

# STEEL TONGUE DRUM METHOD BOOK

*presented by*

DEEP OLIVE GOODS

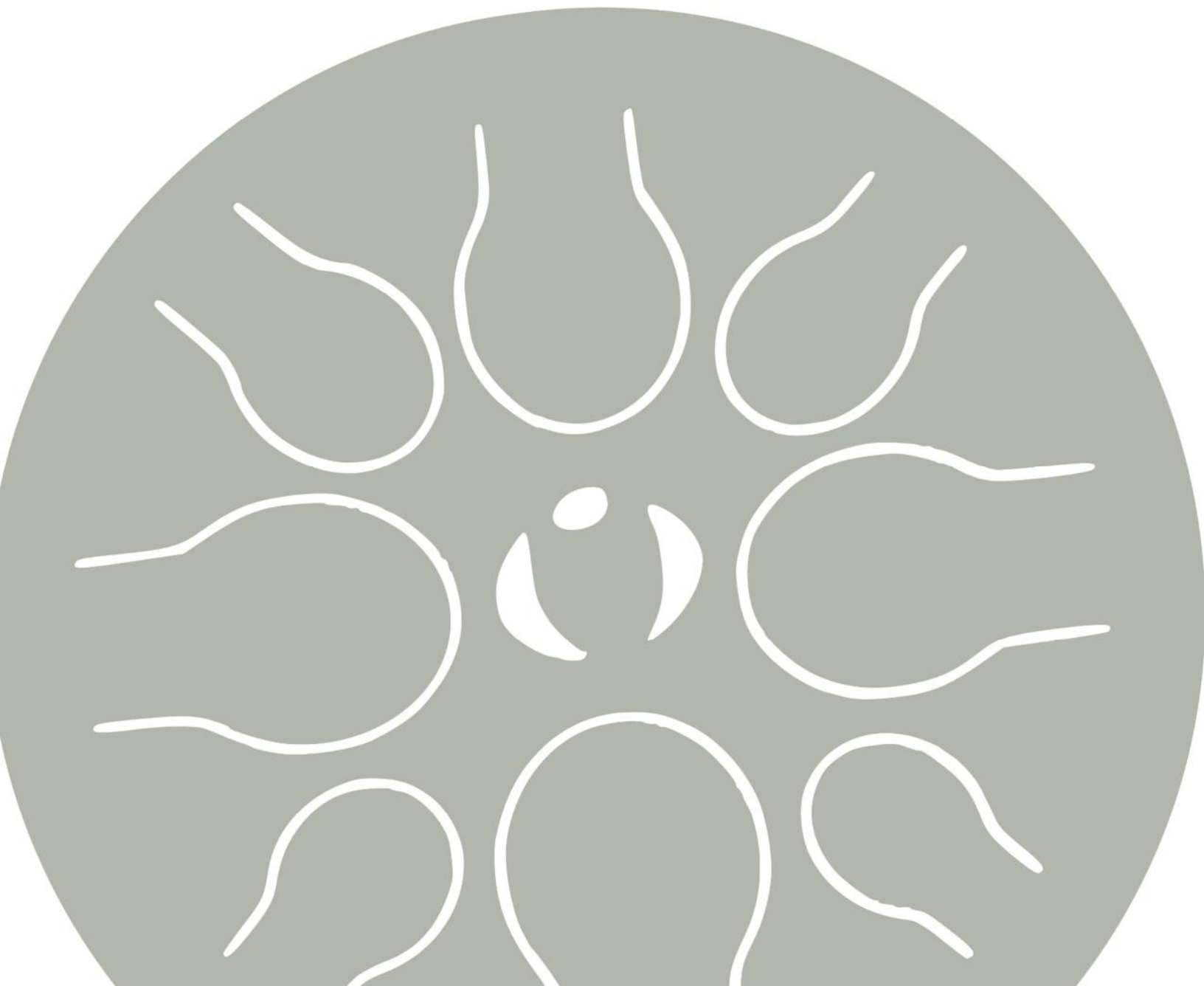




# STEEL TONGUE DRUM METHOD BOOK

*presented by*

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**STEEL TONGUE DRUM  
METHOD BOOK**

**JK Kirby**

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*\*Denotes a traditional African American spiritual. Read more about the history and heritage of these songs in the Preface of the Songbook.*

*\*\*Denotes a traditional song of the United States Armed Forces. Our heartfelt thanks to all who currently serve or who previously served defending our country and freedom!*

# QUICK START GUIDE

## 1. Orient Your Drum

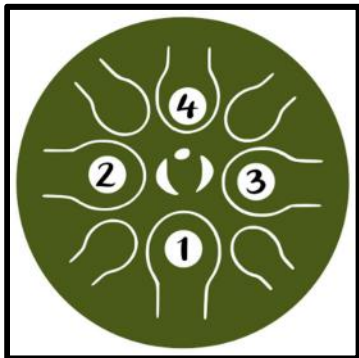
- Before you start playing, check to make sure your Deep Olive "O" looks like this:



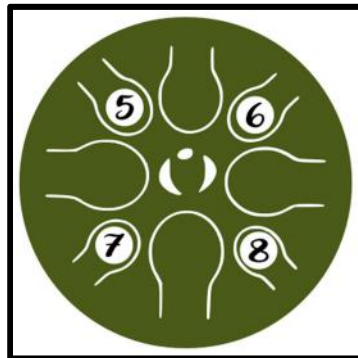
- Our "O" logo resembles a wedding ring - make sure the "O" points up (similar to North on a compass).

## 2. To Sticker or Not to Sticker...

- 2 sets of stickers are included with your drum. If you follow the book carefully, you may not need them. We leave that decision to you.
- If you want to use the stickers, we recommend placing them like this:



(Numbers 1-4)



(Numbers 5-8)

## 3. Online Tutorials

- To make learning to play more fun (and easy!), we've made video tutorials for you. Just click here to jump right into playing:

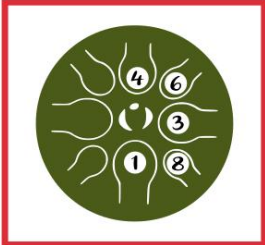
<https://www.deepolivegoods.com/products/steel-tongue-drum/tutorials/>

# HELPFUL HINTS FOR PLAYING SONGS


## 1. Drum Number Guide for Each Song

- At the top Right of each page, we've included a picture of which drum note numbers are needed for the song or pattern(s).

**TAPS**  
*Traditional American Military Bugle Call*




4 4<sup>6</sup> 4 6<sup>8</sup>




- We've ordered the songs and patterns in a way that should allow you to learn how to play without needing the stickers (if you want to try).
- Read the numbers from left to right (the same as reading words in a book).

**TAPS**  
*Traditional American Military Bugle Call*



4 4<sup>6</sup> 4 6<sup>8</sup>





## 2. Tick Tock Timing

- To help you get the timing right, we put colored blocks under drum note numbers.
- The colored squares under the drum note numbers are like the “tick, tock” of a clock.

