



flute
oboe
drum

My Paddle's Keen and Bright

round

Margaret Embers McGee
1918 Canada

My Paddle's Keen and Bright

Key Em, first note B(so)
a cappella count-in: 1&2&3&4&My pad...
allegro

round
Margaret Embers McGee
1918 Canada

1. My pad - dle's keen and bright, Flash - ing with sil - ver,
2. Dip, dip and swing her back, Flash - ing with sil - ver,
Fol - low the wild goose flight, Dip, dip and swing.
Swift as the wild goose flies, Dip, dip and swing.

Note: My Paddle's Keen and Bright and Land of the Silver Birch harmonize when sung at the same time i.e. partner songs.

Across Canada, words to this song vary.

**My paddle's keen and bright
Flashing with silver
Follow the wild goose flight
(Follow the pale moonlight)
Dip, dip and swing**

**Dip, dip and swing her back
Flashing with silver
Swift as the wild goose flies
Dip, dip and swing**

**Swift as a silver fish
Canoe of birch bark
Thy mighty waterways
Carry me forth**

**High as an eagle soars
Over the mountains
My spirit rises up
Free as a bird**

New Song: My Paddle's Keen and Bright

1 "Kayaks often have only one person paddling. Canoes usually have two people paddling --one near the bow/front, and one at the stern/back. The canoe goes faster and smoother if both people paddle at the same time, dipping their paddles into the water on opposite sides of the boat. As you listen to this paddling song, think of ways its the same or different from Okkitokiunga.



Play Music My Paddle's Keen and Bright Sing-a-Long Recording



Gather ideas re similarities and differences between the two songs.



"My paddle's keen and bright, flashing with silver ... flashing with silver, what could that mean? (sunlight on the water shining?) Follow the wild goose flight ... in the Spring, geese fly north to their nesting grounds, in the Fall, geese fly south to where its warmer. When geese fly they look like the tip of an arrow in the sky (perhaps draw a sketch?). Follow the wild goose flight ... wonder where the canoe is going? Dip, dip the paddle into the water, swing it to the back and do it again; dip, dip and swing her back. Try paddling a canoe with the beat as you listen this time."



Play Music My Paddle's Keen and Bright Sing-a-Long Recording



"Excellent paddling. Time to learn the melody. Be ready to echo the lead singer.



Play Music My Paddle's Keen and Bright Echo Recording



Since this song will be attempted as a round, take time to check to ensure the melody and rhythm have a solid basis. Play the beginning note (B) on a glockenspiel, give a clear count-in, then listen as students attempt to sing the song. Decide if singing with one of the recordings is needed to re-enforce the melody.



"This song needs some harmony. What is harmony? (two or more pitches played or sung at the same time, different tunes sung together ...) This song is a round, that means some people sing it, and then it starts again ---like with Frère Jacques." (Divide the class into two groups --try to ensure that one or two strong singers are in each group. Have each group sing the song through once. If this is too challenging, perhaps you/teacher could be the second "group"?)



Sing the song as a two-part round. For now, the second part begins at the start of the second staff of music, i.e. at #3. Later more parts may be added.



"Two different singing parts are one way to add harmony. How else could harmony be added to this song?" (pitched instruments)

tempo
mood
rhythm
words

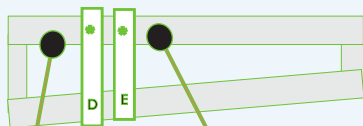
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Rounds provide built-in easy ways to add instrumental parts. This round may be done in four parts eventually. That means that every bar is sung against every other bar and it still sounds harmonious. So ... choose a bar that is easy to play on an instrument, and have that be the accompaniment.



ti ta ti ta-a
 dip dip and swing
 right right left right
 E E D E

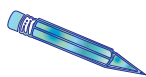
Students know how to sing this. Have them sing and clap it. Now sing and pat it on knees using rights and lefts as shown. Transfer it to a glockenspiel or xylophone that has the E and D bars. Students playing this part are not expected to sing, they need to be saying/singing/thinking the words "dip, dip and swing" throughout the song.

AND/OR

Play any combination of **E G B** on the first pulse/beat of each bar.

E G B E G
 do mi so do mi
Key of Em (E minor)

New Repertoire



Okkitokiunga
My Paddle's Keen and Bright

Enjoy the Repertoire

Brother Come and Dance With Me
Fais Do Do
Inuit Lullaby

Land of the Silver Birch

Key Em, first note E(do)
a cappella count-in: 1,2,3,4, Land...

Canada
folk song

Margaret Embers McGee

Andante *mp* (Em)

1. Land of the sil - ver birch, Home of the beav - er,
2. Down in the for - est, Deep in the low - lands,
3. High on a rock - y ledge, I'll build my wig - wam,

mf *crescendo* (Dm) (D) (Em)

Where still the might - y moose wan - ders at will.
My heart cries out for you, hills of the north.
Close by the wa - ter's edge, si - lent and still.

chorus (Em) (D) (Dm) (Em)

Blue lake and rock - y shore, I will re - turn once more.

mp (Em) *crescendo* *decrescendo*

Boom did - y - a - da, Boom did - y - a - da, Boom

My Paddle's Keen and Bright

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a cappella count-in: 1&2&3&4&My pad...

Canada
folk song

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Allegro *mp* (Em)

1. My pad - dle's keen and bright, Flash - ing with sil - ver,
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