

# Music & Nature

**"What a Wonderful World"**

**"The Sound of Music"**

**"Ain't No Mountain High Enough"**

**"Tiptoe Through the Tulips"**

**"Moon River"**

## **"All the sounds of the earth are like music..."**

The classic Rodgers & Hammerstein musical [Oklahoma](#) is packed full of timeless melodies that rely on our connection to nature and the land we call home. After all, the title song does proudly proclaim, "We know we belong to the land, and the land we belong to is grand."

As a bonus activity this month, we're including a past rendition of the musical's opening tune, "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'." [Sing along with Nate](#), or even better, plan a movie-musical night to enjoy the full length feature film with all of your favorite musical numbers from "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top" to "The Farmer and the Cowman" and more. Oklahoma! is available for rent on all media platforms and is a crowd pleaser.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com





**Song: "What a Wonderful World" (1967)**  
**Songwriter: Bob Thiele and George David Weiss**

***Brief Context:*** Though it eventually became an enduring standard and topped the charts immediately in the United Kingdom, "What a Wonderful World" performed poorly in the United States when the single (recorded by Louis Armstrong) was originally released in 1967. The song was featured in 1988 in the film *Good Morning, Vietnam* and rose to #32 on the Billboard Hot 100. Eventually, Armstrong's recording was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999, has had several notable renditions, and was even heard on *The Muppets*!

**Activity: Movement (upper body)**

***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "What a Wonderful World" video

***Seated Movement Suggestions***

1. Breathe in and raise arms to the sky
2. Clasp hands to bring down to a prayer position (reverse direction)
3. Present one arm forward and across (repeat other side)
4. Paint a rainbow overhead (repeat other side)
5. Repeat steps 1-4
6. Improvise: Write your name in the air!
7. Gesture twice to one ear (repeat other side)
8. Alternate crossing hands in front of body
9. Push hands up and out
10. Repeat steps 1-4 and take a final bow (gesture in to self and out)

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BALLET



## ***Song: The Sound of Music (1959)***

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

***Brief Context: "The Sound of Music" is the title song from the 1959 musical of the same name by the notable songwriting duo Rodgers and Hammerstein. Patti Page recorded and released the tune the day before the Broadway musical opened to garner the song national attention and it was later sung by Mary Martin in the original Broadway production and Julie Andrews in the 1965 film version. The song was ranked tenth in the American Film Institute's list of the 100 Greatest Songs in Movie History.***

### ***Activity: Listening***

#### ***What do you need?***

- **Perfect Harmony "The Sound of Music" video**

#### ***Fun Fact***

**This opening scene that became one of the most famous in film history was shot from a helicopter and had to be perfectly timed. It is said that one of the crew members hid in the bushes with a megaphone and yelled "Go, Julie" when the helicopter was in the right position. Julie Andrews had great difficulty standing upright because of the jet helicopter's strong downward drafts and was knocked down a good 10 times before they captured the iconic shot!**

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# THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by RICHARD RODGERS

Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

20<sup>th</sup>  
CENTURY-FOX  
presents

RODGERS and HAMMERSTEIN'S

A  
ROBERT  
WISE  
Production

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC



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COLOR  
BY DE LUXE

Starring JULIE ANDREWS · CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER

Co-starring

RICHARD HAYDN

With PEGGY WOOD, CHARMIAN CARR,  
THE BIL BAIRD MARIONETTES

And

ELEANOR PARKER

as "The Baroness"

Associate Producer SAUL CHAPLIN

Directed by

ROBERT WISE

Music by

RICHARD RODGERS

Lyrics by

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Additional Words and Music by Richard Rodgers

Screenplay by

ERNEST LEHMAN

Production Designed by BORIS LEVEN

Produced by Argyle Enterprises, Inc.

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609 Fifth Avenue New York 17, N.Y.

**Sheet music scanned from the Songbook Library & Archives.**

Perfect  
Harmony

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***Song: Ain't No Mountain High Enough (1966)***  
***Songwriter: Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson***

***Brief Context:*** "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" was first successful as a 1967 hit single recorded by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell, but was re-released three years later by Diana Ross (formerly of *The Supremes*). The tune became Ross' first solo No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 and was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance. It is rumored that the songwriters referred to this tune as, "the golden egg" that could be their entry to Motown.

***Activity:*** Movement (breathing and upper body)

***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" video

***Suggested Seated Movement***

1. Sway side to side
2. Inhale while hands expand away from body
3. Exhale while hands move back toward body
4. Push R. hand out to side going in upward motion and then down
5. Push L. hand out to side going in upward motion and then down
6. Both hands tap 2x's = head, shoulders, waist, knees (repeat reverse order)
7. Repeat #4-5 (R/L hand motions)
8. 2 Breaths as in #2
9. 2 Shoulder Rolls
10. Clap 2x's R., Clap 2x's L. (repeat)
11. Repeat #4-5 (R/L hand motions)
12. Sway side to side





***Song: Tiptoe Through the Tulips (1929)***  
***Songwriter: Al Dubin and Joe Burke***

***Brief Context:*** "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" was originally introduced in the musical "talkie" film *Gold Diggers of Broadway*. After its debut, Nick Lucas' recording held the number one position on the charts for ten weeks. In addition to appearing in the first Looney Tunes cartoon short in 1930, among several other notable uses, the tune eventually became Tiny Tim's signature song after his 1968 recording, which became a novelty hit known for its unique, high-pitched falsetto vocals.

***Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion***

***What do you need?***

- "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" Perfect Harmony video
- "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" lyrics sheet

***Suggested Discussion Prompts***

- Do you have a favorite flower? (examples if needed: roses, daffodils, tulips, sunflowers, carnations)
- Tell someone about a field of flowers you'd like to dance through.





# **Tiptoe Through the Tulips**

**Tiptoe to the window**

**By the window, that is where I'll be**

**Come tiptoe through the tulips with me**

**Tiptoe from your pillow**

**To the shadow of the willow tree**

**And tiptoe through the tulips with me**

**Knee deep in flowers we'll stray**

**We'll keep the showers away**

**And if I kiss you in the garden, in the moonlight**

**Will you pardon me?**

**Come tiptoe through the tulips with me**

**Knee deep in flowers we'll stray**

**We'll keep the showers away**

**And if I kiss you in the garden, in the moonlight**

**Will you pardon me?**

**Come tiptoe through the tulips with me**



**Song: Moon River (1960)**  
**Songwriters: Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer**

***Brief Context:*** "Moon River" was originally composed by Henry Mancini with lyrics by Johnny Mercer for the 1961 film *Breakfast at Tiffany's* featuring Audrey Hepburn. After performing "Moon River" at the 1962 Oscars, Andy Williams made it his theme song, naming his production company and theater after it, his memoir, and singing it at the beginning of every episode of *The Andy Williams Show* from 1962 to 1971. In April the Library of Congress selected Andy's version of "Moon River" for the National Recording Registry.

***Activity:*** Listening

***What do you need?***

- "Moon River" Perfect Harmony video
- "Moon River" lyrics sheet

***Archives Connection:***

The iconic version Andy Williams rendition of "Moon River" arranged by Dave Grusin is only one of many versions of the song held in the Songbook Foundation's Andy Williams Collection: it is also featured in a "moon medley" arranged by Nelson Riddle, a version by Jeremy Lubbock, and a big band arrangement by Artie Butler used in London for [\*Strictly Come Dancing\*](#) in 2009. View a snapshot on the next page.

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**Image of "Moon River"  
arrangement from The Andy  
Williams Collection housed  
in the Songbook Library &  
Archives**