

# Mary and Joseph Had a Baby Boy

One of the few traditional religious Christmas songs from the West Indies, this carol's sycopation makes it memorable. It's simple, repetitive words and refrain make it a crowd pleaser for young and old.

piano, xylophone

calypso, holiday, Christmas, Grade 1, Trinidad

## Mary and Joseph Had a Baby Boy

Key F, first note F(do)

a cappella count-in: 1.2.3.4.Marv...

holiday song

Trinidad

arr: LJ Clare 2011



1. Ma-ry and Jo - seph had a ba - by boy,  
2. An\_\_ -gels sang\_\_ when the ba - by born,  
3. Star\_\_ shone o - ver where the ba - by born,

Ma-ry and Jo - seph had a  
An\_\_ -gels sang\_\_ when the  
Star\_\_ shone o-ver where the



ba - by boy,  
ba - by born,  
ba - by born,

Ma-ry and Jo - seph had a ba - by boy, and they  
An\_\_ -gels sang\_\_ when the ba - by born, and they  
Star\_\_ shone o - ver where the ba - by born, and they



say that his name was

Je - sus.

He come from the



glor - ry,

He come from the glo - ri - ous king - dom.

4. Wise ones saw when the baby born ...
5. People still know when the baby born ...  
(and they say that his name IS Jesus)

# Mary and Joseph Had a Baby Boy

Key F, first note F(do)  
a cappella count-in: 1.2.3.4.Mary...

holiday song

Trinidad

arr: LJ Clare 2011



1. Ma-ry and Jo - seph had a ba - by boy, Ma-ry and Jo - seph had a  
2. An\_\_ -gels sang\_\_ when the ba - by born, An\_\_ -gels sang\_\_ when the  
3. Star\_\_ shone o - ver where the ba - by born, Star\_\_ shone o-ver where the



ba - by boy, Ma-ry and Jo - seph had a ba - by boy, and they  
ba - by born, An\_\_ -gels sang\_\_ when the ba - by born, and they  
ba - by born, Star\_\_ shone o - ver where the ba - by born, and they



say that his name was Je - sus. He come from the



glor - ry, He come from the glo - ri - ous king - dom.

4. Wise ones saw when the baby born ...
5. People still know when the baby born ...  
(and they say that his name IS Jesus)

## New Song: Mary and Joseph

The syncopation in this song can make the music a challenge to read, but its the same syncopation that makes the tune so singable and memorable. Learn the song using the CD/DVD.

Play only the first verse:

- 1st listening:** count the number of claps  
**2nd listening:** clap with the claps  
**3rd listening:** clap and listen for the story  
**4th time:** sing with the music

## Performance Arrangement Ideas

Try having a small group whisper-chant the first line 3 times before the singing begins. Repeat the chant as an interlude. Add percussion e.g. rhythm sticks on words, tambourine hit on the quarter rests and shakers on the words "glory" and "glorious". Sh ti ta ta ti / ta ta (he come from the glory) on drums may be too challenging for Grade One but is an option for the teacher?

The calypso feel to this folk song betrays its origins in the West Indies. Thought to be collected by James Bryce, who in 1942 claimed an age of 94, its one of the few traditional religious Christmas songs from Central America.

# Mary and Joseph Had a Baby Boy

Key F, first note F(do)  
a cappella count-in: 1,2,3,4,Mary...

holiday song  
Trinidad  
arr: LJ Clare 2011

1 Mary and Joseph had a baby boy,  
Mary and Joseph had a baby boy,  
Mary and Joseph had a baby boy,  
and they say that his name was Jesus.

CHORUS He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom

2 Angels sang when the baby born 3x  
and they say that his name was Jesus

3 Star shone over where the baby born 3x  
and they say that his name was Jesus

4 Wise ones saw when the baby born 3x  
and they say that his name was Jesus

5 People still know when the baby born 3x  
and they say that his name IS Jesus