

Song: Auld Lang Syne

Traditional Scottish Carol

Brief Context: Poet Robert Burns first penned the verses to "Auld Lang Syne" in 1788, but the song itself is ancient and no one knows when it was first created. The phrase 'auld lang syne' roughly translates to 'for old times' sake,' and the song speaks of preserving old friendships and looking back over the events of the year.

Activity: Singing and engaged discussion

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Auld Lang Syne" video
- Activity sheet
- Lyric sheet

According to the website for Scotland: "It has long been a much-loved Scottish tradition to sing the *Auld Lang Syne* just before midnight. Everyone stands in a circle holding hands, then at the beginning of the final verse ('And there's a hand my trusty friend') they cross their arms across their bodies so that their left hand is holding the hand of the person on their right, and their right hand holds that of the person on their left. When the song ends, everyone rushes to the middle, still holding hands, and probably giggling."

Suggested Prompts:

- What is your New Year's resolution this year?
- Why is this something you'd like to focus on this year?



Song: What Are You Doing New Years? (1947)

Songwriter: Frank Loesser

Brief Context: Frank Loesser — creator of the 1950 musical *Guys and Dolls* — composed the popular “What Are You Doing New Years” in 1947. It was first recorded by Margaret Whiting and has since been recorded by numerous artists, including The Orioles, Frank Sinatra, The Carpenters, and Ella Fitzgerald.

The lyrics depict a person deeply in love with someone who may have other possible suitors. Realizing this, the singer boldly asks, “What are you doing New Year’s Eve?”.

Activity: Singing and engaged discussion

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony “What Are You Doing New Years?” video
- Activity sheet
- Lyric sheet

A New Year’s Eve tradition that a lot of people take part in is receiving a kiss when the clock strikes midnight.

Suggested prompts:

- Have you ever had a crush?
- Have you ever asked out your crush?
 - How did you ask them out?
 - What happened when you did?



Song: I Could Have Danced All Night (1956)
Songwriters: Frederick Loewe & Alan Jay Lerner

Brief Context: "I Could Have Danced All Night" is from the 1956 musical *My Fair Lady* by Broadway team Frederick Loewe (music) and Alan Jay Lerner (lyrics). It is sung by Eliza Doolittle (Julie Andrews, original production) after she dances with her etiquette professor, Henry Higgins (Rex Harrison) in the small hours of the morning. Eliza is giddy with excitement after new-found romantic feelings arise.

Activity: Singing and dancing

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "I Could Have Danced All Night" video
- Activity sheet
- Lyric sheet

Suggested Prompts:

Many people remember listening to big bands and going to dances in their youth. Encourage your partner to dance with you during this song. After all, it's the perfect song to dance to!

- Get up or dance in your favorite chair! If you have a partner, dance with them.



Song: Que Sera, Sera (1956)

Songwriters: Jay Livingston and Ray Evans

Brief Context: Doris Day introduced Livingston and Evans "Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)" in the 1956 Alfred Hitchcock film *The Man Who Knew Too Much*. It became known as one of Doris Day's signature songs and won an Academy Award in 1956 for Best Original Song. The song's lyrics follow the narrator's life through childhood, young adulthood and parenthood. Each time the answer to each question is: "What will be, will be."

Activity: Singing and engaged discussion

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Que Sera, Sera" video
- Activity sheet
- Lyric sheet

Parents and teachers often give wonderful guidance from life lessons they have learned. Let's find out some of the best advice you've received!

Suggested Prompts:

- What advice did your parent give you when you were younger?
 - Did you follow their advice?
- What advice did you give to your children?
 - Did they follow your advice?



Song: Getting to Know You (1951)

**Songwriters: Richard Rodgers &
Oscar Hammerstein II**

***Brief Context:* "Getting to Know You" is a song from the 1951 musical *The King and I* by Rodgers & Hammerstein. In the show, the song is sung by Anna to the wives and children of the King of Siam. Anna has been hired as a governess to the King's court and tries to understand their culture by asking them questions and simply getting to know them.**

***Activity:* Singing and discussion activity**

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Getting to Know You" video
- Activity sheet
- Lyric sheet

Suggested Activity:

Use the "Getting to Know You" activity sheet to learn more about one another!



*The Great American
Songbook Foundation*
Michael Feinstein, Founder

Getting to Know You

Family

Where did you grow up? _____

How many siblings do you have? _____

What is your favorite thing to do with your family? _____

Food

What do you love to eat? _____

Do you prefer sweet or savory? _____

What's your favorite dish to cook?

Music

What kinds of music do you like?

Is there any music you don't like?

Who is your favorite singer?

Getting to Know You

Hobbies

What do you most enjoy doing?

What makes you feel happy? _____

Do you like staying busy or relaxing?

Work

What's the best job you've ever had?

What was your first job? _____

Have you had a lot of jobs? _____

Travel

Where is your favorite place?

Have you ever traveled abroad?

Do you enjoy a relaxing vacation or a busy vacation?
