

Filipino Folk Songs for the Musical Classroom

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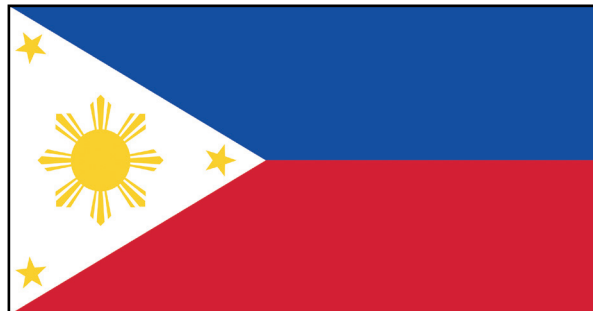
# Songs of the Sun

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The Philippine Islands, also known as the Republic of the Philippines, are an archipelago consisting of over 7,600 islands in Southeast Asia. Named after King Philip II during Spanish colonization in the 1500s, the people of these islands are primarily of Austronesian (or Malayo-Polynesian) descent. The Philippines has three main regions: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The capital city, Manila, is considered one of the most densely populated cities in the world. The Philippine Islands are the only Christian nation in Asia with Filipino (a Tagalog-based language) and English as the official languages. While estimates vary, there are between one to two hundred different languages and dialects spoken throughout the country. In the Filipino language, the letter “F” is a borrowed letter from the Spanish alphabet and is used when referring to the people, culture, and language. The “Ph” is borrowed from the English alphabet to refer to the country’s name. The people of the Philippines commonly use “Pilipino” to refer to themselves and the language.



Twenty thousand years ago, the indigenous people of the islands resided in small chiefdoms, spoke their own languages, and practiced spiritual beliefs based on a form of animism, the belief in supernatural powers that animate the material universe. Cultural traditions and technologies consisted of body tattooing, wood and rock carvings, stilt housing, wetland agriculture, fishing, and navigation. Early trade with Southeast Asia, China, Japan, and India greatly influenced Filipino customs and cuisine. The arrival of Arab sultanates in the 14th century also brought Muslim culture and religion until Western European powers invaded the land. Colonized by Spain for 377 years (1521-1898), occupied by Japan during World War II (1941-1942), and colonized by the United States for 48 years (1898-1946), the Filipino people have fought hard to maintain their independence and unique cultural heritage.

This set of songs and chants from my childhood and adulthood was passed on to me from family, friends, and the Filipino community. Most of them are in Tagalog, but as is often true in oral traditions, multiple versions exist with some in different languages and dialects. Various children’s books from the Philippines are referenced throughout this text for added source material.

Audio recordings, visuals of the lyrics, and additional music scores are included with the purchase of this book. Audio recordings include an *a cappella* version of each song and the pronunciation of the lyrics.



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Enjoy your preview of Tiffany's new best-selling book of Filipino singing games. Purchase your copy at:

[https://bppub.net/Tiffany\\_Unarce\\_Barry](https://bppub.net/Tiffany_Unarce_Barry)

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Complete Orff Process lesson plans are included with each activity in the book.



# Ako Ay May Lobo

## I Had a Balloon

Filipino Traditional  
Arr. Tiffany Unarce Barry

Music score for 'Ako Ay May Lobo' (I Had a Balloon). The score is in 3/4 time and D major. It includes parts for Voice, Toss Clap Patsch, and Violin (V).

**Voice:**  
 A - ko ay may lo - bo, lu - mi - pad sa lang - it, 'di ko na na - ki - ta, pu - mu -  
 tok na pa - la! Sa - yang ang pe - ra ko, pam - bi - li ng lo - bo, kung pag -  
 ka - in sa - na, na - bu - sog pa a - ko.  
 Hide Balloon

**Toss Clap Patsch:** A rhythmic accompaniment consisting of eighth notes and quarter notes.

**Violin (V):** A melodic line following the voice part.

I found this Filipino children's song when looking for material to use with balloons. The text explores the delicate nature of a balloon and how a child can regret the purchase when it is lost or destroyed. Another Filipino folk song called *Atin Ku Pung Singsing* (I Once Had a Ring) from Kapampangan in central Luzon uses this same melody and is about the loss of a family heirloom.

**Suggested Grade Levels:** Grades 3-5

### Materials Needed

- \* Colored balloons of three or more different colors (one per student)
- \* Temple blocks or other small hand percussion instrument with low, medium, high sounds

### Activity

- \* Display Tagalog words. Speak each phrase; students echo.
- \* Share English translation.



# Bahay Kubo

## Nipa Hut (The Cubed House)

Filipino Traditional

Music score for "Bahay Kubo" in G major, 3/4 time. The score includes a voice line and three guitar accompaniment lines (V).

**Voice:** Ba - hay ku - bo, ka - hit mun - ti, ang ha -

**Guitar 1 (V):** la - man do - on, ay sa - ri sa - ri. Sing - ka -

**Guitar 2 (V):** mas at ta - long, si - ga - ril - yas at ma - ni, si -

**Guitar 3 (V):** taw, ba - taw, pa - ta - ni.

Chords: G, D, C, G, E7, Am, D, G, D, C, G, C, D, G.

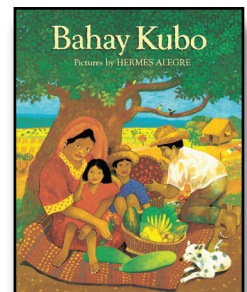
This is the first Filipino folk song I heard as a child. My mother would sing it to me before bedtime, although I only recall her singing the first half of the song. (See full song in Supplemental Materials.) A “*bahay kubo*” is a *nipa* hut or cubed house. These traditional stilt structures are seen throughout the countryside in the Philippines. The body is built out of bamboo wood and the roof is thatched with *nipa* (or palm) leaves; the wooden stilts are important because the elevation keeps the *nipa* hut from flooding during monsoon season. Crops grow jungle-like around the *nipa* hut, many of which were brought to the islands by Spanish colonists. Next to the national anthem, *Bahay Kubo* is the most well-known folk song of the Philippines. A love song for home, it has different versions and is occasionally performed as a group dance. Some sources reference the famous Filipino musician Felipe Padilla De Leon (1912-1992) as composer, but more recent research suggests the composer is unknown.