○ Like this:  (Tick)  (Tock)  (Tick)  (Tock)

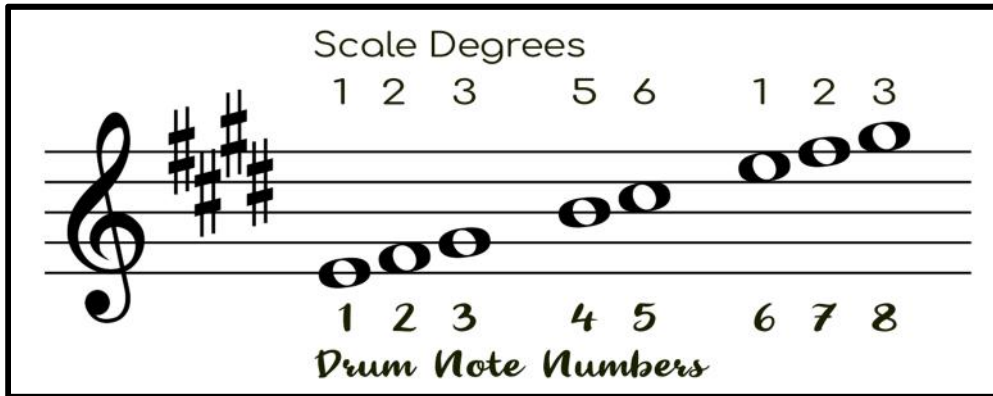
- Change to the next drum note number by counting or tracking the “ticks” and “tocks” below the note numbers.
- Hint: Each of our tutorial videos shows how to follow the drum note numbers with the proper timing:

<https://www.deepolivegoods.com/products/steel-tongue-drum/tutorials/>

# \*FOR MUSIC READERS

## 1. Notes and Keys

- Our 6” steel tongue drum is tuned to the Key of E major.
- Here are the E major Pentatonic notes on the music staff:



## 2. Measures, Time Signatures and Rhythm

- Measures, time signatures and rhythmic subdivision can be inferred simply by looking at the different colored “tick tock” blocks.
  - Downbeat (beat 1):  (Tick)
  - Primary Beat Subdivision:  (Tick)  (Tock)
  - Secondary Beats (2,3,4):  (Tick)
  - Secondary Beats Subdivision:  (Tick)  (Tock)
- Time signatures used in our songbook: 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8
- Half notes, Quarter notes, 8<sup>th</sup> notes, 16<sup>th</sup> notes, dotted rhythms and ties can be easily inferred by tracking the colored highlights behind the numbers with the “tick tock” blocks. Rests have been omitted for the sake of novice learners.

*\*NOTE: We offer this brief explanation to music educators and other trained musicians. We have intentionally chosen graphic based notation conventions (instead of standard musical notation) in order to help young learners and novice learners to be able to play music as quickly and effectively as possible.*

# PREFACE

This songbook has been carefully compiled with familiar melodies and songs to start you on your journey playing the Steel Tongue Drum as enjoyable as possible. We wanted to offer a few words on the meaningful history and tradition of several of the songs we chose.

A look through the Table of Contents reveals several sections of Patterns. These patterns are not only helpful for learning the drum note numbers, but may also prove helpful if you get to use your tongue drum in a jam session with another musician. Though this drums is limited to mostly playing in the Key of E Major, it is still a valuable instrument for creating texture, melody and mood with other instruments.

You will also notice we have included several hymns and spiritual songs. The sound of the Steel Tongue Drum seems to evoke a spiritual atmosphere to many who hear it. As such, it is entirely appropriate to bring your drum to a church or spiritual gathering and play it.

We have included two songs from the United States Armed Forces. Since Deep Olive Goods is an American owned and operated company, we are honored to take every opportunity to pay respects and deepest gratitude to the fine men and women who fight to protect the land of the free and home of the brave.

Some of the hymns included in our songbook are also known as African American Spirituals. These songs are sacred to all who celebrate freedom. Though we have not included lyrics here, we would highly recommend a simple search online for the lyrics and history of these songs ([pathways.thinkport.org](http://pathways.thinkport.org), n.d.). Leaders in the Underground Railroad, such as Harriet Tubman were able to encode messages to African American slaves through these Spirituals ([loc.gov](http://loc.gov), n.d.). A favorite songs of Mrs. Tubman's was "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" (Dose Team, 2017). When slaves knew she was the one singing the lyrics, they understood that a path to freedom was opening up to them ([harriet-tubman.org](http://harriet-tubman.org), n.d.). The importance of these Spirituals and their history cannot be understated. We have included many of these amazing songs here due to their significance and our desire to stand against oppression and dehumanization wherever it exists in our world.

The last section includes seven hit songs from the last five decades. Since we want to make as much of this music accessible to learners of every age, we have included the standard motion picture rating system for parents who

monitor their children's online activities. A few of these last titles have lyrics and videos that may not be appropriate for every age.

Since Deep Olive Goods is owned and operated by Texans, we included "Lone Star Trail" as a "tip of the hat" to our friends, family and kinfolk from Texas – Yeehaw, all ya'll!

Finally, thank you for taking this learning journey with us. We hope it will be fun and rewarding for you and others.

## References

[Dose Team]. (2017, March 6). *Music Was The Secret Language Of The Underground Railroad*. Retrieved from <https://medium.com/dose/music-was-the-secret-language-of-the-underground-railroad-e91b3981d21a>

[harriet-tubman.org]. (n.d.). *Songs of the Underground Railroad*. Retrieved from <http://www.harriet-tubman.org/songs-of-the-underground-railroad/>

[loc.gov]. (n.d.). *African American Spirituals*. Retrieved from <https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200197495/>

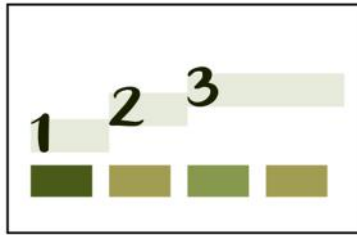
[pathways.thinkport.org]. (n.d.). *Language of the Underground Railroad*. Retrieved from <https://pathways.thinkport.org/secrets/language.cfm>

# 4 NOTE PATTERNS: A-I

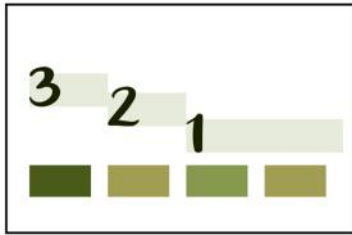
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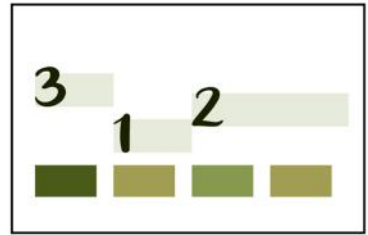
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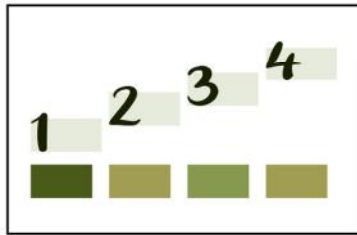
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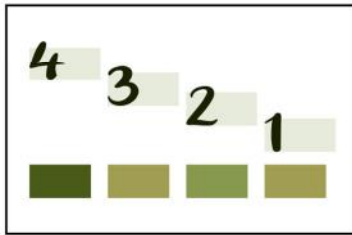
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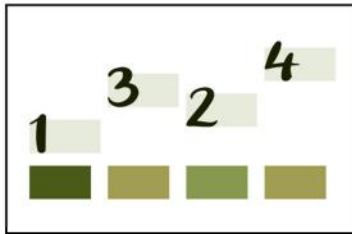
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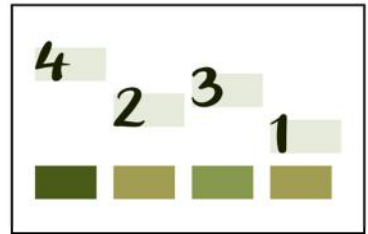
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I

