

# About Time!

## 18 Rhythm Stick Routines for Reading and Playing

By **Andrew Briggs**

Recording Orchestrated by **Tim Hayden**

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# Introduction

Welcome to *About Time!* These activities are intended to enhance the general music classroom curriculum. As students perform the engaging rhythm stick routines, they will be practicing concepts of steady beat, basic rhythmic notation, and meter. The chapters are organized by time signature, including  $\frac{4}{4}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , and  $\frac{2}{4}$ . Each lesson is based on a fun, familiar tune, and includes background information about the song, a melody line song sheet, rhythmic practice patterns, and a notated rhythm stick routine. To interpret the rhythm stick routines, please refer to the glossary of movement, which includes helpful photographs and descriptions for easy learning.

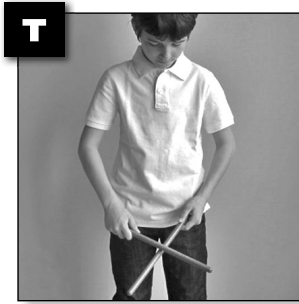
The enclosed enhanced CD includes play-along tracks for each song, plus reproducible PDF files of the entire book. The purchase of this book carries with it the right to display the files on an interactive whiteboard in the classroom or on your school's website.

## Teaching suggestions:

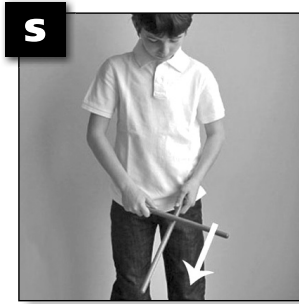
- Discuss the background of each song, highlighting the history, origin, and/or style.
- Teach the melody line by rote or using the melody line song sheet.
- Isolate specific rhythms by drilling the practice patterns.
- Practice the rhythm stick routines one verse at a time before performing the entire piece.
- Assign some students to sing while others perform the rhythm stick routine.
- Divide the class into groups, assigning different verses to each group.
- Perform the patterns using call and response, led by the teacher or a student.
- Organize a rhythm stick relay by performing one by one around the classroom.
- Allow students to improvise their own rhythms with the recordings.
- Compose and notate original rhythms.
- Create new rhythm stick routines incorporating movements from the glossary.
- Assess students by watching and listening to groups or individuals.

Please enjoy these creative, kinesthetic lessons designed for both fun and success!

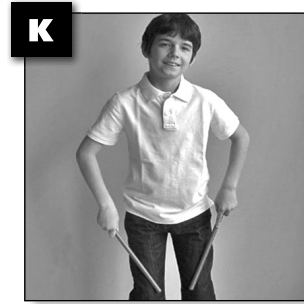
# Glossary of Movement



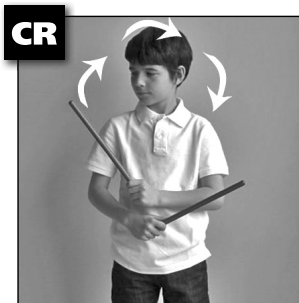
**T**  
Tap rhythm sticks together



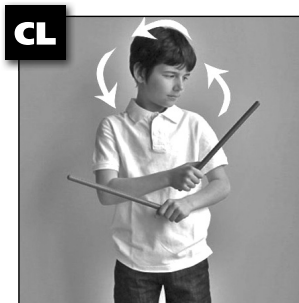
**S**  
Scrape rhythm sticks together



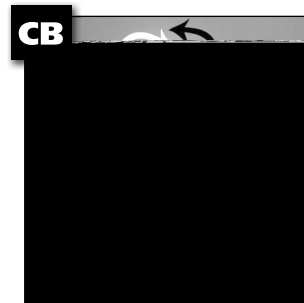
**K**  
Tap rhythm sticks on your knees



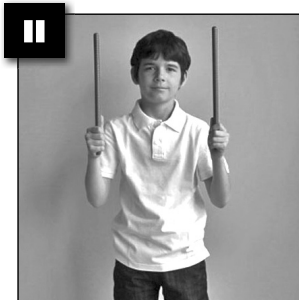
**CR**  
Circle right rhythm stick clockwise



**CL**  
Circle left rhythm stick counterclockwise



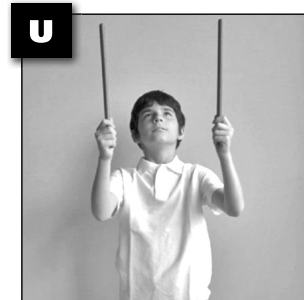
**CB**  
Circle both rhythm sticks



**II**  
Hold both rhythm sticks apart



**D**  
Lower rhythm sticks down below your waist



**U**  
Lift rhythm sticks up above your head



**XS**  
Cross rhythm sticks in front of your body and tap opposite shoulders



**XK**  
Cross rhythm sticks and tap opposite knees



**SH**  
Shake rhythm sticks

# America the Beautiful

The words of this song were originally written as a poem in 1893, titled "Pike's Peak."  
 The tune was written by Samuel A. Ward as a hymn, and was originally titled "O Mother Dear, Jerusalem."  
 The tune and words were merged together in 1910 and published under the title "America the Beautiful."  
 Ward died in 1903 and never enjoyed the notoriety his music would eventually bring him.



1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain, for  
 2. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years. Thine



pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain! } A -  
 al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears! }



mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee, and



crown thy good with broth - er-hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

## Practice Patterns





# America the Beautiful

**T** = Tap rhythm sticks together  
**S** = Scrape rhythm sticks together

## INTRODUCTION

*Rest for 2 measures*

## VERSE 1

4/4

T S T S T S T S T S T S T S S

T S T S T S T S T S T S T S S

T S T S T S T S T S T S T S S

T S T S T S T S T S T S T S S

## VERSE 2

4/4

S T T S T T T T T T T T S

S T T S T T T T T T T T S

S T T S T T T T T T T T S

S T T S T T T T T T T T S