

Charlie Over the Ocean

Children's Folk Song

Energetic

Harold Courlander

5

Char - lie o - ver the o - cean Char - lie o - ver the sea

Char - lie caught a big fish Can't catch me

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, with lyrics 'Char - lie o - ver the o - cean Char - lie o - ver the sea'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'Char - lie caught a big fish Can't catch me'. A small number '5' is written above the second staff. The notes are simple eighth and quarter notes, with a key signature of one flat (Bb).



History

This song is believed to be of *African American* origin. The first location of it was in Harold Courlander's "Negro Folk Music of Alabama", which is a collection of music he recorded in rural *Alabama* in 1950. The song is typically performed by children in call and response style and in a circle formation.

Exercise

A leader will be selected from the class. The group will sit in a circle on the floor and the leader will stand outside of it. The leader is going to sing the first line then the group is going to sing it back, continuing this *call and response style* for the rest of the song. While this occurs, the leader will walk around the outside of the circle until the end of the song at which point they will tap the classmate they are closest to and race them around the circle to the spot where that classmate was sitting. If the leader makes it back first the classmate becomes the leader and the leader takes the classmate's place, but if the classmate makes it back first the leader remains the leader and the classmate returns to their place.