



# I Gotta Friend

Piggyback/Zipper Song to L'il Liza Jane

cow bell, xylophone

folksong, pentatonic

Where do your friends live? Add a verse to this piggybacked song that explores Canadian geography and can be partnered for harmony singing.

## I Gotta Friend

piggyback and zipper song to Li'l Liza Jane

Key D, first note F#(mi), Pentatonic  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 I gotta ...

arr. and words: LJ Clare 2012

Canada

tune United States

folksong

*Allegro*

I got-ta friend in Chill - I wack \* I - bra - him

likes to share a tast - y snack \* I - bra - him

chorus

Oh, I like to X tra-vel a - round, Oh, I'm al-ways X out-ward bound.

1 I gotta friend in Chilliwack X Ibrahhim  
Likes to share a tasty snack X Ibrahhim

2 I gotta friend in Come by Chance X Aliyah  
Likes to sing and likes to dance X Aliyah

3 I gotta friend in Yellowknife X LilyJun  
Likes to live a northern life X LilyJun

4 I gotta friend in Halifax X Lesley Jay  
Likes to read old paperbacks X Lesley Jay

I gotta friend in Burnaby X Sarah Anne  
Likes to swim and likes to ski X Sarah Anne

I gotta friend in Penetang X Louis Paul  
Likes to eat pie with meringue X Louis Paul

I gotta friend in Toronto X Sammy Jo  
Likes to play out in the snow X Sammy Jo

I gotta friend in Montreal X Pierre John  
Likes to rake leaves in the Fall X Pierre John

# I Gotta Friend is a Piggyback Song

Practice, practice, practice is a base of learning music. Even though children enjoy repeating stories and songs, using familiar tunes with new words opens up the possibilities of learning to sing in tune without always needing to teach new songs. When new words are attached to old tunes/rhythms, the new song is called a "Piggyback Song".

Piggyback Songs are also a simple way to encourage creativity in lyric writing as students do not need to be able to write music in order to remember their compositions.



# I Gotta Friend is also a Zipper Song

When I changed the words to "I Gotta Friend", I created a Piggyback Song and a Zipper Song. The format I used for the verse words makes it simple to "zip" in new words.

- e.g. change the name of the place the friend lives
- change the name of the friend
- change what the friend likes to do

Zipper Songs are opportunities for students to have fun personalizing their singing, and easy introductions to composing lyrics.

# I Gotta Friend

piggyback and zipper song to Li'l Liza Jane

Key D, first note F#(mi), Pentatonic  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 1 gotta ...

arr. and words: LJ Clare 2012  
Canada  
tune United States  
folksong

*Allegro*



I got-ta friend in Chill - I wack \* I - bra - him  
likes to share a tast - y snack \* I - bra - him  
chorus  
Oh, I like to X tra-vel a - round, Oh, I'm al-ways X out-ward bound.

- 1 I gotta friend in Chilliwack X Ibrahhim  
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- 2 I gotta friend in Come by Chance X Aliyah  
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- 4 I gotta friend in Halifax X Lesley Jay  
Likes to read old paperbacks X Lesley Jay

## Zip another place into the song!





I gotta friend in Penetang X Louis Jacques  
3 clap rhythm 3 clap rhythm

Likes to eat pie with meringue X Louis Jacques  
5 clap rhythm

# New Song: Li'l Liza Jane

1 Clap and say in the song's rhythm pattern, "L'il Liza Jane."  
(2x) **"What's the girl's name?"** Help students understand that l'il is short for 'little'.

Now clap and sing the phrase, "L'il Liza Jane." Students echo both claps and singing.

			
L'il ti	Li - ta	za ti	Jane ta-a

Key D, first note F#(mi), Pentatonic  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 | I gotta ...  
*Allegro*

## Li'l Liza Jane

United States  
folksong  
arr: LJ Clare 2012



I got-ta gal that you don't know, li'l Li - za Jane,  
Way down south in Bal - ti - more, li'l Li - za Jane.  
*chorus*  
Oh E - li - za, li'l Li - za Jane, Oh E - li - za, li'l Li - za Jane.

1 I gotta gal that you don't know,  
Li'l Liza Jane,  
Way down south in Baltimore,  
Li'l Liza Jane.

verses

2 When I go a-courtin'  
I'll go on the train.  
When I go to marry,  
Li'l Liza Jane.

3 The hardest work I ever did  
Was a-brakin' on a train,  
the easiest work I ever did  
Was a-huggin' Liza Jane.

4 When I went to see her,  
she met me at the door,  
shoes and stockings in her hands,  
Her feet all o'r the floor.

Li'l Liza Jane dates back to the early 1900s in the United States. It's likely one of the Party-Games that adapted children's songs into mixers to get around a strict "no-dancing" religious tradition. There are many different versions of words that may be used with the melody. The song is a staple in modern New Orleans brass bands.

2 "Good singing. Everytime I point at you, you clap and sing (sing it) "L'il Liza Jane."

Teacher	Students
I gotta girl that you don't know	I'l Liza Jane
Way down south in Baltimore	I'l Liza Jane
○ Eliza	I'l Liza Jane
○ Eliza	I'l Liza Jane

Sometimes when I want students to echo, I'll point to myself when it's my turn, then point to students, or cup a hand around one ear as a sign its the class' turn.