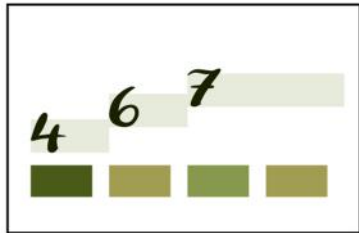


# 4 NOTE PATTERNS: J-R

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J



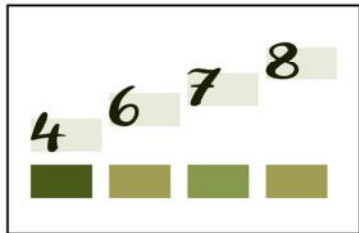
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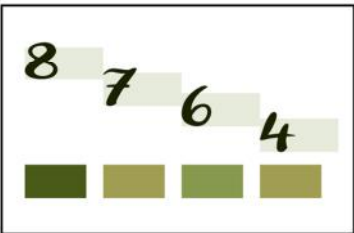
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M



N



O



P



Q



R



# HOT CROSS BUNS

*Traditional English Folk Song*



3 2 1 3 2 1

1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 3 2 1

# MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB

*Traditional Folk Song*



3 2 1 2 3 3 3 2 2 2 3 4 4

3 2 1 2 3 3 3 3 2 2 3 2 1

# SLEEP BABY SLEEP

*Traditional Folk Song*



3 2 2 1 1 3 3 2 2 1

1 1 2 2 3 3 2 2 1 1 2 2 3 3 2

3 2 2 1

# RAIN, RAIN (Go AWAY)

*Traditional Folk Song*



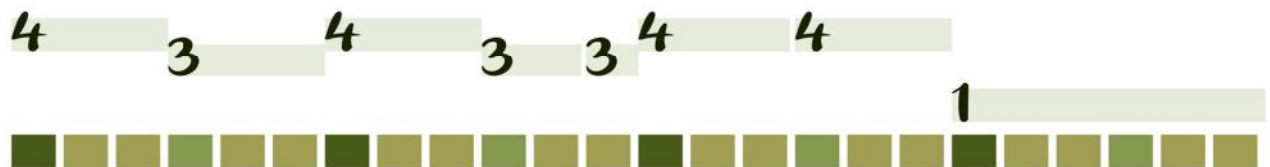
4 3 4 4 3 4 4 3 5 4 4 3

4 4 3 3 4 4 3 4 3 4 4 3



# RING AROUND THE ROSY

*Traditional English Folk Song*



# POP! GOES THE WEASEL

*Traditional Folk Song*

\* Adapted to pentatonic - original note is A



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# NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS

*Traditional American Spiritual*



1 1 1 2 3 4 3 1 1 1 2 3 3 2 1

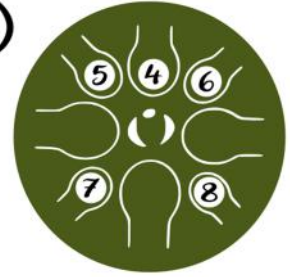
1 1 1 2 3 4 3 1 1 1 2 3 3 2 1

4 3 2 3 4 3 2 2 1 2 2 3 4

4 3 2 3 4 3 1 1 1 2 3 3 2 1

# GO TELL IT (ON THE MOUNTAIN)

*Traditional African American Spiritual*



8 8 7 6 5 4 6 7 7 7 6 7 8 4 5 4

8 8 7 6 5 4 6 6 8 8 7 6 7 6

# EZEKIEL SAW THE WHEEL

*Traditional African American Spiritual*



4 6 6 6 6 8 8 8 6 6 8 8 7 7 6

4 6 6 6 6 8 8 8 7 7 7 7 6

# THERE'S A HOLE IN THE BUCKET

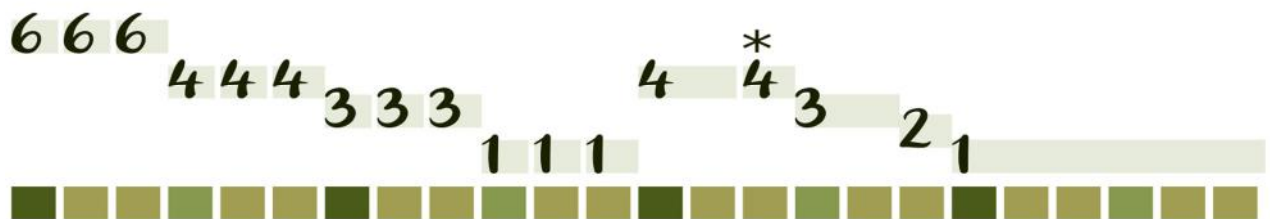
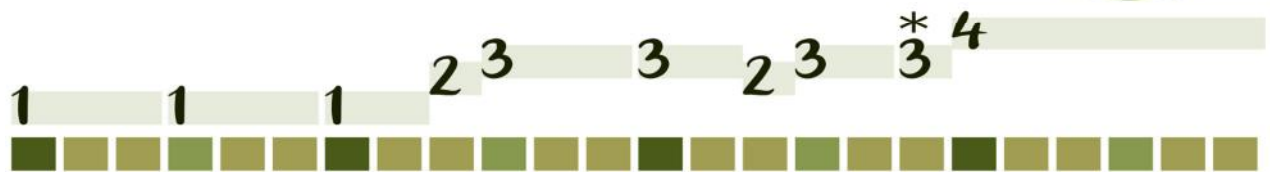
*Traditional German Folk Song*



# ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT

*Traditional Folk Song*

\* Adapted to pentatonic - original note is A



# THIS LITTLE LIGHT (OF MINE)

*Traditional African American Spiritual*



4 5 4 6 7 6 8 8 7 8 7 6

5 6 5 6 7 6 6 6 5 6 5 4

4 5 4 6 7 6 8 8 7 8 7 6

6 7 8 8 8 7 8 7 6

# CHARLIE OVER THE OCEAN

*Traditional Folk Song*



6 6 6 6 6 7 8 6 6 6 6 6 7 8

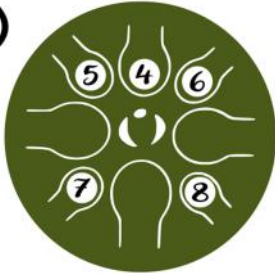
6 6 6 6 6 5 4 6 6 6 6 6 5 4

6 6 6 6 7 8 6 6 6 6 7 8

6 6 5 4 6 6 5 4

# OLD MACDONALD (HAD A FARM)

Traditional Folk Song



6 6 6 4 5 5 4 8 8 7 7 6 4

6 6 6 4 5 5 4 8 8 7 7 6 4 4

6 6 6 4 4 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6

6 6 6 4 5 5 4 8 8 7 7 6

# PEACE LIKE A RIVER

*Traditional African American Spiritual*



4 5 6 6 7 8 8 8 7 6 6 6 5 4

4 5 6 6 7 8 8 7 6 7

4 5 6 6 7 8 8 8 7 6 6 6 5 4

4 5 6 6 7 8 8 7 7 6



# TAPS

*Traditional American Military Bugle Call*



4 4<sup>6</sup> 4 6<sup>8</sup>

4 6<sup>8</sup> 4 6<sup>8</sup> 4 6<sup>8</sup>

1 3<sup>4</sup> 8 6 4

4 4<sup>6</sup>

# REVEILLE

*Traditional American Military Bugle Call*



4 6 8 6 4 8 6 8 6 4 8 6 8 6 4 6 8 6

4 6 8 6 4 8 6 8 6 4 8 6 8 6 4 4 6

3 3 3 3 3 4 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1

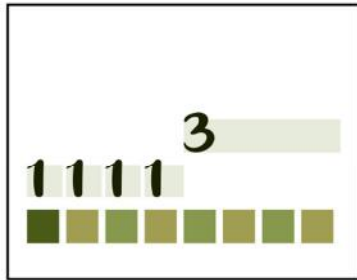
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# 8 NOTE PATTERNS: A-I

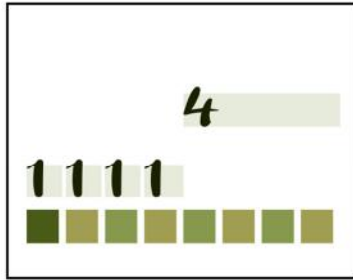
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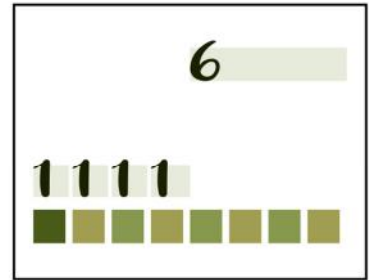
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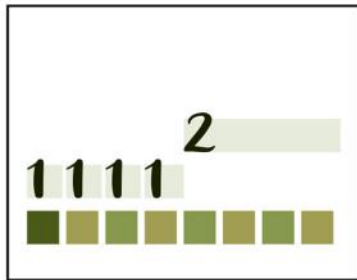
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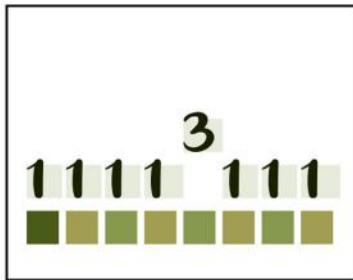
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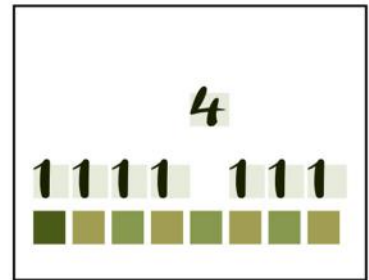
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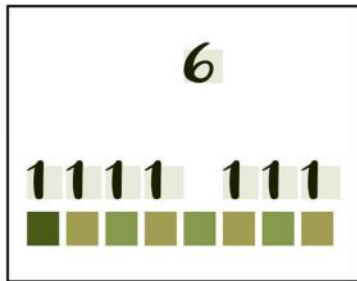
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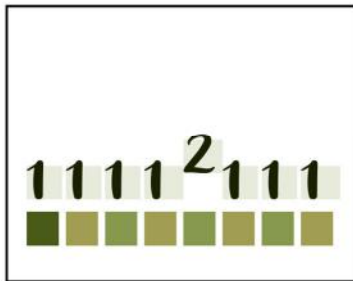
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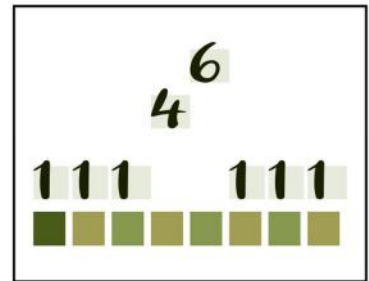
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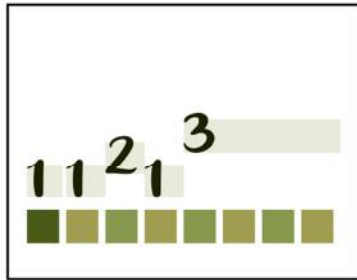
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# 8 NOTE PATTERNS: J-R

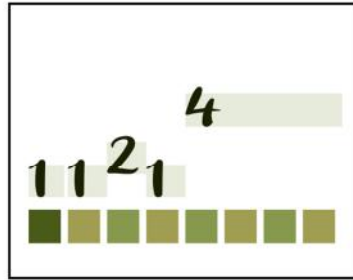
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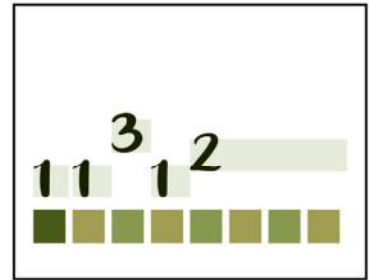
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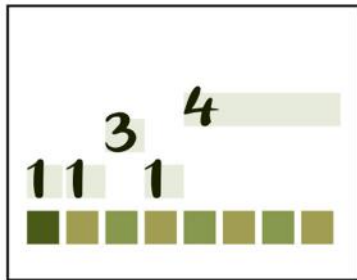
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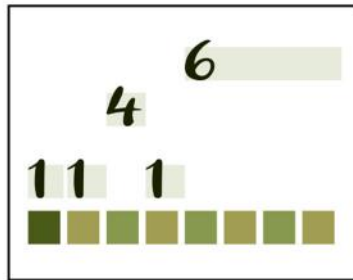
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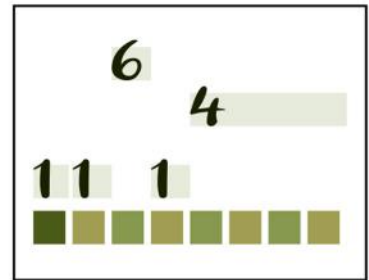
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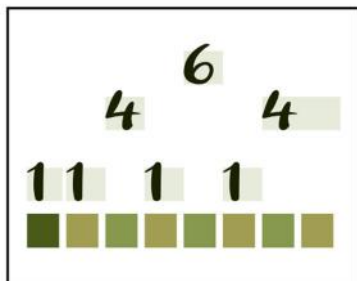
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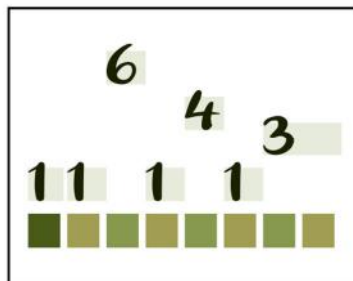
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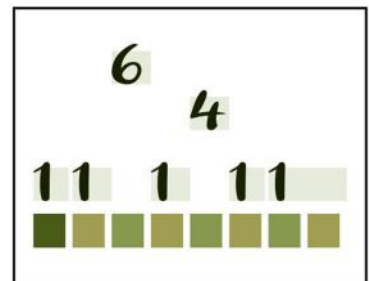
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Q



R



# JESUS LOVES ME

William Bradbury, 1862 tune "China"



4 3 3 2 3 4 4 5 5 6 5 5 4 4

4 3 3 2 3 4 4 5 5 4 1 3 2 1

4 3 4 5 6 4 3 1 3 2

4 3 4 5 6 5 4 1 3 2 1

# AMASEE

*Traditional American Folk Song*



8 6 6 5 6 6 5 4 6 6 8 7 7 6

A musical staff with notes and stems. The notes are 8, 6, 6, 5, 6, 6, 5, 4, 6, 6, 8, 7, 7, 6. Below the staff is a horizontal bar composed of 14 colored squares in shades of green and brown.

