

# Summer Road Trip

A Theme Made Possible by the Songbook Academy®

"Don't Know Why" | LISTENING

"I Can See Clearly Now" | SINGING & DISCUSSION

"Surfin' U.S.A." | MOVEMENT

"Movin' Right Along" | SINGING

"Landslide" | SINGING & DISCUSSION

## Songs for the Open Road

There's something magical about a great road trip soundtrack. Whether you're cruising with the windows down, singing along with friends, or enjoying the scenery on a summer drive, music has a way of making the journey even more memorable.

This month's Perfect Harmony program celebrates the songs that accompany us along the way. Performed by talented alumni of the [Songbook Academy](#), these selections invite us to turn up the volume, reflect, and enjoy the adventure, wherever the road may lead.

So buckle up, sing along, and enjoy the ride!



**Song: "Don't Know Why" (1999)**

**Songwriter: Jesse Harris**

***Brief Context:***

"Don't Know Why" was written by singer-songwriter Jesse Harris and first appeared on his 1999 album with his band, *Jesse Harris & the Ferdinandos*. The song became a worldwide hit when Norah Jones recorded it for her debut album, *Come Away with Me*, in 2002. With its smooth blend of jazz, pop, and folk influences, "Don't Know Why" helped launch Jones' career and earned three GRAMMY Awards in 2003, including Record of the Year and Song of the Year. Today, it remains one of her most recognizable and beloved recordings.

***Activity: Listening***

***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "Don't Know Why" video ([YOUTUBE](#))

***"Taking the Scenic Route" Reflection Activity:***

In "Don't Know Why," the singer wonders about the road not taken. In life, however, unexpected detours and changes in direction often lead to adventures we never could have planned.

Think about a time when you took a detour, changed your plans, or went somewhere unexpected. On a sheet of paper, write a few sentences about what happened and where the experience led you. Did you discover something new, meet someone special, or create a favorite memory?

If you'd like, decorate your story with a simple drawing of the road, destination, or adventure you experienced along the way.



**Song: "I Can See Clearly Now" (1972)**

**Songwriter: Johnny Nash**

***Brief Context:***

Written and recorded by Johnny Nash, "I Can See Clearly Now" was released in 1972 and became a No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100. Blending pop and reggae influences, the song's upbeat melody and optimistic message quickly made it a favorite with audiences around the world. The song was inspired by a sense of renewal after difficult times, celebrating the feeling of obstacles disappearing and brighter days ahead. With its message of hope, resilience, and fresh beginnings, "I Can See Clearly Now" has remained a beloved classic for more than 50 years and continues to inspire listeners of all ages.

***Activity: Singing and Discussion***

***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "I Can See Clearly Now" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "I Can See Clearly Now" lyrics

***Suggested Discussion***

"I Can See Clearly Now" is a song about hope, optimism, and brighter days ahead.

Take a moment to think about something you are looking forward to or feeling hopeful about. It could be an upcoming event, a visit with family or friends, a favorite activity, or a personal goal.

Share your answer with another person and invite them to share something they are looking forward to as well.



# **I Can See Clearly Now**

**I can see clearly now, the rain is gone**

**I can see all obstacles in my way**

**Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind**

**It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright) sun-shiny day**

**It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright) sun-shiny day**

**I think I can make it now, the pain is gone**

**All of the bad feelings have disappeared**

**Here is the rainbow I've been prayin' for**

**It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright) sun-shiny day**

**Look all around, there's nothin' but blue skies**

**Look straight ahead, nothin' but blue skies**

**I can see clearly now, the rain is gone**

**I can see all obstacles in my way**

**Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind**

**It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright) sun-shiny day**

**It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright) sun-shiny day**

**Oh, what a bright, bright**

**Sun-shiny day**

**Song: "Surfin' U.S.A." (1963)**

**Songwriter: Chuck Berry and Brian Wilson**

***Brief Context:***

Released in 1963, "Surfin' U.S.A." was one of the Beach Boys' first major hits and helped define the group's signature California sound. Written by Brian Wilson and inspired by Chuck Berry's "Sweet Little Sixteen," the song celebrates surfing culture, sunshine, and the carefree spirit of youth.

With its catchy melody and references to famous surfing destinations, "Surfin' U.S.A." introduced audiences around the world to the beach lifestyle of Southern California. More than 60 years later, it remains one of the most recognizable songs of the surf rock era and a classic anthem of summer fun.