Baltimore is pronounced **Baltimow**.

**3** "Well done. Who's Eliza?" (Liza is a short form of Elizabeth.) "Let's try that again." (Increase the tempo a bit this time.)

Teacher	Students
I gotta girl that you don't know	l'il Liza Jane
Way down south in Baltimore	l'il Liza
Jane	
O Eliza	l'il Liza Jane

**4** "This song comes from the United States. It's a story about two people. I'm going to play the whole song. As you listen to the story, try to figure out what's going on. Be ready to sing your part whenever I point at you." Play the sing-a-long version.

**5** "What is the story about?" Explore the story, the people in it and ideas about what might happen next.

**6** Post the words. Sing the song with the recorded version.

<b>1</b>	I gotta gal that you don't know, Li'l Liza Jane, Way down south in Baltimore, Li'l Liza Jane.
<b>2</b>	When I go a-courtin' I'll go on the train. When I go to marry, Li'l Liza Jane.
<b>3</b>	The hardest work I ever did Was a-brakin' on a train, the easiest work I ever did Was a-huggin' Liza Jane.
<b>4</b>	When I went to see her, she met me at the door, shoes and stockings in her hands, Her feet all o'r the floor.

### Extend the Learning



"L'il Liza Jane is another good song for zipping new words in to create a unique version.

Extend the learning into a Language Arts lesson by creating new verses following the form given here. (see work page)

#### Version A simplest

I gotta friend that you don't know	l'il Sammy Jo
Way up north in Toronto	l'il Sammy Jo

#### Version B more personalization

**1** I gotta friend in Chilliwack X Ibrahim  
Likes to share a tasty snack X Ibrahim

**2** I gotta friend in Come by Chance X Aliyah  
Likes to sing and likes to dance X Aliyah

**3** I gotta friend in Yellowknife X LilyJun  
Likes to live a northern life X LilyJun

**4** I gotta friend in Halifax X Lesley Jay  
Likes to read old paperbacks X Lesley Jay

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tune United States  
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Oh, I like to X tra-vel a - round, Oh, I'm al-ways X out-ward bound.

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## Zip another place into the song!

I gotta friend in Penetang X Louis Jacques  
3 clap rhythm 3 clap rhythm

Likes to eat pie with meringue X Louis Jacques  
5 clap rhythm

Zip new words into "Li'l Liza Jane"!

Key D, first note F#(mi), Pentatonic  
a cappella count-in: 1 2 1 gotta ...

**Li'l Liza Jane**

United States  
folksong  
arr: LJ Clare 2012

*Allegro*



I got-ta gal that you don't know, li'l Li - za Jane,  
Way down south in Bal - ti - more, li'l Li - za Jane.

1 The first word that jumps out to me needing a change is "Baltimore" because I live in Canada. And then there's that "I gotta gal", cause I don't "gotta gal". How about ...



I got-ta friend in Tor - on - to, li'l Li - za Jane,

And there are other places in Canada that would fit ... Tor-on-to, that a 3-clap word. Think of a place that takes "3-claps" to sing, and put it into your verse.



I got-ta friend in \_\_\_\_\_  
(3-clap place)

2 I don't like being called "little", so I'm going to clap instead of singing "l'il". In the music it means I need a rest, and often an "X" is used to show there's no word under the rest. The note is an eighth note, so I put in an eighth rest. You choose what to do for "l'il" in your song --keep it or change it.

And my friend's name is ... hmmm, 3-claps for Liza Jane, 3 claps for Sam-my Jo!

What is your friend's name? Does it fit the music?

l'il Liza Jane changes to X Sam-my Jo

3 Since the first line has the name of a place in it, I'll put something about my friend in to the second line. When you write your line, make sure there is only 1-clap under every note.



Way down south in Bal - ti - more, li'l Li - za Jane.  
Likes to play out in the snow, X Sam - my Jo

**Sing your song to somebody!**

# I Gotta Friend

*Allegro*

I got-ta friend in X

likes to X



The Toronto part of this song uses another set of words for "I Gotta Friend".

If you want to focus on Quebec, try:

I gotta friend in Montreal X Louis Paul

Likes to rake leaves in the Fall X Louis Paul

## Toronto 'n Montreal

partner and piggyback songs to Li'l Liza Jane/Great Big House

arr. and words: LJ Clare 2012

Key D, first note F#(mi), Pentatonic

a cappella count-in: 1 2 I gotta ...

### Toronto

Canada

tune United States

folksong

*Allegro*

I got-ta friend in Tor - on - to, \* Sam - my Jo

likes to play out in the snow \* Sam - my Jo.

chorus

Oh, I like to X tra-vel a - round, Oh, I'm al-ways X out-ward bound.

### Montreal

Key D, first note F#(mi), Pentatonic

a cappella count-in: 1 2 Great big ...

United States

Play Party Song

arr. and words: LJ Clare

*Allegro*

1. Great big house in Mon- tre - al for - ty stor - ies high \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Like to vis - it in that house, lots of friends live there \_\_\_\_\_

Ev' - ry room that I been in, filled with tor - tiere pie \_\_\_\_\_.  
 We all sing and dance a - round, food and drink we share \_\_\_\_\_.