8 6 6 5 6 6 5 4 6 6 8 7 7 6

A musical staff with notes and stems. The notes are 8, 6, 6, 5, 6, 6, 5, 4, 6, 6, 8, 7, 7, 6. Below the staff is a horizontal bar composed of 14 colored squares in shades of green and brown.

# ALABAMA GAL

*Traditional American Folk Song*



6 6 5 5 6 8 6 6 6 6 5 4

A musical staff with notes and stems. The notes are 6, 6, 5, 5, 6, 8, 6, 6, 6, 6, 5, 4. Below the staff is a horizontal bar composed of 14 colored squares in shades of green and brown.

6 6 5 5 6 8 3 4 3 2 1

A musical staff with notes and stems. The notes are 6, 6, 5, 5, 6, 8, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1. Below the staff is a horizontal bar composed of 14 colored squares in shades of green and brown.

# LONE STAR TRAIL

*Traditional American Folk Song*

\* Adapted to pentatonic - original note is A



4 6 6 6 6 8 4 6 6 6 8

1 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 6 6 8

1 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 6 6 6 8

1 3 4 5 4 4\* 3 2 3 1

# AMAZING GRACE

*Traditional Spiritual*



4 6 8 6 8 7 6 5 4

4 6 8 6 8 7 4

3 4 3 4 3 1 4 5 6 6 5 4

4 6 8 6 8 7 6



# NOBODY KNOWS

(THE TROUBLE I'VE SEEN)

