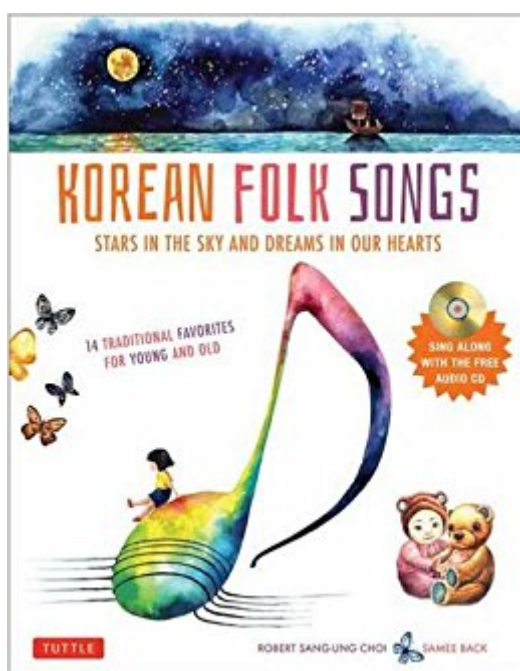


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# Korean Folk Songs: Stars In The Sky And Dreams In Our Hearts [14 Sing Along Songs With The Audio CD Included]



## Synopsis

In Korean Folk Songs, music teacher Robert Choi shares 14 of Korea's best-loved classic children's songs with musical scores and lyrics in both Korean and English. Born and bred in Chicago, Choi's parents raised their son with a keen appreciation for their native Korean culture. The traditional melodies they taught him left a deep impression. Included in this collection are well-known children's songs such as "Splashing Around" and "Mountain Rabbit" that incorporate fun actions and gestures. Also traditional standards that have been passed down from generation to generation, such as "Blue Birds" and "Arirang." Each Korean children's song features a musical score with the lyrics in Korean script and romanized form, and an English version of the lyrics. Historical and cultural notes are included and for the children's songs, Choi describes the accompanying actions. An audio CD contains recordings of all the songs, along with tracks that allow you to sing along. Every page has beautiful full-color illustrations of traditional Korean scenes by the talented Korean artist SamEe Back. Just as songs like "Home on the Range" or "Oh! Susanna" are part of traditional American culture, the songs in Korean Folk Songs are a valuable resource for anyone with an interest in Korean culture, history and language.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 3 Choi collects 14 favorite Korean folk songs; his brief introductions open a

window on Korean life and culture. For each song, he includes a simple musical score for keyboard, and lyrics in both English and Korean (Hangul and transliterated). Most are traditional tunes celebrating life (including "Mountain Rabbit/Santokki," "Boat Song/Baetnora," and "Arirang" — Korea's most popular folk song), while a few reflect their political origins ("Blue Birds/Saeya saeya" was inspired by the events leading up to the 1894 Donghak Peasant Revolt; "Thinking of Older Brother/Obba saenggak" and "Mother, Sister/Eommaya nunaya" were written during the Japanese occupation of Korea) and influences from the West ("Butterfly/Nabiya nabiya" melody is "Hänschen klein," "Three Bears Song" text is based on "Goldilocks and the Three Bears"). Beautiful watercolor illustrations by Korean artist Samee Back extend the content of each song, bringing in visual elements such as traditional clothing, boats, and homes. The accompanying CD alternates songs sung by Won with an instrumental/karaoke version. VERDICT This set would add depth to study about Korea or serve as a fine introduction to the culture. — Stephanie Bange, Wright State University, Dayton, OH

