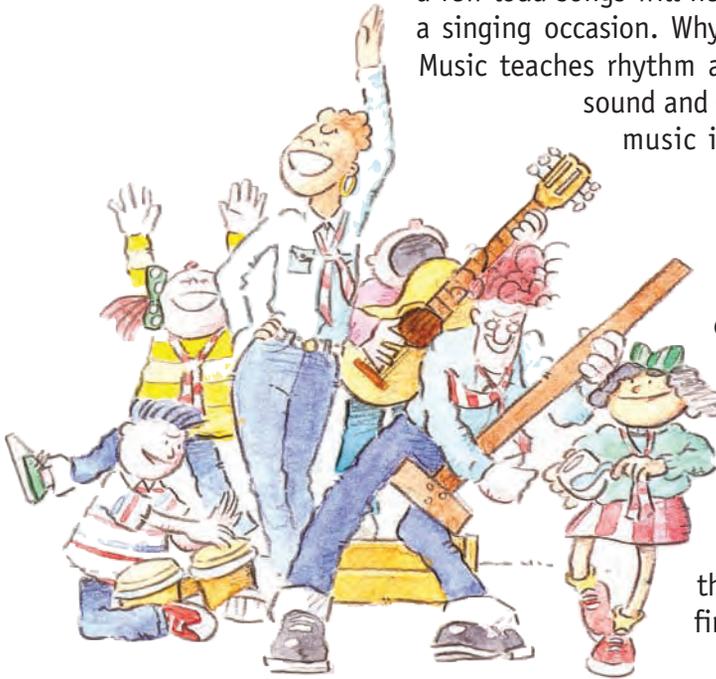


# Chapter 11 - Music

You can plan singing anywhere and anytime in Cubs. If your meeting goes a little faster than expected, add a song or two at the end. Maybe you have a busload of restless Cubs on their way to or from camp; a few loud songs will help keep up their spirits. A campfire is always a singing occasion. Why do we have music as part of the program? Music teaches rhythm and movement. Everyone contributes to the sound and shares the emotion the song releases. In fact, music is probably the easiest of Cubbing's seven elements to fit into your program.



If you're hesitant to introduce music because you think your voice isn't good enough, you don't know enough songs, or the Cubs may not enjoy it, relax. Cubs love singing. They do it all the time. You only need to know one or two songs to start; other leaders and your Cubs will teach you more. And you don't need a melodic voice, just enough enthusiasm and nerve to try it the first time. Once you take the plunge, you'll find it easy and fun.

## Getting Started

A good way to start is to sing a couple of songs before your closing ceremony. Talk it over with other leaders first, and teach them your songs so they can support you.

The first time you sing, try funny or action songs. "The Quartermaster's Store" is a favourite. Your Cubs will like it and add dozens of verses.

An action version of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" is another simple possibility. For every word that starts with "B," ask singers to stand if sitting, or to sit if standing.

"Alouette" is easy and popular. If you're not sure you'll remember all the "Je te plumerai's", write them on a slip of paper to hold in your hand.

Get into the singsong by asking Cubs to squat or sit. Casually say something like, "Since we have a few minutes left before closing, let's sing a couple of songs." Introduce the first song. If most of them know it, your task will be easy because you won't have to go through it verse by verse. Simply start singing, and the Cubs and leaders will join in after the first word or two.

If you choose an action song, make the actions simple enough that you don't have to spend a lot of time explaining them. Sing the song through once without actions, tell them what the actions are, and start singing it again with actions. They're almost sure to follow your example.

After the first song, ask the Cubs to suggest another rather than launching into your second selection. If they suggest one, sing their song as a group and save yours for the next meeting.