*Traditional African American Spiritual*



8  
4 5 6 7 8 8 8 8 8 8  
4 5 6 6 5 4

8  
4 5 6 7 8 8 8 8 8  
4 3 2 3 1 1 3

4 4 4 3 4 4 3 4 3 2 3

4 4 4 3 4 4 3 2 1 3 2 1

# THIS TRAIN (IS BOUND FOR GLORY)

*Traditional African American Spiritual*



6 6 8 7 6 5 4 6 6

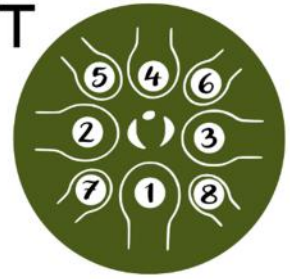
3 4 4 5 4 3 4 4 4

3 4 4 5 4 3 2 1 1 1 1 7 6 5 4

6 6 8 7 6 5 4 6 6

# SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

*Traditional African American Spiritual*



8 6 8 6 6 5 4 3 3 4 4 1 1 1 1

5 4 3 4 6 6 5 4 3 3 2 1 1 1 1 1

3 4 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 6 5 4 3 3 4 4 1 1 1 1

4 5 4 3 3 1 6 6 6 6 5 4 6 6 6 6 8 8 7 6

# AULD LANG SYNE

Traditional Scottish Folk Song



4 6 66 8 7 67 8 6 1 3 4 5

5 4 33 1 2 1 2 8 7 6 55 4 6

5 4 33 1 2 1 2 5 4 33 4 5

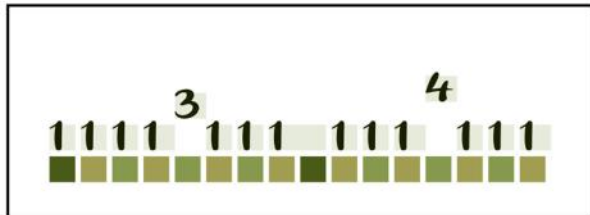
5 4 33 1 2 1 2 8 7 6 55 4 6

# 16 NOTE PATTERNS: A-H

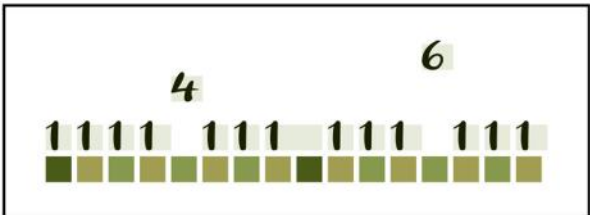
by JK Kirby



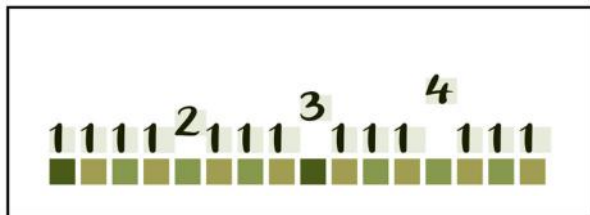
**A**



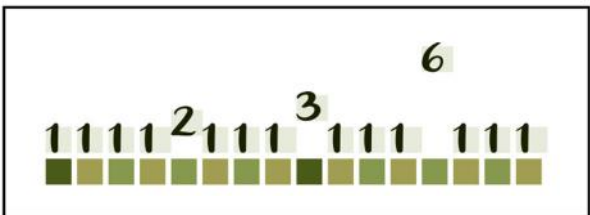
**B**



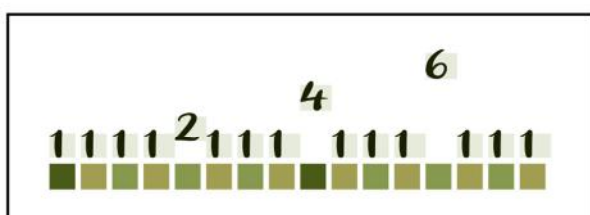
**C**



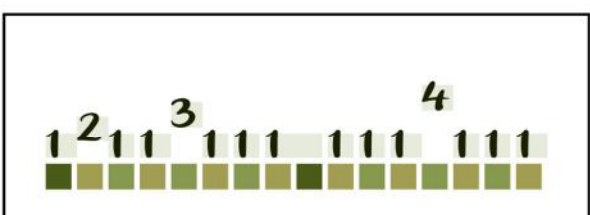
**D**



**E**



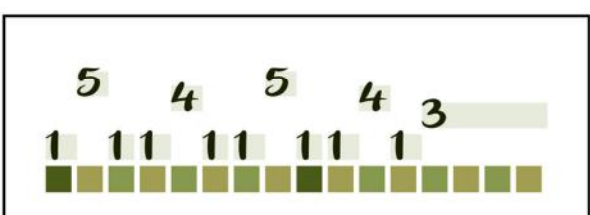
**F**



**G**



**H**

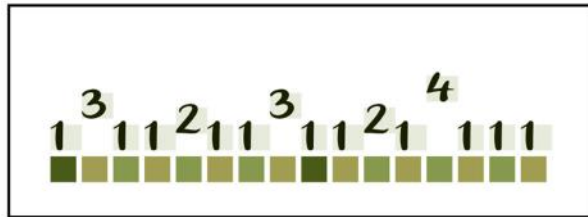


# 16 NOTE PATTERNS: I-P

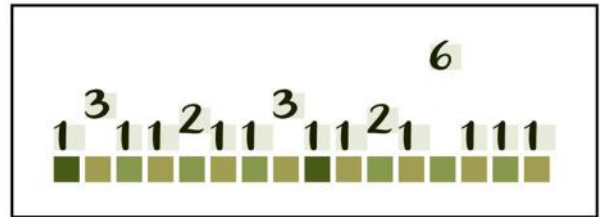
by JK Kirby



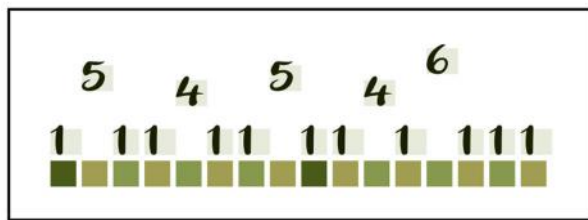
I



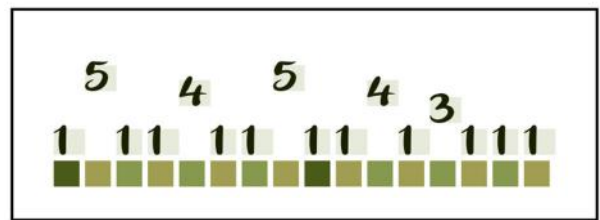
J



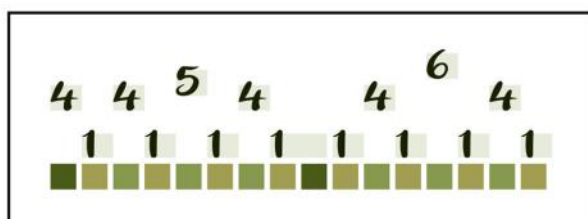
K



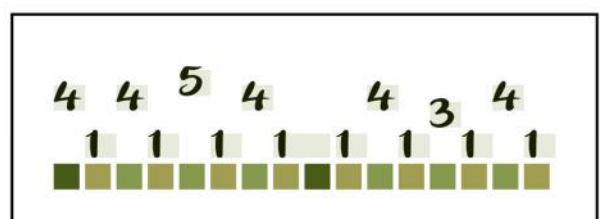
L



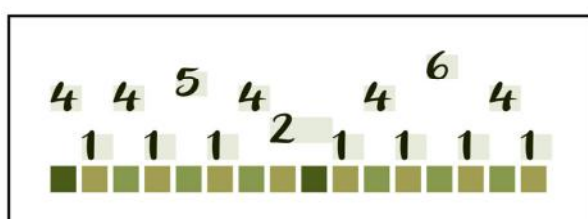
M



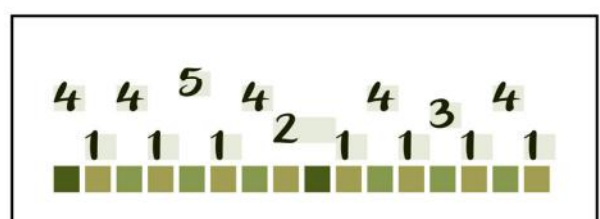
N



O



P



# I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

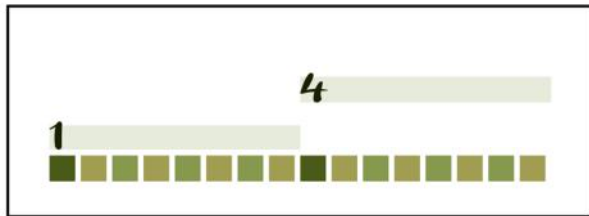
Music and words by Bart Millard

Made famous by MercyMe

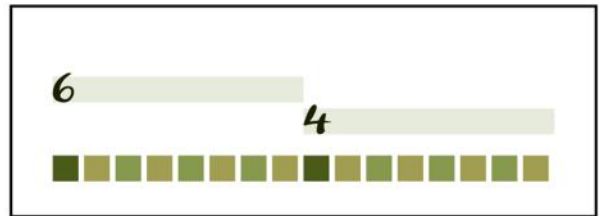


Patterns that fit nicely with the song

**A**

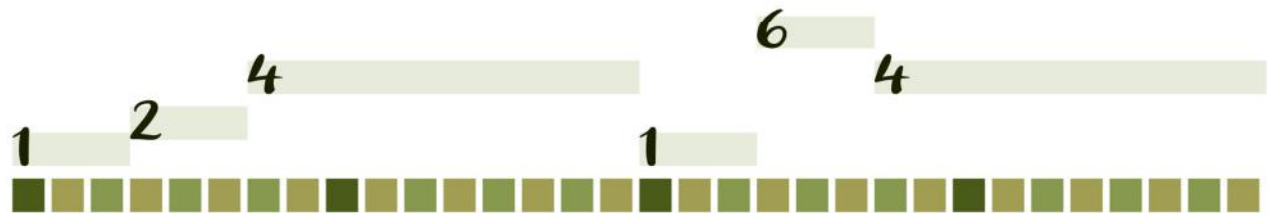


**B**



Verse Chords ("I can only...")

E



E<sub>maj7</sub>

a



a<sub>add#4</sub>

(play all 3x)

NOTE: These patterns and chords match the 2001 recording

# MY HEART WILL GO ON

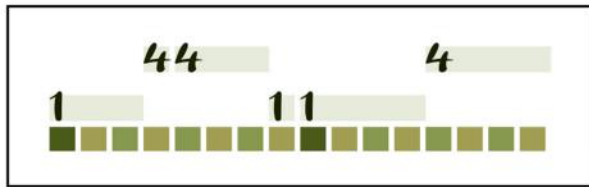
Music by James Horner, Words by Will Jennings

Made famous by Celine Dion

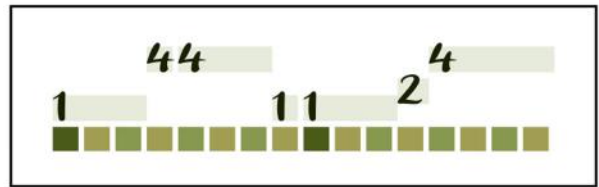


Patterns that fit nicely with the song

**A**



**B**



Chorus Chords ("Near, far...")

