



organ

# Auld Lang Syne Scotland

A marriage between a folk song melody and a poem revised by Robbie Burns led to this song traditional to New Year's Eve around the world.

## Auld Lang Syne

Key E<sup>b</sup> first note low so(B) <sup>b</sup>  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 Should...

Scotland

1788

Robbie Burns

arr: LJ Clare

*Andante*

Should auld ac-quaint-ance be for-got and ne-ver brought to mind? Should

auld ac-quaint-ance be for - got and Auld \_\_\_ Lang \_\_\_ Syne? For

auld \_\_\_ lang \_\_\_ syne, my dear, for auld \_\_\_ lang \_\_\_ syne, We'll

take a cup of kind - ness yet for auld \_\_\_ lang \_\_\_ syne.

**2** And surely you'll buy your pint cup!  
and surely I'll buy mine!  
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,  
for auld lang syne.

CHORUS

**3** We two have run about the slopes,  
and picked the daisies fine;  
But we've wandered many a weary foot,  
since auld lang syne.

CHORUS

**4** We two have paddled in the stream,  
from morning sun till dine<sup>†</sup>;  
But seas between us broad have roared  
since auld lang syne.

CHORUS

**5** And there's a hand my trusty friend!  
And give me a hand o' thine!  
And we'll take a right good-will draught,  
for auld lang syne.

CHORUS

**Robbie Burns** took an old Scots poem, revised and added to it creating a song that has become inextricably linked to New Year's celebrations. It's sung to a traditional Scots folk tune. What is "auld lang syne?" "Long time since," "days gone by," may be loosely transliterated as "for the sake of old times."

**Robbie Burns** wrote about the ordinary things in life ---farming, a mouse in the field, love, being poor. He emphasized that a person needs to be measured by who s/he is, not by what s/he has, the family s/he was born into or who s/he is married to. Burns became the "peasant's poet." His works were quoted often by Russian peasants as well as the poor in many countries. His life is celebrated every year in Scotland on the anniversary of his birth, January 25, Robbie Burns' Day.

### Auld Lang Syne -- The Tradition

Sung at the end of New Year gatherings, people join hands with the person standing next to them forming, if possible, a circle. A variation is for hands to be crossed so that everyone joins right with right, and left with left. At the end of the song, all move into the centre of the circle still holding hands. Now, in a compact circle, people turn under clasped hands to face outwards into the new year.

**Focus:** participation, acceptance, review/relearn

Lesson



## Music(C)

C1.1 song: Auld Lang Syne

element focus: beat, rhythm, dynamics

C1.1 sing, in tune, pieces from a wide variety of cultures, styles and historic periods

### Warm-Ups(3 minutes)

1 **Beat:** Follow Me

2 **Body** Be My Mirror

### Exploring Cultural Contexts Holiday Music

Lead students in a discussion that leads to articulating the connection between human need to make music at special times.

**"How is music part of your holiday?  
Why do people sing and dance on holidays?"**

### New Song Auld Lang Syne

1 "Auld Lang Syne" --sounds like it isn't English, but in Scotland, people speak a little differently than here. "Auld Lang Syne" means for old time's sake and its the name of a very famous song that people all around the world sing for New Year's. **Have a listen, especially to the instruments that are playing.**" (If possible use the song video to set the scene in Scotland.)

2 "Bagpipes, yes! **Good listening.**" (Post the music. Explore the words and the places "slurs" are used.)

**Play the song:** Students think the words.

**Play the song:** Students sing with the recording.

3 Try out the traditional way of standing(See next page.) while singing the song. If you are adventurous, experiment with the variation on the tradition.

### Singing, Moving and Listening with Festive Music

The rest of today is to enjoy music and the arts.

Invite students to choose their favourites and make a joyful sound!

New Repertoire



Auld Lang Syne

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**We Wish You a Happy Holiday!**