## Song Sources

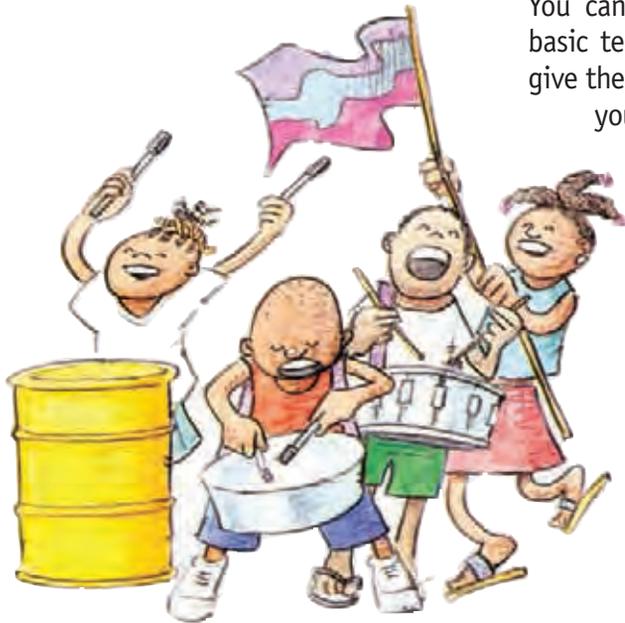
Scouts Canada publishes two excellent books, *The Song Book* and *The Campfire Book*. It also produces a Campfire Singalong CD and cassette. Your public library almost certainly has several children's song books, CDs or tapes as well. It's more difficult to learn a song from a book, especially if you don't read music, but you probably know one or two friends able to play or sing the tune for you.

When you hear songs you like, try to write down the words and go over the tunes until you know them by heart.

The Scouters' Club is another great song source. Suggest that you devote one meeting to a singsong or end every meeting with a song or two. Fellow Scouters represent an enormous reservoir of songs; find a way to tap it.

Visit Scouts Canada's web site ([www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca)) for links to some excellent web sites for songs.

## Leading and Learning



You can use one of many song-leading techniques, but the basic technique involves simply waving your arms in time to give the pack the rhythm. It's a good idea to walk around while you're leading. Face each group of Cubs in turn and use eyes, voice, and gestures to encourage them to sing out.

The easiest way to teach a new song is to break it into chunks. For example, sing the first verse, then say the words. Ask your Cubs to say the words along with you, then have them sing the verse. When they've learned each verse this way, sing the whole song through. For some songs, you might want to sing the verses alone and teach only the chorus.

For a new action song, teach the words without actions, then add actions.

After the pack has learned a song, it can be fun to divide them into groups and have each group sing part of it. Tell them what you're doing, then point to the first group to signal them to sing the first line or two. Go around the circle pointing to each group in turn. When they've got the idea, point to groups in any order, so your Cubs have to keep alert to recognize when it's their turn.

When leading a round such as "Frère Jacques," have your Cubs learn it in unison first, then point to each group when it's their turn to start. Although you can lead a round by yourself, it's a good idea to appoint a leader for each group to get them started and keep them going.

Experiment with variations on the basic round. Do this by sometimes combining different songs to make a surprising and pleasing harmony. Try this:

- Group 1:** Sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" once through, and start again.
- Group 2:** Sing "Frère Jacques" with the second go-around of "Row, Row..."
- Group 1:** Repeat "Row, Row..." while Group 2 repeats "Frère Jacques", and Group 3 enters in with "Three Blind Mice."

Singing like this is easiest if you have a leader for each group, but if no one volunteers you can lead the whole thing yourself.

## Song Type Definitions:

- Round** – characterized by having a part of the group singing one part and the other part singing another, then switching.
- Action** – characterized by performing actions in concert with the song.
- Repeat** – the group repeats the song leader's words back in chorus.
- Quiet** – typically a song that can be sung quietly and will help settle down the group.
- Spiritual** – incorporates a spiritual theme or message.

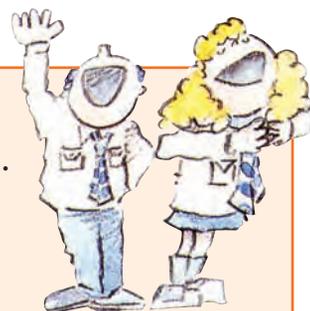
To illustrate different types of song, many of the following songs have been identified if it's a round, action, repeat, quiet or spiritual song.

## Songs to Get You Started

### Found a Peanut (Tune: Clementine)

Found a peanut, found a peanut,  
Found a peanut last night,  
Last night I found a peanut,  
Found a peanut last night.  
Ate the peanut...

Got a stomach ache...  
Called the doctor...  
Doctor saw me...  
Cut me open...  
Sewed me up again...



Repeat the verses as often as desired, making up others for added fun.

