Oats and Peas and Beans

It is said that in past times in England, only the rich ate white bread, while the poor ate bread made of dried oats, peas and beans — garden foods that both people and animals could eat. Growing these crops was so common that a children's game song came about that described it. Even before 1800, and ever since, "Oats and Peas and Beans" has been one of the most widely sung children's folk songs throughout England, and later across the United States. The melody is fun to sing or play on an instrument, and sounds great as a fiddle tune.

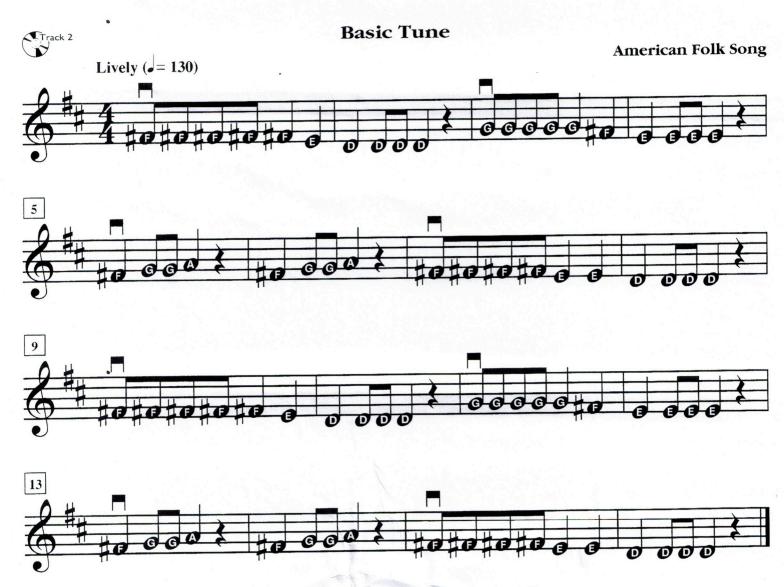


Lyrics

Oats and peas and beans and barley grow! Oats and peas and beans and barley grow! You and I, we both know.

Oats and peas and beans and barley grow!

(A reproducible vocal lead sheet is included in the Teacher's Manual)



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Improvised back-up — On your own, try making up a rhythm pattern and deciding what notes to play