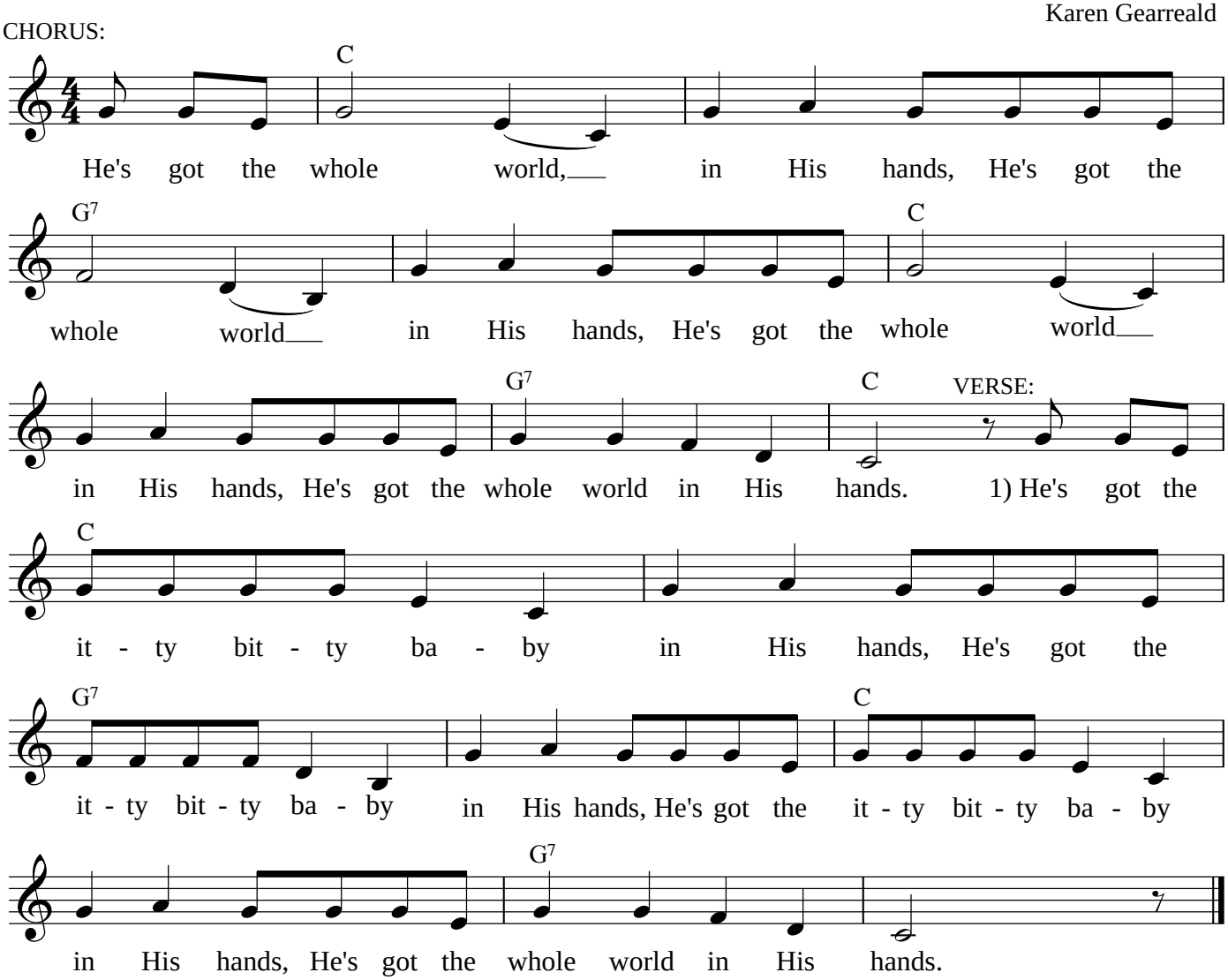
(Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald



He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald



2) He's got you and me brother, in His hands,
He's got you and me brother, in His hands,
He's got you and me brother, in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands. CHORUS

