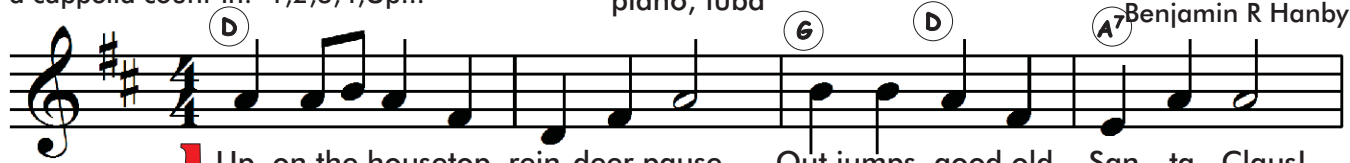


Key D, first note A(so)
a cappella count-in: 1,2,3,4,Up...

Up On the Housetop

United States
1860s holiday song
Benjamin R Hanby

piano, tuba

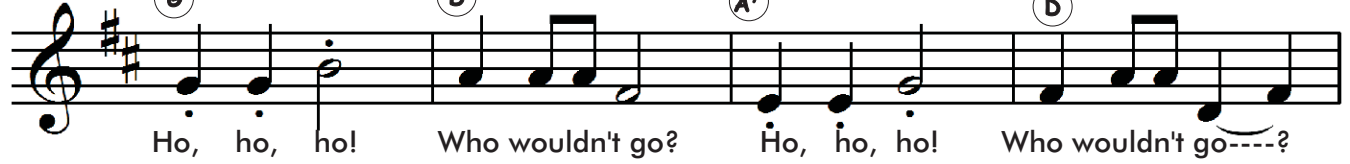


1 Up on the housetop rein-deer pause, Out jumps good old San - ta Claus!



Down thru the chim-ney with lots of toys, all for the lit-tle ones' Christ-mas joys

chorus



Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go? Ho, ho, ho! Who wouldn't go-----?



Up on the house-top, click, click, click. Down thru the chim-ney with good Saint Nick!

2 First comes the stocking of little Nell,
Oh, dear Santa, fill it well
give her a dolly that laughs and cries,
One that will open and shut her eyes.
Ho, ho, ho...

3 Next comes the stocking of little Will,
Oh, just see what a glorious fill
Here is a ball and lots of blocks,
There's even a little train that talks.
Ho, ho, ho...

Benjamin Hanby was born in Ohio in 1833. In his short life (he died at age 35) he worked as a teacher, principal, minister and editor for a music publishing house. He wrote over 60 songs. The house where he wrote most of the songs is now a museum in Westerville, Ohio.

C.C. Moore's poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas", written in 1822 became so well known that by the mid 1800s it was taken as the authority on how Santa made his visits. It certainly was the source for Benjamin Hanby who wrote "Up on the Housetop" in the 1860s. "Jolly Old St. Nicholas", whose authorship has never been pinned down, is also attributed by some to Hanby because of its similarity in style and content.

So is it "reindeer pause" or "reindeer paws"? Great riddle to ask when singing this traditional holiday favourite. (Answer: reindeer don't have paws, they have hooves)

echo mp3

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a cappella count-in: 1,2,3,4,Up...

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United States
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New Song: Up on the Housetop

- (Sing/play the chorus.) "Who is Saint Nick?" (Santa Claus) "Listen again and count how many times Santa laughs." (2 times or 6 "Ho"s) "What do you think makes the "click, click, click?" (reindeer hooves/paws) (Put the word for "paws" on the pocket chart. Next to it put "pause".) " These two words sound the same but they have different meanings. This is the kind of "paws" a cat or mouse has. What does this kind of "pause" mean?
- Give out the student pages for this song. Ask students to follow the words as they listen to the CD. When the chorus is sung, students sing along.
- Read over the words with students. Make sure they understand that in music, we read the first line in each staff first, and then, go back up to the top for the second verse, etc. Sing with CD
- "Find the "ho, ho, ho" in the music. Look above the words to the notes. These notes have something none of the other notes has, what is it?" (little dots) "That's right. Those little dots tell us to hop from note to note --to detach the notes/words. Let's try it." (Ho ho ho) "Excellent. Now we'll sing the song again. Remember to sing/hop when you come to the "Ho, ho, ho."