Suggested Grade Levels: Grades 1-3

### Materials Needed

- \* *Bahay Kubo* by Hermes Alegre, Tahanan Books for Young Readers (1993), [www.tahananbooks.com](http://www.tahananbooks.com)
- \* Picture of *nipa* hut and seven pictures of garden plants (if book is not available)
- \* A farmer's hat (Any designated hat, preferably wide-brimmed and floppy)





Activities are Child-centered and appropriate for all grade levels.

# Isa, Dalawa, Tatlo

## One, Two, Three



Track 3

Filipino Traditional  
Arr. by Tiffany Unarce Barry

Chords: C, G, G7, C, C7, F, C, F, G, C

Tempo/Performance: *molto rit.*, *accelerando*

Voice: I - sa, da-la-wa, tat-lo, u - na u-na-han ta-yo. A - pat, li-ma, a-nim, sa ba-

V: long ma-la - lim. Pi - to, wa-lo, si-yam, la - kad pa - rang lang - gam. Pag - da -

V: ting sa sam-pu ang la-hat ay u - mu - po!

This is one of several counting songs from the Philippines. The momentary pause (fermata) followed by a brisk and rhythmic pickup (anacrusis) near the end of this song makes it noteworthy. It naturally lends itself as an altered version of the traditional elimination game, *Musical Chairs*.

Suggested Grade Levels: Grades 1-3

### Materials Needed

- \* Chairs, carpet squares, or sit spots (one per student)
- \* Crash cymbals or ratchet
- \* Rhythm sticks
- \* Small hand percussion instruments

### Activity

- \* Display Tagalog numbers counting from one to ten:

<i>isa</i>	<i>dalawa</i>	<i>tatlo</i>	<i>apat</i>	<i>lima</i>	<i>anim</i>	<i>pito</i>	<i>walo</i>	<i>siyam</i>	<i>sampu</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- \* Display Tagalog text. Speak phrases; students echo.
- \* Share English translation.





# Sasara Ang Bulaklak

## Close the Flower

Filipino Traditional

Music score for "Sasara Ang Bulaklak" (Close the Flower), a Filipino Traditional song. The score is arranged in four systems, each with a vocal line (V) and a movement line (Mvt).

**System 1:** Key signature: one sharp (F#), Time signature: 2/4. Chords: D, A, D. Lyrics: Sa - sa - ra ang bu - lak - lak, bu - bu - ka ang bu - lak - lak, i - i - kot ang bu - lak - lak, pa - pa - sok ang rey - na!

**System 2:** Key signature: one sharp (F#), Time signature: 6/8. Chords: G, D. Lyrics: Bum ti - ya - ya, bum ti - ya - ya, bum ye ye, bum ti - ya - ya, bum - ti - ya - ya, bum ye ye.

**System 3:** Key signature: one sharp (F#), Time signature: 6/8. Chords: A, A7, D. Lyrics: bum ti - ya - ya, bum - ti - ya - ya, bum ye ye.

**Movement Instructions:**

- System 1: Forward (first two measures), Backward (last two measures)
- System 2: Circle R (first two measures), Queen enters... (last two measures)
- System 3: Circle L (first two measures)

I learned this song from a friend who spent most of his childhood in Bulan, located in the Bicol Peninsula between Luzon and Visayas. Similar in style to the English nursery rhyme *Ring Around the Rosie*, this children's game has a dark side. It was played by the children in my friend's town, but never on Tuesdays or Fridays for fear of accidentally calling the female vampire known as *manananggal*, a type of blood-sucking monster called *aswang* in the Philippines. According to Visayan folklore, this light-skinned, long-haired, half-bodied mythical creature was believed to be the cause of miscarriages amongst pregnant women as early as the 16th century. Various versions of this folk tune exist, but one commonality is the change in meter from duple to triple in the middle of the song.





Full Color visuals and audio tracks of each song are included with each

**Songs of the Sun**


<a href="#">Ako Ay May Lobo</a>	<a href="#">Planting Rice</a>
<a href="#">Bahay Kubo</a>	<a href="#">Sasara Ang Bulaklak</a>
<a href="#">Isa, Dalawa, Tatlo</a>	<a href="#">Saw Saw Suka</a>
<a href="#">Leron Leron, Sinta</a>	<a href="#">Tong Tong Tong</a>
<a href="#">I Have Two Hands</a>	<a href="#">Umupo Po Kayo</a>
<a href="#">Maraming Salamat</a>	<a href="#">Magtanim Ay 'Di Biro</a>
<a href="#">Paa, Tuhod, Balikat, Ulo</a>	<a href="#">Credits</a>
<a href="#">Pagtulog Na, Nene</a>	<a href="#">Web Resources</a>
<a href="#">Pen Pen De Sarapen</a>	



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**Ako Ay May Lobo**

**Ako ay may lobo, lumipad sa langit,  
'di ko na nakita, pumutok na pala!  
Sayang ang pera ko, pambili ng lobo,  
kung pagkain sana, nabusog pa ako.**



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## **Songs of the Sun** **Filipino Folk Songs for the Music Classroom**

This new title is all about songs and games from the Philippines with Orff process lesson plans. *Songs of the Sun* includes translations and pronunciation guides along with recordings of each piece. You thought you knew lots of children's games? You need to check out this great resource!

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