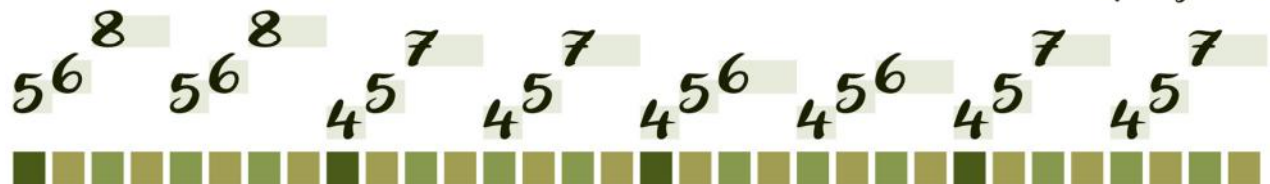
C#m

B<sup>2</sup>

A<sup>add2</sup>

B<sup>2</sup>

(play 3x)

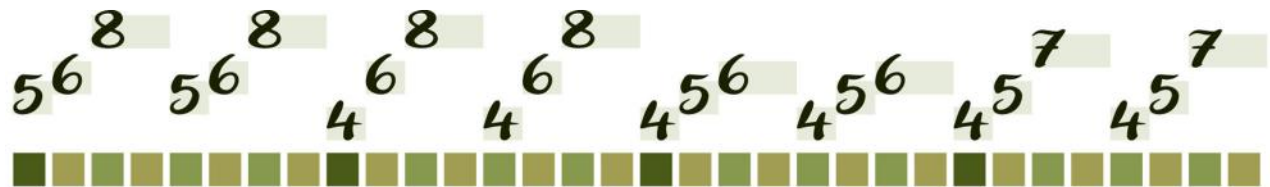


C#m

E

A<sup>add2</sup>

B<sup>2</sup>



NOTE: These patterns and chords match the 1997 recording from the motion picture Titanic.

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# ISN'T SHE LOVELY

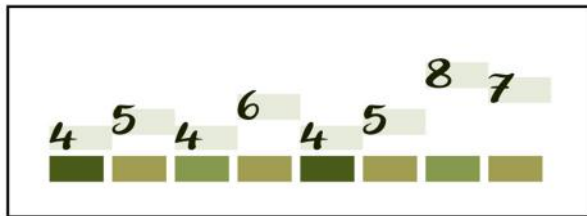
Music and words by Stevie Wonder

Made famous by Stevie Wonder



Patterns that fit nicely with the song

**A**



**B**



Verse/Chorus Chords ("Isn't she...")

C#m

F#<sup>9</sup>

a/B

E

(play 2x)



A<sub>maj7</sub>

G#<sup>7#5</sup>

C#m<sup>7</sup>

F#<sup>9</sup>



a/B

E



NOTE: These patterns and chords match the 1976 recording

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# THRILLER

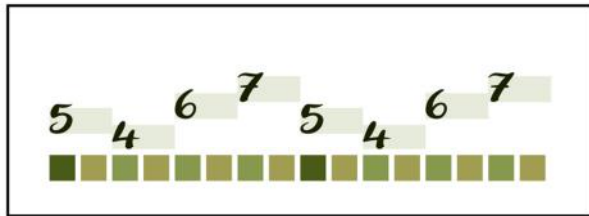
Music and words by Rod Temperton

Made famous by Michael Jackson

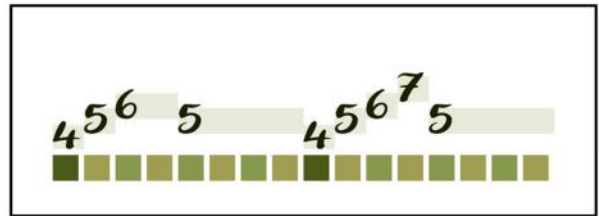


Patterns that fit nicely with the song

**A**



**B**



Verse Chords ("Cause this is...")

C#m E

E F#7 C#m F#7

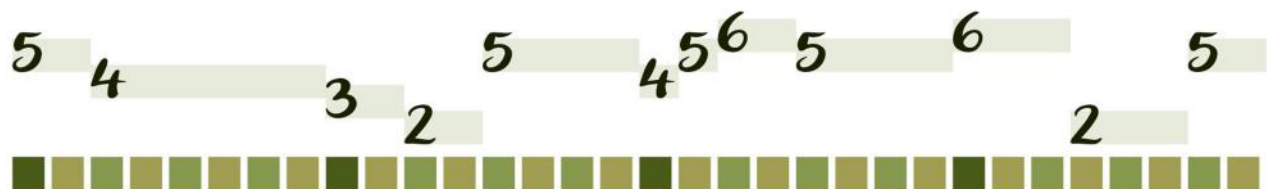
F#m7



C#m E

E F#7 C#m F#7

a7 F#7



NOTE: These patterns and chords match the 1984 recording

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# THE CAVE

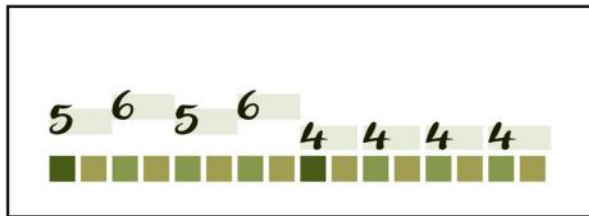
Music and words by Mumford & Sons

Made famous by Mumford & Sons

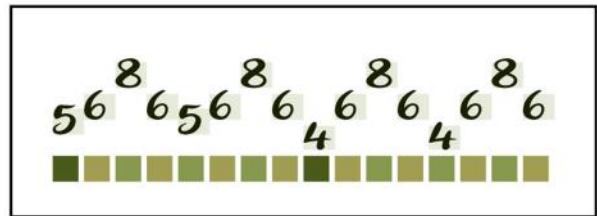


Patterns that fit nicely with the song

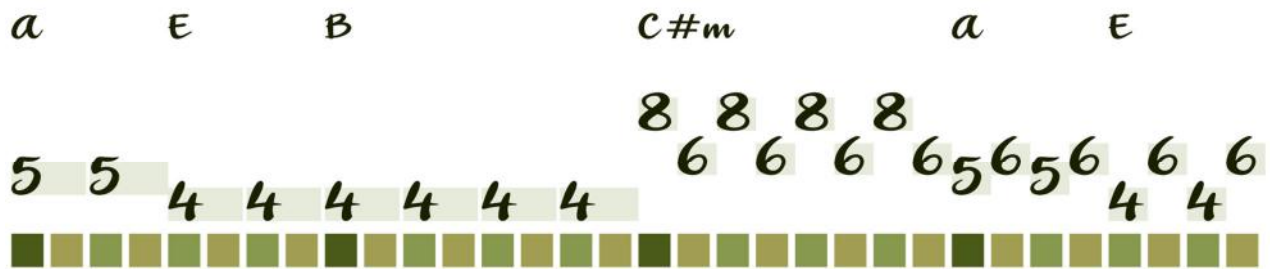
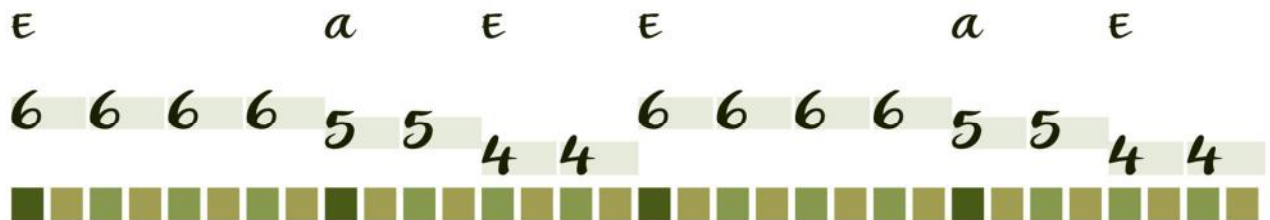
**A**



**B**



Chorus Chords ("And I...")