### Alouette (Repeat Song Type)

**Leader:** Alouette, gentille Alouette,  
Alouette, je te plumerai;  
**All:** Alouette, gentille Alouette,  
Alouette, je te plumerai;

**Leader:** Je te plumerai la tête,  
**All:** Je te plumerai la tête,  
**Leader:** Et la tête,  
**All:** Et la tête,  
**Leader:** Alouett',  
**All:** Alouett' Ah!  
**All:** Alouette, gentille Alouette,  
Alouette, je te plumerai!  
Je te plumerai le bec...  
Je te plumerai le nez...  
Je te plumerai le dos...  
Je te plumerai les pattes...  
Je te plumerai le cou...

**The Bear Went Over The Mountain** (Tune: We Won't Get Home Until Morning)

The bear went over the mountain,  
The bear went over the mountain,  
The bear went over the mountain  
To see what he could see.  
And all that he could see,

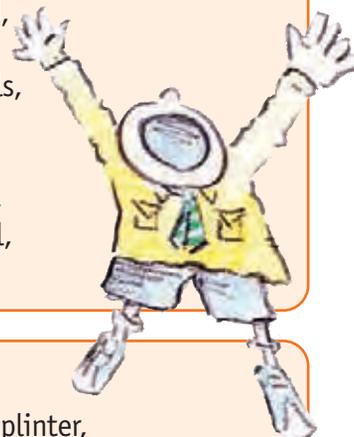
And all that he could see,  
Was the other side of the mountain,  
The other side of the mountain,  
The other side of the mountain,  
Was all that he could see.



**On Top of Spaghetti** (Tune: On Top of Old Smokey)

On top of spaghetti,  
All covered with cheese,  
I lost my poor meatball,  
When somebody sneezed.  
It rolled off the table,  
And onto the floor,  
And then my poor meatball,  
Rolled out of the door.  
It rolled in the garden,  
And under a bush,  
And then my poor meatball,  
Was nothing but mush.

The mush was as tasty,  
As tasty could be,  
And then the next summer,  
It grew into a tree.  
The tree was all covered,  
All covered with moss,  
And on it grew meatballs,  
And tomato sauce.  
So if you eat spaghetti,  
All covered with cheese,  
Hold onto your meatball,  
Lest somebody sneeze.



**Clementine**

In a cavern, in a canyon,  
Excavating for a mine,  
Dwelt a miner, forty-niner,  
And his daughter, Clementine.

(Chorus)  
Oh, my darling, Oh, my darling,  
Oh, my darling, Clementine!  
You are lost and gone forever,  
Dreadful sorry, Clementine.

Light she was and like a fairy,  
And her shoes were number nine;  
Herring boxes, without topses,  
Sandals were for Clementine.

Drove she ducklings to the water,  
Ev'ry morning just at nine;

Hit her foot against a splinter,  
Fell into the foaming brine.

Ruby lips above the water,  
Blowing bubbles soft and fine;  
But alas! I was no swimmer,  
So I lost my Clementine.

In a corner of the churchyard,  
Where the myrtle boughs entwine,  
Grow the roses in their posies  
Fertilized by Clementine.

How I missed her, how I missed her,  
How I missed my Clementine!  
But I kissed her little sister,  
And forgot my Clementine.



### She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain (Action Song Type)

Actions for this song involve tooting a train whistle (toot, toot), and rubbing your tummy (yum, yum)



She'll be coming round the mountain  
When she comes (toot, toot),  
She'll be coming round the mountain  
When she comes (toot, toot),  
She'll be coming round the mountain,  
She'll be coming round the mountain,  
She'll be coming round the mountain  
When she comes (toot, toot).

We will all have apple dumplings  
When she comes (yum, yum),  
We will all have apple dumplings  
When she comes (yum, yum),  
We will all have apple dumplings,  
We will all have apple dumplings,  
We will all have apple dumplings  
When she comes.  
(toot, toot, yum, yum).



### Ging Gang Gooli (Round Song Type)

Ging gang gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, watcha.  
Ging gang goo, Ging gang goo.  
Ging gang gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, watcha.  
Ging gang goo, Ging gang goo.

Heyla, heyla, sheyla,  
Heyla sheyla, heylo ho.  
Heyla, heylo, sheyla,  
Heylo sheyla, heylo ho.



**Note:** Organize your group in two parts for the chorus; one half sings "Oompa, Oompa, Oompa," while the other sings the chorus, then the two parts change sides. At the end, everyone sings "Shalli-walli, Shalli-walli, Shalli-walli, Shalli-walli."

