

SONGS for KIDS

by Michael Stern
& friends

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INTRODUCTION

I have a lot of fun composing songs and singing for kids, and I have been doing it for so long that some of those kids have turned into adults with kids of their own. People often ask me where I get my ideas for writing songs. While it varies greatly, it's safe to say I'm always on the lookout for good ideas for a new song or story.

Once I was visiting the shores of Lake Malawi in Africa and observed a family of hippopotamus splashing about in the distance. I also noticed a small sailboat pulled up on the shore, so I asked the owner of the boat if I could borrow it to sail out and get a closer look at the hippos. He answered somewhat hesitantly. "Well okay, Mike. But there is one thing you must never do."

"What is that? I asked.

"You must never, ever, try to tickle behind a hippo's ear."

"Why not," I asked. "What would they do?"

He replied: "Well, you never know what a hippo will do, so you'd just better not!"

Later, on this same trip to Africa I went on a safari where, for the first time in my life I saw elephants, giraffes, wildebeests, and a lot of other amazing creatures roaming about in the wild. This whole experience gave me the idea for "If You Go on a Safari". The next line in the song is about not trying to crowd in front of a hippo who is looking in the mirror. That idea came out of struggles I remember having with my brother when we were both vying for access to the same small mirror in the bathroom we shared when we were growing up.

I write and sing songs like this at pre-schools and schools, family concerts and festivals, summer camps, and at home for my own kids and grandkids. Many of these songs are in this book and were selected from my two previous children's albums. In addition, there are six new releases which I've recorded very recently, and the rest of the 25 songs here are either traditional tunes or ones that were written by friends of mine.

The printed music is simple and singable, designed to help you learn by singing and playing along with the recordings that are integrated into the digital songbook (and are also available as a companion CD). Most of the guitar chords are very simple even for beginning guitarists, however, fretboard diagrams are included for a few less familiar and slightly more challenging chords. A few of the songs require a capo to play guitar in the same key as the recording - but don't fret about it!

The index of topics and type of songs is meant to help quickly find songs of most interest to your kids, students and yourself (i.e. Critters, Environment/Nature, Diversity, Making a Difference, Family, Love and Peace, Rounds, Lullabies, and so on). It allows quick access to songs most interesting and useful for lesson and curriculum and planning, teaching music, dance, and games, etc.



Michael Stern

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CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Always Remember I Love You	6
Buckle Up for Safety	7
Don't You Know	8
Four Winds	9
Healing Water	10
How Beautiful is the Green Earth	11
I Had a Little Rooster	12
I Saw a Butterfly Flutter By	13
<u>If You Go On a Safari</u>	14
Kangaroos and Koalas Came Calling	15
La-La Lullaby	16
Little Bit of You	17
Love All Around the World	18
Love Makes a Family	19
Lupine Lady	20
<u>My Brother Thinks He is a Chicken</u>	21
Only Love Will Remain	22
Patty Cake Party	23
River of Peace	24
Schools Around the World	25
Sleep, Kentucky Babe	26
<u>Talking Nautical</u>	28
Uncle Joe	29
We Can Make a Difference	30
You Are a Miracle	31
<u>Index of song topics & types</u>	32

IF YOU GO ON A SAFARI

Michael Stern

Verse

G A Bm Bm/A Cmaj7 Bm

1. If you go on a sa - fa - ri and you meet a hip - po -
 Ne - ver e - ver try to tick - le be - hind a hip - po's

4 A7(sus4) A G A Bm Cmaj7

pot - a - mus there are two things you should ne - ver do it's
 ear or try to crowd in front of one Who is

7 A Chorus A

much too dan - ger - ous 'Cuz you ne - ver real - ly
 look - ing in the mirror

10 F#m G A

know what will hap - pen if you do Or

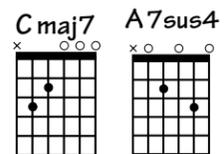
13 D Em7 F#m G D A D

what that hip - po - pot - a - mus might try to do to you

(2) If you go on a safari and you meet an elephant
 Don't try to take his picture
 If he seems to be upset
 'Cuz you never really know what will happen if you do
 Or what on earth that elephant might try to do to you

(3) If you go on a safari and you meet a tall giraffe
 Don't comment on her knobby knees
 And be certain not to laugh
 'Cuz you never really know what will happen if you do
 Or what an insulted giraffe might start saying about you

(More verses in the book!)



MY BROTHER THINKS HE IS A CHICKEN

Michael Stern*

C Em Dm

My bro - ther thinks he is a chick - en So proud of his

6 Dm/C G C

feath - ers and legs But our moth - er would - n't take him to the

11 Em Am C G C

doc - tor since quite frank - ly we need - ed the eggs Quite

17 C F C

frank - ly we need - ed the eggs Quite frank - ly we

22 C/B Am G C

need - ed the eggs No our moth - er would - n't take him to the

27 Em Am C G C

doc - tor since quite frank - ly we need - ed the eggs

*Adapted and expanded on from an idea by Joseph Helfich, then set to the traditional tune of "Rosin the Beau."

Our sister feels she is an ostrich
 At least her feet stay on the land
 But it wouldn't be stickin' my neck out to say
 She's hiding her head in the sand
 She's hiding her head in the sand
 She's hiding her head in the sand
 No, it wouldn't be stickin' my neck out to say
 She's hiding her head in the sand

(More verses in the book!)

TALKING NAUTICAL

Traditional, arr. Michael Stern

C F C G

I went on a ship one day and a good old sai - lor to me said "hey!"

5 C F C G

I'm gon - na teach you the words to say when - e - ver you go to

8 C F C G C

Repeat here for tags

sea. Well you ne - ver say 'floor', you got - ta say 'deck'

11 C F C G C

That's the way... You're supposed to talk... when - e - ver you go to sea.

2nd Refrain:

Well, you never say window, you gotta say porthole

You never say floor, you gotta say deck

That's the way you're supposed to talk

Whenever you go to sea

(More verses in the book!)

INDEX OF SONG TOPICS & TYPES

Critters

Kangaroos and Koalas Came Calling
I Had a Little Rooster
I Saw a Butterfly Flutter By
If You Go on A Safari
My Brother Thinks He is a Chicken

Dance/Movement/Signs/Action

Little Bit of You
Love Makes a Family
Patty Cake Party
Uncle Joe

Diversity

Four Winds
Love All Around the World
Love Makes a Family
My Brother Thinks He is a Chicken
Schools, Ecoles, Schule, Escuelas
(or Schools Around the World)

Environment/Nature

Four Winds
How Beautiful is the Green Earth

Family

Don't You Know
Love Makes a Family
My Brother Thinks He is a Chicken
Only Love Will Remain
You Are a Miracle

Healing

Healing Water

Lullabies

La-la-lullaby
Only Love Will Remain
Sleep Kentucky Babe

Making a Difference

Lupine Lady
River of Peace
We Can Make a Difference

Newly Released (not previously recorded)

Don't You Know
I Saw a Butterfly Flutter By
Kangaroos and Koalas Came Calling
Love Makes a Family (new version)
Only Love Will Remain
Patty Cake Party

Love and Peace

Don't You Know
Love All Around the World
Only Love Will Remain

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