NOTE: These patterns and chords match the 2009 recording

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# DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'

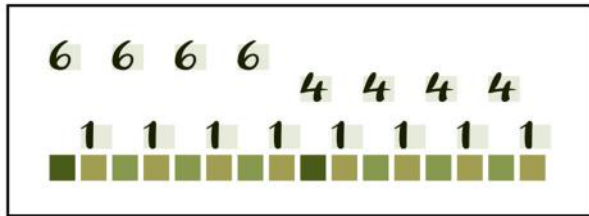
Music and words by J.Cain, N.Schon, S.Perry

Made famous by Journey

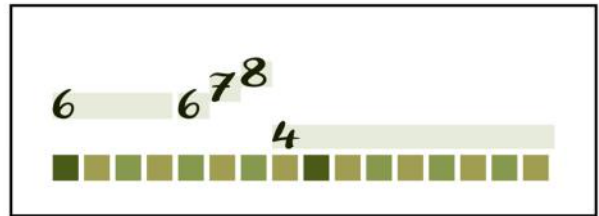


Patterns that fit nicely with the song

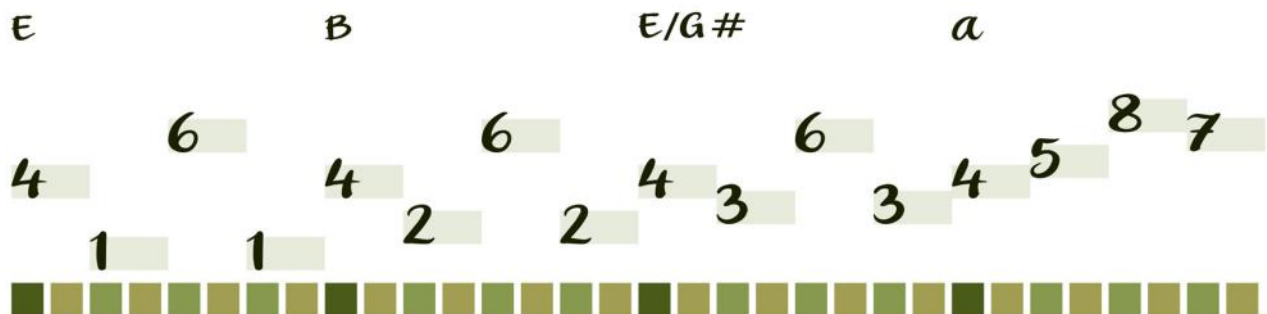
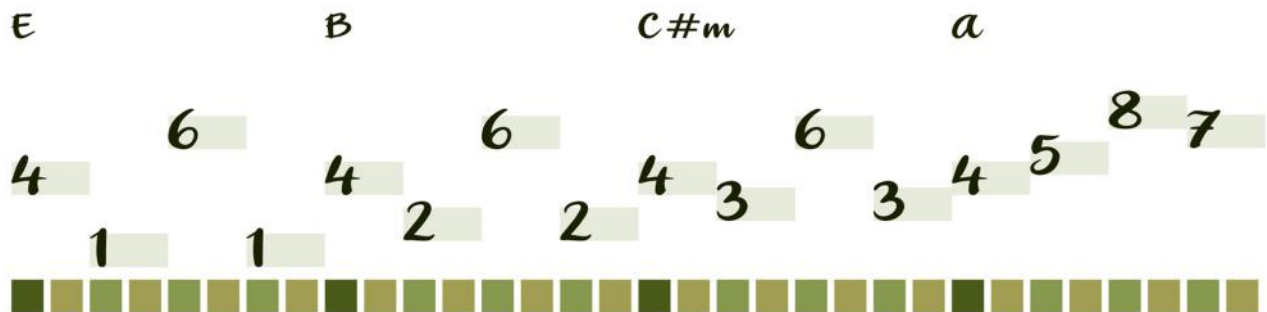
**A**



**B**



Chorus Chords ("Don't Stop...")



NOTE: These patterns and chords match the 1981 recording

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# COUNTING STARS

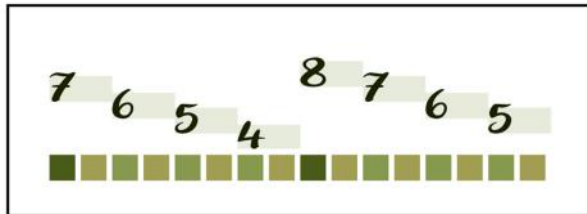
Music and words by Ryan Tedder

Made famous by OneRepublic

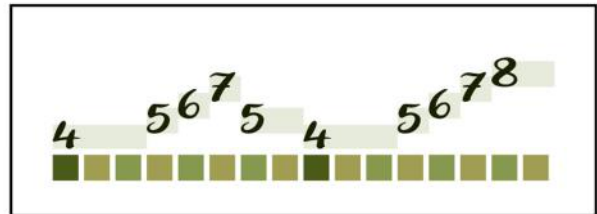


Patterns that fit nicely with the song

**A**



**B**



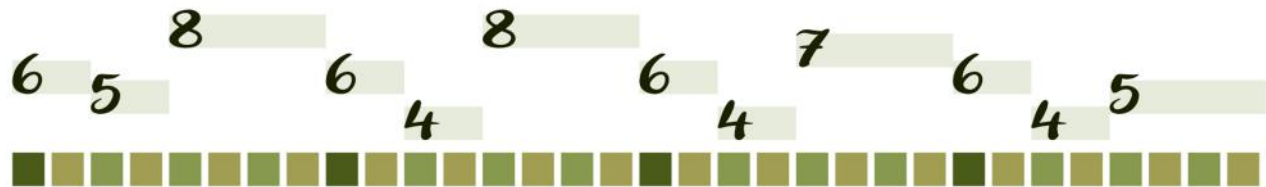
Chorus Chords ("Lately I've...")

C#m

E

B

a



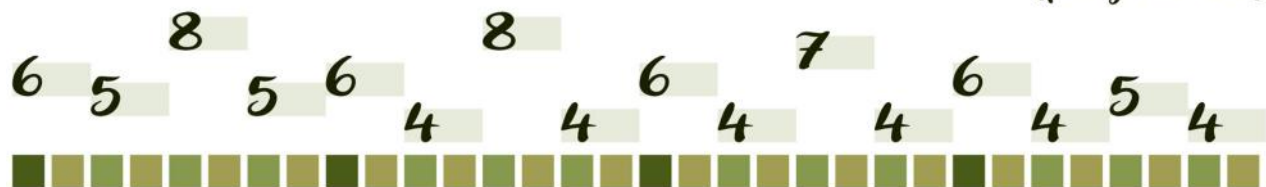
C#m

E

B

a

(play all 2x)



NOTE: These patterns and chords match the 2013 recording

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