"This set would add depth to study about Korea or serve as a fine introduction to the culture." - School Library Journal (STARRED REVIEW)"All of the songs are steeped in the Korean culture and are likely songs our children adopted from Korea heard during the months or years spent in their birth country. The illustrations by Samee Back are beautiful and represent the folksy, cultural aspect of the book well. [ ] I would highly recommend the book for any family that is learning the Korean language (learning by song is sometimes the easiest way to learn), and especially for adoptive families with Korean-born kiddos. My 9-year-old enjoyed listening to the CD and looking at the illustrations." — The Korean Way"There's lots of fun to be had with this sing-along book and CD of traditional Korean folk songs. [ ] Youngsters will giggle as they mime throwing stones in the river, pretend to wash herbs in the water, or 'find a partner and tickle his or her hands!' [ ] Realistic watercolor illustrations mirror the content of the songs. Here's a delightful, culturally affirmative, and worthwhile library addition." — Booklist"This book-and-CD combination showcases 14 traditional Korean folk songs that are 'engraved in the hearts and minds of all Koreans.' With cultural notes that illustrate the significance of each song, the selections provide readers with details of Korean history, culture and language. A good book for a diverse world, especially for Korean-Americans who want to learn about their heritage or English speakers hoping to learn basic Korean language skills." — Kirkus Reviews"Korean Folk Songs' is an inspirational traditional and nursery song collection, influenced by and interwoven with a rich but bitter, complex history of this beloved country." — Midwest Book Review" — a great

selection of songs" ["Growing Book by Book blog"](#) "In Korean Folk Songs: Stars in the Sky and Dreams in Our Hearts by Robert Choi there are all these songs that I like to listen to. These are songs that are in a different language, and I don't like it when mama sings in that language but you can sing it in our language too [hellip] I like to listen to the CD that came with this book and look at the pictures. I like these songs a lot." ["Liesel, kid reviewer, San Diego Book Review"](#) "For Korean American parents who grew up with these songs, discovering this title surely comes with a giggle of nostalgic delight. [hellip] For those without immigrant Korean grandparents to teach the first tunes, this provides just the right start, especially with the accompanying music and CD: read, hear, play, and soon enough you'll be singing (and hopping, clapping, wriggling) along." ["Smithsonian Book Dragon"](#) "This book offers unique insight into Korean culture with its collection of 14 songs with musical notations, melody and piano accompaniment. Short text explanations, illustrations and a CD recording help bring the songs to life." ["Skipping Stones blog"](#)

I'm teaching a unit on Korean music and culture at my early childhood ed center (1-5 years old) -- this book is beautifully illustrated and contains some great songs for young kids to sing. The CD that comes with the book has lovely child singer examples as well as solo piano accompaniment for each of the songs. My only complaint is that the English translations of the songs are not very singable -- they seem to be more literally translated from Korean. If I had my pick, I'd love a literal translation, with a more singable set of lyrics in English, especially if these are meant to be sung by young children. Great resource overall -- it's clear that Korea has a strong repertoire of music for young children.

The songs are beautiful and clear but I wish they would have made the songs with vocals longer instead of 30 seconds. I have to replay the vocal songs 3 times each in order to get the time and repetition in for 1 song during kindermusik time.

My children love this book. I would consider it mostly a piano book. I love the fact that there is a companion CD. We play the CD often and although my children are in a English speaking home, they were easily able to pickup the lyrics and sing the song after a few times. Each song has a small background story and some of the songs have suggested motions. I have bought this for other parents who want to assimilate Korean culture in the home and would definitely recommend this book.

Beautiful clear child's voice sings on the CD. The songs are very familiar ones in Korea and include suggestions for movement, a little background information, and colorful pictures. I'm a music teacher and I have experience with Korean culture. I tested it recently on my 9 and 6 year old grandchildren. We all recommend it.

I love this book! It has the romanized Korean words along with the english translation, and the sheet music to get the songs right. Cute pictures too.

This book and CD are great tools in learning Korean! I really like how it has the 'sheet music' and instrumental tracks to sing along with. I would definitely recommend this to anyone interested in the culture.

Awesome! So cute and fun. Disc plays in the computer and in CD players. Really classic Korean kid songs (my mom actually knew them). The songs are written in English and Korean, so it's great for teaching small children some Korean in a fun way.

A very nice collection of korean folk songs, with musical score as well as a CD with the music. I found it useful to learn the songs my mother/grandmother used to sing to me, so that I can sing them to my children.

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