### The Quartermaster's Store

There's cheese, cheese,  
with shocking dirty knees,  
In the store, in the store,  
There's cheese, cheese,  
with shocking dirty knees  
In the Quartermaster's Store.

(Chorus)  
My eyes are dim, I cannot see,  
I have not brought my specs with me,  
I have not brought my specs with me.



There's eggs... on little bandy legs.  
There's steak... that keeps us all awake.  
There's lard... they sell it by the yard.  
There's bread... like great big lumps of lead.  
There's kippers... that go about in slippers.  
There's cakes... that give us tummy aches.  
There's beans... as big as submarines.

Cubs will enjoy making up their own creative verses. Let them try, just for the fun.

### Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes (Action Song Type)

(Tune: There is a Tavern in the Town)

Head and shoulders, knees and toes,  
Knees and toes, knees and toes,  
Head and shoulders, knees and toes,  
Eyes, ears, mouth and nose.



As your Cubs sing this song, get them to place their hands on each part of the body mentioned. The second time through, leave out the word "head" and just do the action. The third time, leave out the words "head" and "shoulders" and just do the actions, and so on.

### Boom Chicka Boom (Repeat Song Type)

(Repeat each line after leader)



Boom Chica Boom

I said Boom Chica Boom

I said Boom Chica Rocka  
Chica Rocka Chica Boom

Uh Huh

Oh Yah

**This time:**

- Faster (repeat entire song faster)
- Louder (repeat entire song loudly)
- Squeaky (repeat in a squeaky voice)
- Macho (repeat in a manly voice)
- Underwater (repeat while flapping lips with finger)
- Add other variations as you wish.



### The Paddle Song (Quiet Song Type)

Our paddles' keen and bright,  
Flashing like silver,  
Swift as the wild goose flight,  
Dip, dip and swing.

Dip, dip and swing them back,  
Flashing like silver,

Swift as the wild goose flight,  
Dip, dip and swing.

*Throughout the song, one group can sing,  
Dip, dip and swing.  
At the end of each verse, the groups can switch.*



### Taps (Spiritual Song Type)

(Variation)

Great spirit come; beat the drum,  
Journey now, with each one, through the dark,

Take our hands; lead us all  
Safely home.



### Are You Sleeping? (Quiet Song Type)

Are you sleeping, are you sleeping,  
Brother John, Brother John?  
Morning bells are ringing,  
Morning bells are ringing:  
Ding, ding, dong; ding, ding, dong.

French: Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,  
Dormez-vous? Dormez-vous?  
Sonnez les matines, sonnez les matines,  
Ding dong ding, ding dong ding.

Dutch: Vader Jacob, Vader Jacob,  
Slaapjy noq? Slaapjy noq?  
Alle klokken luiden

Alle klokken luiden  
Bim, Bam, Bom.

Spanish: Companero, companero,  
Duerme ya? Duerme ya?  
Toca la campana,  
Toca la campana,  
Din, dam, dom.

German: Vater Jacob, Vater Jacob,  
Schläfst du jetzt? Schläfst du jetzt?  
Alle glocken klingen  
Alle glocken klingen  
Bim, Bom, Bim.



**Bear Wisdom:** Looking for more songs and ideas? See Scouts Canada's *The Campfire Book*, *Best of the Leader Cut-Out Pages* and *The Song Book* for more songs and skits.

## Strike Up the Band

Add to your pack's musical fun by using rhythm instruments occasionally. *The Cub Book* provides directions for making some simple instruments; you'll find other ideas in craft books at the library or on the Web.

Plan a craft session to make one or two instruments, then use them in a singsong at the end of your meeting. Or ask each Cub to bring a noisemaker to your next gathering. You might even suggest that the Cubs choose something you wouldn't normally consider to be a musical instrument. A steel carpenter's level, for example, sounds remarkably like a navigation buoy bell when you strike it with a spoon. It makes a good accompaniment for a sea chanty.



### Tambourines

To make a sturdy tambourine, glue together two paper plates, one inside the other. Punch holes at regular intervals around the rim to attach bells. Paint plates with poster paint. Tie ribbon or yarn streamers to each bell. Attach bells to the tambourine with ribbon or wire.



## Metal Rattles

You need a tin with a removable lid (e.g. a baking powder can). Screw or nail a dowel about 10 cm long to the lid. Put small stones or beans inside the tin, replace the cover and seal it closed. Paint your rattles a bright, cheerful colour.