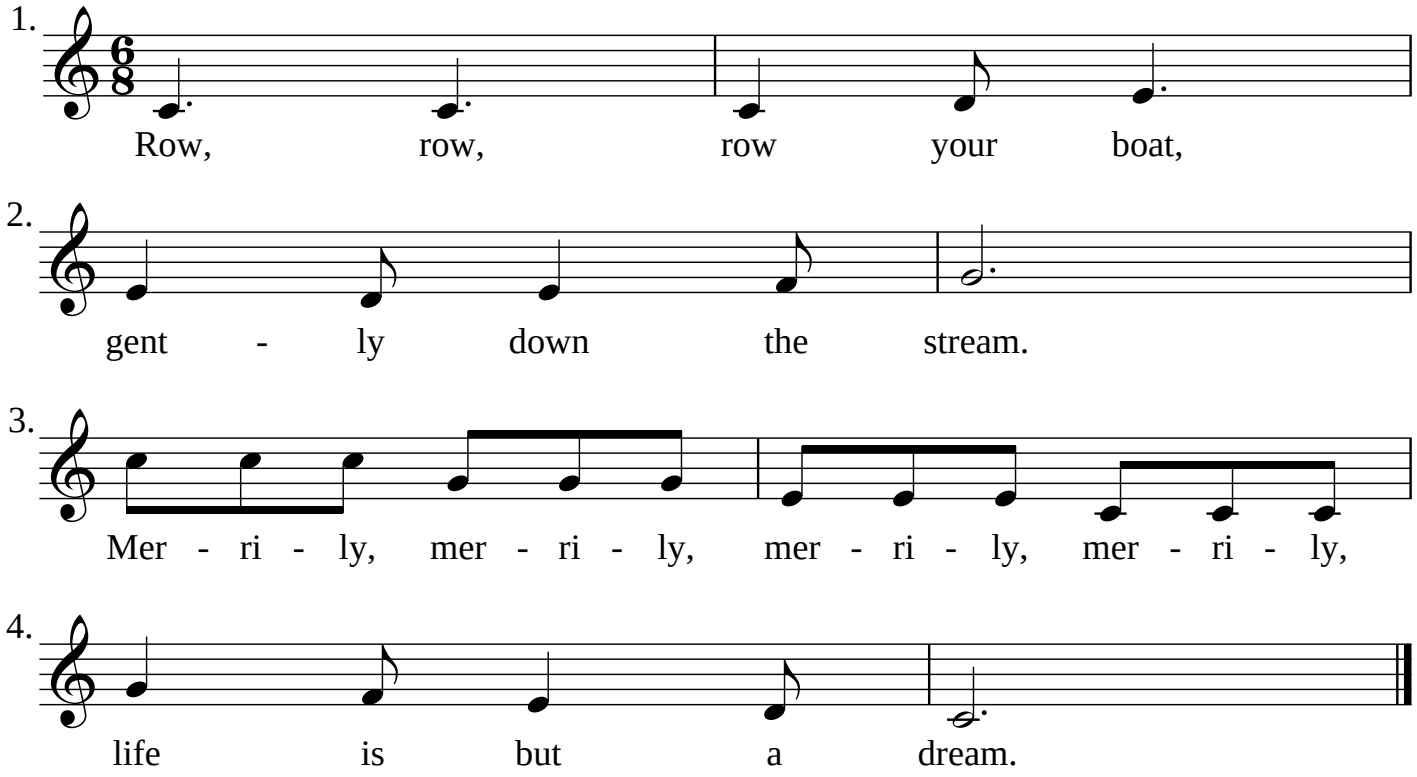
3) He's got you and me sister, in His hands (etc...) CHORUS

4) He's got everybody here, in His hands (etc...) CHORUS

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

(A Round in 4 parts)

