

# LAND OF THE SILVER BIRCH

Song in Cm

## LAND OF THE SILVER BIRCH

CANADIAN FOLK SONG

arr. BETH THOMPSON

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Land of the sil ver birch, home of the beav-er, Where still the might-y moose wand-ers at will.

Blue lake and rock - y shore, I will re - turn once more. Boom di-dee boom boom,

Boom di - dee boom boom, Boom di - dee boom boom, boom.

Song in Dm

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## **Melody - Minor**

- Students play a DA bordun on xylophones while singing.

## **Rhythm**

- **Steady Beat**
  - Students play the steady beat on hand drums or a gathering drum.
- **Eighth / Sixteenth combination**
  - Students play the “Boom di-dee boom boom” rhythms with alternating hands on drums, guiros, maracas, or cabasas.

Land of the Silver Birch – Rhythm Visuals



Boom di-dee



boom boom



Boom

# Land of the Silver Birch – Orff Arrangement

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Land of the sil-ver birch, home of the beav-er, Where still the might-y moose wand-ers at will.

Shaker/  
Bells

Drum

Bass  
Xyl

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of the Orff arrangement. It features a vocal line in G major (one flat) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "Land of the sil-ver birch, home of the beav-er, Where still the might-y moose wand-ers at will." Below the vocal line are three instrumental parts: Shaker/Bells, Drum, and Bass Xyl. The Shaker/Bells part consists of eighth notes with a '7' symbol above them. The Drum part consists of quarter notes. The Bass Xyl part consists of quarter notes.

Blue lake and rock - y shore, I will re - turn once more. Boom di-dee boom boom,

Sh/B

D

BX

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of the Orff arrangement. The lyrics are: "Blue lake and rock - y shore, I will re - turn once more. Boom di-dee boom boom,". Below the vocal line are three instrumental parts: Sh/B, D, and BX. The Sh/B part consists of quarter notes with a '7' symbol above them. The D part consists of quarter notes. The BX part consists of quarter notes.

Boom di - dee boom boom, Boom di - dee boom boom, boom.

Sh/B

D

BX

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of the Orff arrangement. The lyrics are: "Boom di - dee boom boom, Boom di - dee boom boom, boom." Below the vocal line are three instrumental parts: Sh/B, D, and BX. The Sh/B part consists of quarter notes with a '7' symbol above them. The D part consists of quarter notes. The BX part consists of quarter notes.

Partner Songs - Land of the Silver Birch / My Paddle's Keen and Bright

# LAND OF THE SILVER BIRCH MY PADDLE'S KEEN AND BRIGHT

FOLK SONG  
M.E. MCGEE  
arr. BETH THOMPSON  
© bethsnotes.com

Dm

Land of the sil - ver birch, home of the beav - er, Where still the might - y moose  
My pad - dle's keen and bright, flash ing with sil - ver Fol - low the wild goose flight,  
wand - ers at will. Blue lake and rock - y shore, I will re - turn once more.  
dip dip and swing. Dip dip and swing her back, flash - ing with sil - ver  
Boom di - dee boom boom, Boom di - dee boom boom, Boom di - dee boom boom, Boom.  
far as the wild goose flies, dip dip and swing.

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of two staves each. The first system is for the song 'Land of the Silver Birch' and the second system is for 'My Paddle's Keen and Bright'. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The score includes a 'Dm' chord marking above the first measure of the first system. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Partner songs are so great for helping students sing in 2 parts! For a concert, consider having all students sing the first song, then the second song, then put the songs together the third time through.

## Land of the Silver Birch / My Paddle's Keen and Bright – Orff Arrangement

### Orff parts

- The simple bordun (D/A on xylophone) can be played on the first beat of each measure by the same xylophones, or you can make it more interesting by dividing your xylophones into lower-pitched xylophones (bass, alto) and higher pitched xylophones (soprano), or even glockenspiels also – and then they take turns playing (see example below).
- The drum part could also be simplified by only playing on the quarter note steady beat, which is actually very true to the Native American style. Consider using a gathering drum with one soft mallet for each student.
- The shaker / bells part is to emulate the sounds of the Native American ankle bells. The wrist bells would work for this, or even maracas would be fine.
- Rhythm: Use the contrast between the quarter note steady beat drum part (see bullet point #2 above) and the half note shaker / bells part to teach the difference between quarter note and half note durations.

## LAND OF THE SILVER BIRCH MY PADDLE'S KEEN AND BRIGHT

FOLK SONG  
M.E. MCGEE  
arr. BETH THOMPSON  
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The musical score is arranged in five staves. The top two staves are vocal lines in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "Land of the sil-ver birch, home of the beav-er, Where still the might-y moose My pad-dle's keen and bright flash-ing with sil-ver, Fol-low the wild goose flight,". The third staff is for Shaker/Bells, showing a half-note rhythm. The fourth staff is for Drum, showing a quarter-note steady beat. The fifth staff is for xylophone, divided into Soprano (Sop Xyl) and Bass (Bass Xyl) parts, with the bass part playing a simple bordun rhythm.

wand-ers at will. Blue lake and rock - y shore, I will re - turn once more.

dip dip and swing. Dip dip and swing her back flash ing with sil - ver

Sh/B

D

SX

BX

Boom di-dee boom boom, Boom di-dee boom boom, Boom di-dee boom boom, boom.

Far as the wildgoose flies, dip dip and swing.

Sh/B

D

SX

BX

Land of the Silver Birch / My Paddle's Keen and Bright – Rhythm Visuals