## Maracas

Save cardboard tubes from toilet rolls and bring them to your meeting. Cover one end of a tube with heavy paper or aluminum foil. Put some rice or dried peas inside, and cover the other end. Finish the instrument by wrapping foil around the entire tube.

## Rhythm Sticks

Make your rhythm sticks from 1.3 cm (1/2 inch) dowelling cut about 30 cm long. Smooth the rough edges with sandpaper, and paint on a design or just coat with varnish. Click them together in rhythm with your music.

## Claves

Calypso and Spanish claves are wider and shorter than most rhythm sticks. You need 2.5 cm dowelling cut 20 cm long. Coat the wood with a dark finish. To play, cup one stick in your hand and hit it with the other.

## Drums

Cylinders ranging in size from nail kegs to small cans make fine drums. If you have a keg, stretch a circular piece of inner tubing over the open end. To hold it in place, cut across inner tubes to make strips that look like big elastic bands.

Tom-toms are very popular drums. To make one, remove both ends of a number 10 can. Cut two circular pieces of inner tubing 5 to 8 cm larger than the end of the tin and punch holes around the edges of both. Cover each end of the can with a piece of rubber. Tightly lace together the two pieces with leather thong or heavy cord.

## Clop Blocks

You need two wooden blocks and two pieces of fine sandpaper. Nail or glue sandpaper to one side of each block. Rub together the sandpaper to make the sound of a moving train. Turn over the blocks and clap them together to beat a rhythm or to imitate a clopping horse.



## Jingle Bells

Sew small bells to strips of plastic, cloth or ribbon, and tie them around ankles or wrists. Add bells to rattles and other instruments. Your Cubs will love these.

## Jingle Ring

Hundreds of years ago, the jingle ring was a much-used instrument. A wooden embroidery hoop is an ideal frame.

Prepare a dozen bottle caps by washing them. Remove the cork or plastic liner, then hammer the caps flat, and drill a hole in the centre of each. Attach the caps to the hoop in pairs with coloured string. Wind crêpe paper around the hoop for decoration.

Thread several bottle caps on string around the inside of the hoop, and pull taut to make a square of string inside the circle.

## Washtub Bass

Drill a hole in the centre bottom of an ordinary washtub, and insert an eyebolt with washers and nuts on either side of the opening.

Cut off a broom handle or hockey stick. In one end of the stick, cut a notch to fit over the rim of the tub. Insert an eye screw at the other end.

Tie a piece of wire or clothesline rope to the eyebolt and attach the other end to the top of the handle so the string is tight when you hold the handle at right angles to the top of the tub.