Arr. by Christina Davidson &
Karen Gearreald



On Top of Old Smoky

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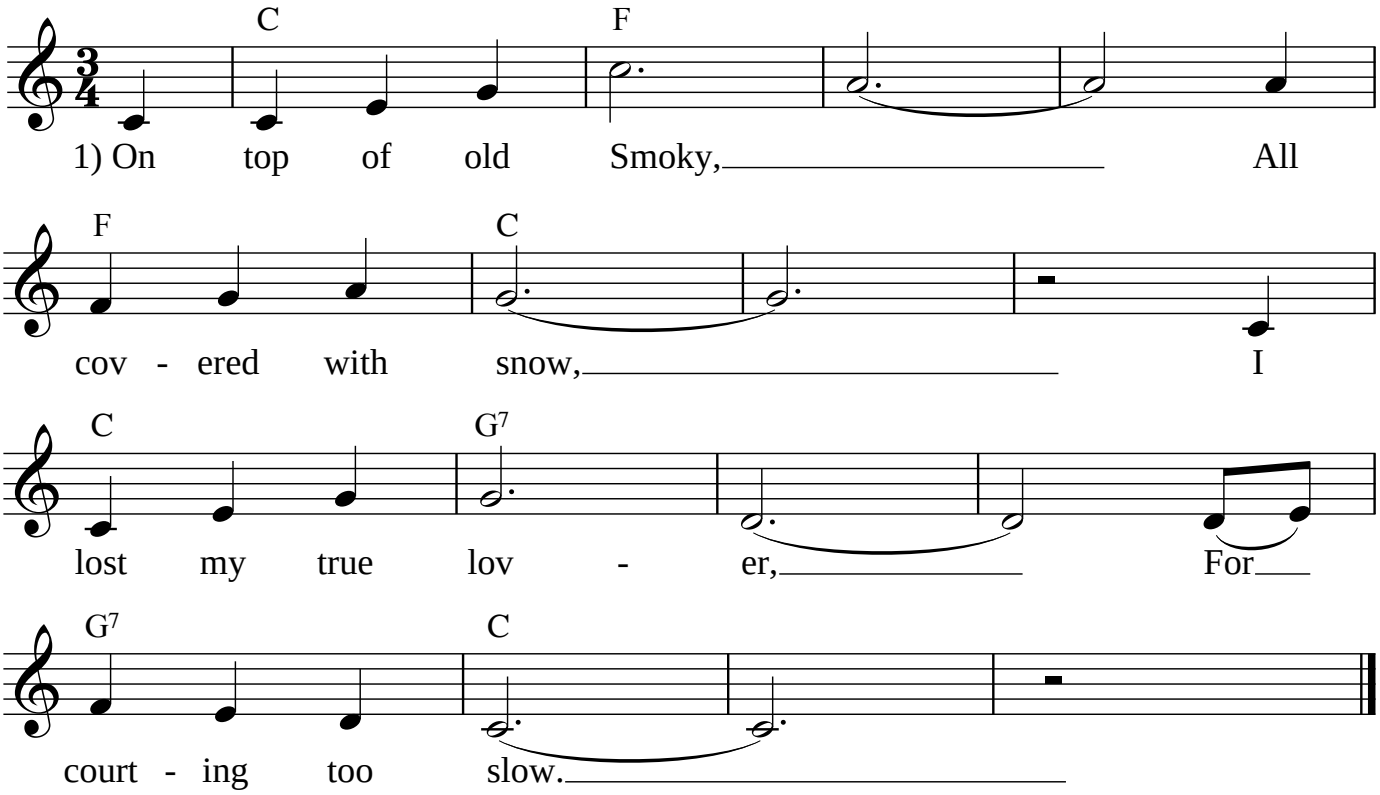

2) For courting's a pleasure but parting is grief,
And a false-hearted lover is worse than a thief.

3) A thief will just rob you and take all you have,
But a false-hearted lover will lead you to the grave.

4) The grave will decay you and turn you to dust,
Not one boy in a hundred, a poor girl can trust.

5) They'll hug you and kiss you and tell you more lies
Then cross ties on a railroad, or stars in the sky.

6) They tell you they love you to give your heart ease,
But as soon as your back's turned, they court whom they please.