***Activity: Movement***

***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "Surfin' U.S.A." video ([YOUTUBE](#))

***Suggested Seated Movement***

**Follow Perfect Harmony leader William or create your own seated movement!**

***Use movements like . . .***

- Relaxed surfer bounce with head bops on each beat
- Alternating heel digs
- Alternating ear-to-shoulder stretches with hands near head



## **Song: "Movin' Right Along" (1979)**

**Songwriter: Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher**

### ***Brief Context:***

"Movin' Right Along" was written by Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher for *The Muppet Movie* (1979). In the film, Kermit the Frog and Fozzie Bear sing the upbeat duet as they begin their cross-country journey to California, celebrating friendship, adventure, and the excitement of the open road. With its catchy melody and playful lyrics, the song has become a fan favorite and remains one of the most memorable musical moments from *The Muppet Movie*. Its joyful spirit makes it a perfect anthem for any road trip.

### ***Activity: Singing***

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

- Perfect Harmony "Listen to the Music" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "Listen to the Music" lyrics

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

The Songbook Library & Archives is home to materials from the collection of arranger and choral director Ray Charles (not the singer!). During his remarkable 80-year career, Ray worked on television specials featuring stars like Perry Como, John Denver, Bob Hope, and even The Muppets. His collection includes behind-the-scenes photographs that help preserve a unique piece of Muppet history.

[Learn more about Ray Charles!](#)



# **Movin' Right Along**

**Movin' right along in search of good times and good news**

**With good friends you can't lose**

**This could become a habit!**

**Opportunity knocks once let's reach out and grab it**

**Together we'll nab it**

**We'll hitchhike, bus or yellow cab it!**

**Movin' right along**

**Footloose and fancy-free**

**Getting there is half the fun, come share it with me**

**Moving right along (doog-a-doon doog-a-doon)**

**We'll learn to share the load**

**We don't need a map to keep this show on the road**

**Movin' right along, we've found a life on the highway**

**And your way is my way**

**So trust my navigation**

**California here we come, the pie-in-the-sky-land**

**Palm trees, and warm sand**

**Though sadly we just left Rhode Island**

**Movin' right along (doog-a-doon doog-a-doon)**

**Hey LA, where've you gone?**

# **Movin' Right Along**

**Send someone to fetch us, were in Saskatchewan!**

**Movin' right along (doog-a-doon doog-a-doon)**

**You take it, you know best**

**Hey, I've never seen the sun come up in the West?**

**Movin' right along we're truly birds of a feather**

**We're in this together**

**And we know where we're going**

**Movie stars with flashy cars and life with the top down**

**We're storming the big town**

**Yeah, storm is right, should it be snowing?**

**Movin' right along,**

**Do I see signs of men?**

**Yeah, "welcome" on the same post that says "come back again"**

**Moving right along**

**Footloose and fancy-free**

**You're ready for the big time**

**Is it ready for me?**

**Movin' right along**

**Movin' right along**

**Movin' right along**

**Movin' right along**

**Song: "Landslide" (1975)**

**Songwriter: Stevie Nicks**

***Brief Context:***

Written by Stevie Nicks and released on Fleetwood Mac's 1975 album *Fleetwood Mac*, "Landslide" was inspired by a period of uncertainty and self-reflection in Nicks' life as she considered her future and career. Looking out at the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, she began writing about change, growth, and the passage of time. With its heartfelt lyrics and simple acoustic arrangement, "Landslide" has become one of Fleetwood Mac's most beloved songs. Its message about navigating life's changes continues to resonate with listeners across generations.

***Activity: Singing and Discussion***

***What do you need?***

- Perfect Harmony "Landslide" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "Landslide" lyrics

***Suggested Discussion***

"Landslide" reflects on change, growth, and the experiences that shape who we become.

Think about a moment in your life that changed your perspective, taught you an important lesson, or helped you grow as a person. Share your story with another person and talk about how that experience influenced the person you are today.



# **Landslide**

**I took my love, I took it down**

**Climbed a mountain and I turned around**

**And I saw my reflection in the snow covered hills**

**'Til the landslide brought me down**

**Oh, mirror in the sky, what is love?**

**Can the child within my heart rise above?**

**Can I sail through the changin' ocean tides?**

**Can I handle the seasons of my life?**

**Mm, I don't know**

**Mm**

**Well, I've been afraid of changin'**

**'Cause I've built my life around you**

**But time makes you bolder**

**Children get older**

**And I'm gettin' older, too**

**I'm gettin' older, too**

**Take this love, take it down**

**Oh, if you climb a mountain and you turn around**

# **Landslide**

**And if you see my reflection in the snow covered hills**

**Well, the landslide will bring it down, down**

**If you see my reflection in the snow covered hills**

**And the landslide will bring it down**

**Well, well the landslide will bring it down**