

## DOWN THE RIVER (DOWN THE OHIO)

# Down the River

American folk song  
arr. Beth Thompson

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The ri-ver is up and the chan-nel is deep, the wind is stea-dy and strong... Oh, won't we have a

6 C G D G Refrain C  
jol - ly good time as we go sail-ing a - long. Down the ri - ver, oh, down the ri - ver, oh,

11 D G C D G  
down the ri-ver we go. Down the ri-ver, oh, down the ri-ver, oh down the O - hi - o!

The river is up, and the channel is deep,  
The wind is steady and strong.  
O Dinah put the hoe-cake on,  
As we go sailing along. *Refrain*

**Harmony** – Recorder countermelody (see Orff arrangement below) with notes G,A,B,D'

**Rhythm / Meter** in 6/8 – Practice 6/8 rhythm patterns by layering the ostinati (see below) with body percussion and/or unpitched percussion instruments. (See also the rhythm visuals.)

**Dance / Play-Party Game** – Students stand in two lines with partners facing each other.

- Measures 1-2 - step forward three steps on dotted quarter note beat, then clap hands twice with partner on measure 2, beats 3 & 4 (words “is deep”)
- Measures 3-4 – step back three steps, clap own hands twice on measure 4, beats 3 & 4
- Measures 5-8 – step forward 7 steps, passing partner’s right shoulder and switching places with partner. Clap own hands twice on measure 8, beats 3 & 4
- Refrain: Measures 9-12 - first couple sashays down the alley, others clap on beat
- Measures 13-16 – second couple sashays down the alley

Variation: first couple goes down the alley in the method they wish (crawl, walk backwards, skip, etc.) Second couple must copy.

Down the River - Orff Arrangement

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The musical score is arranged in three systems. Each system includes a vocal line and three Orff instrument parts: Recorder, Glock, and Xyl. The first system covers the first two lines of the score. The second system covers the next two lines. The third system covers the final two lines. The vocal line lyrics are: "The ri-ver is up and the chan-nel is deep, the wind is stea-dy and strong. Oh, won'twe have a jol-ly good time as we go sail-ing a-long. Down the ri-ver, oh, down the ri-ver, oh, down the ri-ver we go. Down the ri-ver, oh, down the ri-ver, oh down the O-hi-o!" The Orff parts provide harmonic support with chords and rhythmic patterns.

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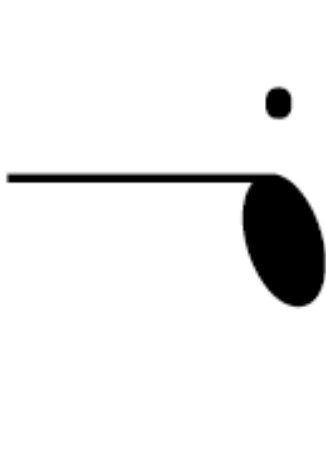
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1  
Down the ri - - ver

2  
Ri - ver is up and the chan - nel is deep

3  
Down the O - hi - o



Down



the



ri

-



ver





Down the O - hi