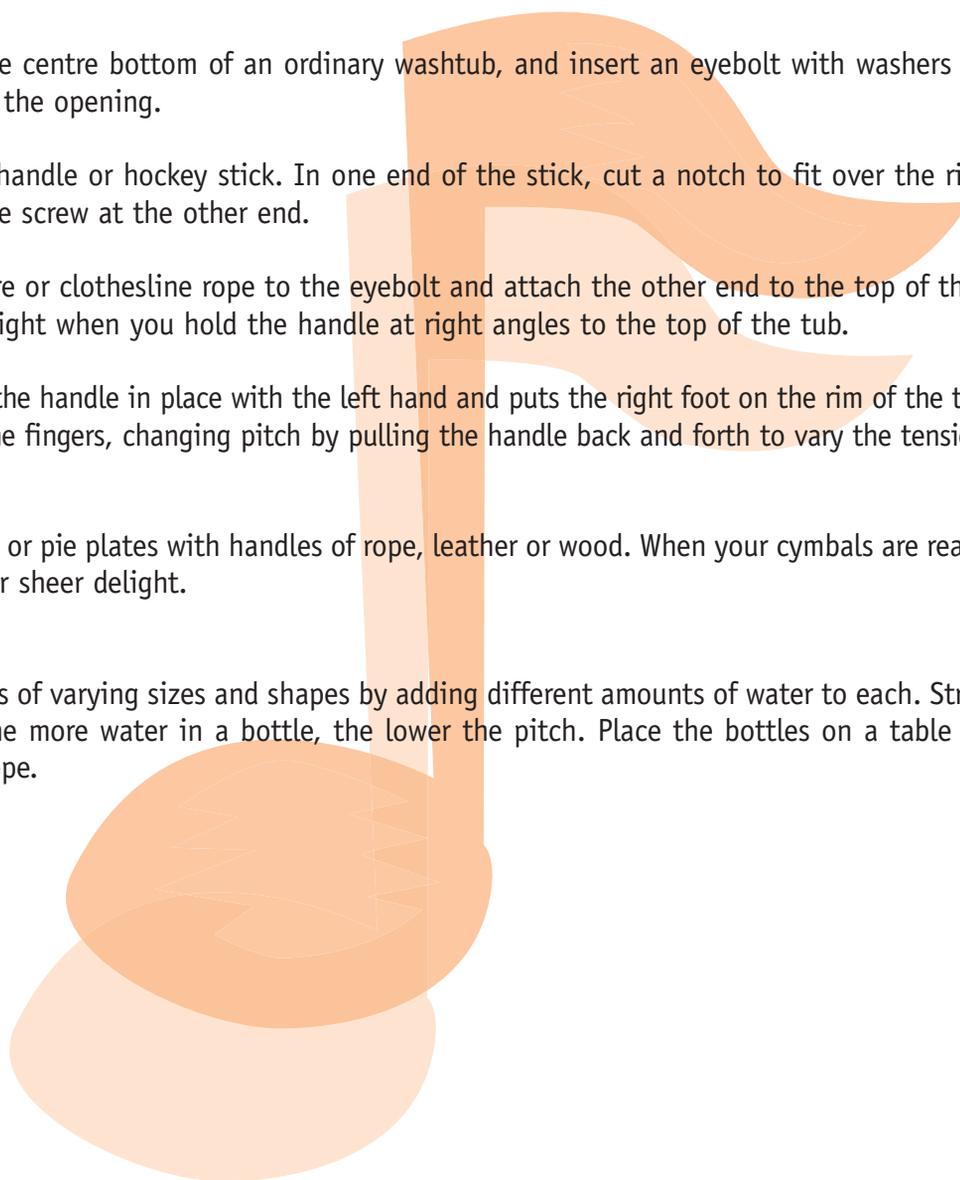
The player holds the handle in place with the left hand and puts the right foot on the rim of the tub. Pluck the string with the fingers, changing pitch by pulling the handle back and forth to vary the tension.

## Cymbals

Fit heavy pot lids or pie plates with handles of rope, leather or wood. When your cymbals are ready, crash them together for sheer delight.

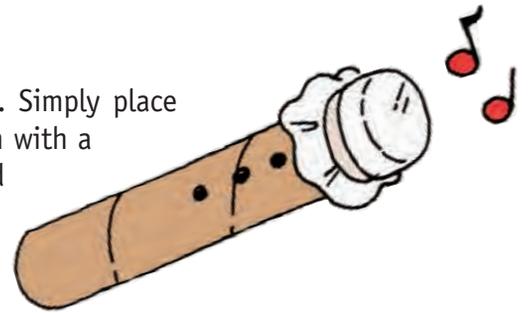
## Xylophone

Tune glass bottles of varying sizes and shapes by adding different amounts of water to each. Strike them with a spoon. The more water in a bottle, the lower the pitch. Place the bottles on a table or string them out on a rope.



## Hummers

Hummers are inexpensive to buy, but it's more fun to make one. Simply place a circle of wax paper over the end of a cardboard tube, and fasten with a rubber band. Punch a few small holes near one end of the tube and sing a tune into the open end. The wax paper vibrates to amplify the sound.



## Comb and Paper

To make this most basic of all homemade instruments, all you need is a small comb and a piece of wax paper.

## Chimes

Hang old railroad spikes, horseshoes or bars of metal on a string, and strike with a large nail to make a triangle or chime.

## Grand Finale

Although your Cubs may never be a threat to your local symphony orchestra, they can make pleasing sounds and provide a happy accompaniment for many pack activities. Keep your eyes open for unusual odds and ends that might make good sounds, then let your Cubs have fun both making and playing the instruments.

Music and songs fit into Activity Area requirements. For example, a Cub who collects records, songs, tapes, or sheet music can earn the Collector Badge. The Musician Badge involves a variety of activities and ability in the field of music.

For the Religion-in-Life emblem, participation in the activities of a Cub's religious institution is suggested. One way to participate is to join the choir. The Entertainer Badge involves knowing songs, singing, and playing musical instruments.

One Purple Star requirement involves knowing the words of Canada's national anthem. Singing "O Canada" is the best way to learn.

