



THE CLIBURN

CLIBURN KIDS

with Buddy Bray



EPISODE 16: SINGING GAME COPLAND "I BOUGHT ME A CAT"

TODAY'S WORKSHEET

In today's episode, Buddy's friend Corrie Donovan joins us once more as a guest, and she will be singing a song! This song is an arrangement of an old American folk song by a well-known American composer, Aaron Copland. A few episodes ago, we listened to the very first piece of music he ever published. Can you remember what the title of the piece was? _____

FOLK SONGS

An **arrangement** is a reworking of a piece of music. In this case, the original piece of music was a **folk song**. Folk songs are pieces of music that are passed down from generation to generation by oral tradition, which means passed down by singing or speaking, and not by something written down. Because of this, there was not one "correct" version. Several versions of the lyrics existed, and there was also no part written for an instrument, like the piano part Buddy will play. Copland decided to write the song down, compose a piano part to it, and publish it in a collection of pieces he arranged called *Old American Songs*.



Buddy mentions "Old MacDonald" as another example of an American folk song. What are some other folk songs that you know?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



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"I Bought Me a Cat" is a song about many farm animals, including a cat. Have you ever been to a farm? What kind of animals did you see there? Write about your experience at a farm!

LISTEN CAREFULLY

Buddy provides the piano accompaniment in the background to support the melody Corrie sings, and makes the music more interesting! Now, listen carefully to Buddy's part.

Is the sound high or low, fast or slow? _____

Does the piano part stay the same throughout or does it change? _____

What does the piano part sound like? Can you imagine being at a farm, surrounded by many animals?

WRITE YOUR OWN VERSE

Although the title of the song is "I Bought Me a Cat," there are so many animals that are mentioned in the song! This is the beginning section of the words to the song. Each group of words is called a **verse**. As you see, each verse gets longer and longer, adding a new animal as it repeats.

I bought me a cat, my cat
pleased me,
I fed my cat under yonder tree.
My cat says fiddle eye fee.

I bought me a duck, my duck
pleased me,
I fed my duck under yonder tree.
My duck says, "Quaa, quaa,"
My cat says fiddle eye fee.

I bought me a goose, my goose
pleased me,
I fed my goose under yonder tree.
My goose says, "Quaw, quaw,"
My duck says, "Quaa, quaa,"
My cat says fiddle eye fee.



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Now, let's create your own arrangement of the song by writing new verses! Fill in (1) with one of your favorite animals, and (1*) with the sound it makes. Then fill in (2) with another one of your favorite animals, and (2*) with the sound that animal makes.

I bought me a (1) _____,
my (1) _____ pleased me,
I fed my (1) _____ under yonder tree.
My (1) _____ says,
"(1*) _____,"
My goose says, "Quaw, quaw,"
My duck says, "Quaa, quaa,"
My cat says fiddle eye fee.

I bought me a (2) _____,
my (2) _____ pleased me,
I fed my (2) _____ under yonder tree.
My (2) _____ says,
"(2*) _____,"
My (1) _____ says,
"(1*) _____,"
My goose says, "Quaw, quaw,"
My duck says, "Quaa, quaa,"
My cat says fiddle eye fee.

NOW DRAW!

Think back to your earlier answers about the farm and farm animals you may have seen. On another sheet of paper create your own drawing of the farm! How many animals are there? Draw your favorite animals in your arrangement of the song, too!



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COPLAND "I BOUGHT ME A CAT"

LEARN ABOUT THE COMPOSER!

AARON COPLAND 1900–1990

Aaron Copland was born in 1900 in Brooklyn, New York. He did not grow up in a musical family; his parents were Russian immigrants who never even went to a concert. However, when Copland was a teenager, he began to have an interest in music. He learned to play the piano from his older sister Laurine, and in less than one year Copland had learned everything she could teach him.

Aaron began formal music lessons and played in his first concert when he was 15. It was shortly afterwards that he decided to become a composer. When Copland graduated from high school he dreamed of studying music in France, and for the next several years, he saved his money and continued to practice. Finally, in 1921, Copland went to France to study at a new American school for music in Paris. He studied for three years in France, toured Europe, and then returned to New York.



Copland's musical works range from ballet and orchestral music to choral music and movie scores. He wrote music for American audiences with American themes. One of these pieces is *Lincoln Portrait*, a piece about Abraham Lincoln. His most famous works are the ballets *Rodeo* and *Appalachian Spring*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1945.

Aaron Copland's early music mixed very modern musical ideas with the styles of Latin American jazz music. His style began to change during the Great Depression as his concern with modern techniques lessened, and his music emphasized simpler harmonies, broad melodies, and hints of folk melodies. While Copland never abandoned his more adventurous approach, he is best remembered for creating a truly American symphonic style.