

# Gong Xi Gong Xi

----A New Year Celebration Song

This beloved New Year Song was composed in 1945 by Chen Ge Xin (1914-1961), a well know Chinese song composer in 20th century. It has been sung by people around the world for more than 70 years, but people rarely know that it was originally composed for celebration the ending of the China-Japan war. Because of its cheerful tune, people began using it for the Lunar New Year celebrations. This is a well-known and well-loved song familiar to many people around the world.

## Gong Xi Ni

Composed by Ge Xin Chen  
English Lyrics by Melanie K.

### A Section

Eve - ry one lives in town, Ce - le - brate the New Year.  
走 遍 大 街 小 巷 每 个 人 的 嘴 里。

Gree - ting with the joy - ful words: Gong - xi Gong - xi Gong - xi!  
见 面 第 一 句 话, 就 是 恭 喜 恭 喜 恭 喜!

### B Section

Gong xi gong xi gong xi ni ya! Gong xi gong xi gong xi ni!  
恭 喜 恭 喜 恭 喜 你 呀, 恭 喜 恭 喜 恭 喜 你!

## Game with Chinese Bowing

Around Lunar New Year, when friends and neighbors meet, they often bow to each other. It is very important to show kindness and respect to others by bowing and saying a blessing expression, “Have a prosperous New Year!” or simply saying “Gong xi ni” to each other.

Display the images and show students how to make a traditional bow and say Happy New Year in Mandarin Chinese (gong xi ni 恭喜你! )

- Students practice the hand position and body gesture of bowing
- Walk throughout space when meeting others, practice bowing and saying, “Gong xi Gong xi Gong xi ni.”

- Sing and walk in space, find a partner by the end of fourth phrase. At B Section bow to partner every 2 beats. And sing, “Gong xi Gong xi Gong xi ni.”
- Repeat with new partner.

### Ribbon Dance Movement in Music Class:

- Brings Cultural Awareness
- Practice physical coordination
- Reinforce the beat and rhythm
- Enhance legato singing
- Enhance understanding of music such as tempo, pitch, & dynamics
- Internalize the music structures and forms
- Practice spatial awareness and coordination

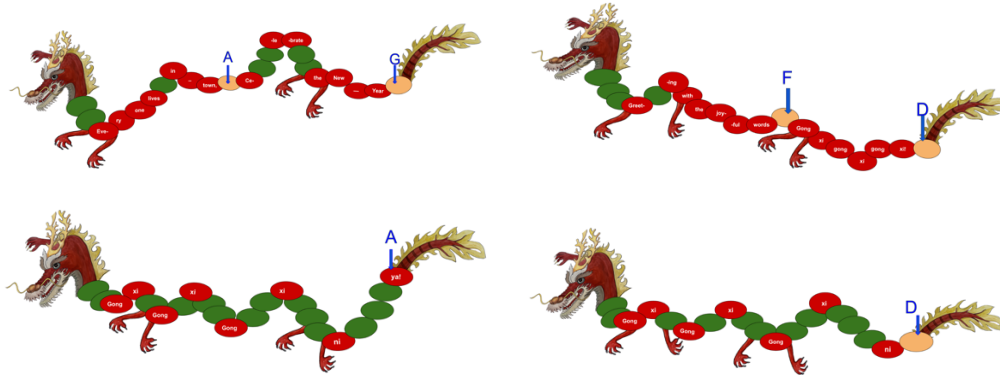


### Orff Arrangement

Display the rhythmic ostinato:



- Pat and clap the above pattern, students echo.
- Face a partner, sit on the floor, perform pattern by patting own knees and clapping partner’s hands while singing the song.
- Transfer the clap to alto xylophones and pat to temple blocks.
- To practice the glockenspiels, display the slides of the Dragon Melody



- Sing song and snap on the end of phrase as shown (blue arrows).
- Students sing song and teacher sings letter names.
- Teacher sings the song and students sing the letter names while snapping.
- Transfer snaps to glockenspiel and perform song.
- Sing song and perform the full arrangement.

## Happy New Year

Composed by Ge Xin Chen  
Arranged by Melanie Kang

Recorder

Alto Xylo.  
Bass Xylo.

5  
Rec

5  
AX & BX

9  
Voice

9  
GL.

9  
A.X.

9  
B. X.

T. Blocks

Eve - ry one lives in town, Ce - le - brate the New Year.  
走 遍 大 街 小 巷 每 个 人 的 嘴 里。

The musical score consists of four staves: Voice, GL, A.X., and B.X. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems, each starting at measure 13.

**System 1 (Measures 13-16):**

- Voice:** Gree - ting with the joy - ful words: Gong - xi Gong - xi Gong - xi.
- Chinese:** 见 面 第 一 句 话, 就 是 恭 喜 恭 喜!
- GL:** Accompaniment with rests and notes.
- A.X.:** Accompaniment with notes and 'T. Blocks' (triangle blocks) indicated by 'x' marks.
- B.X.:** Bass line accompaniment.

**System 2 (Measures 17-20):**

- Voice:** Gong xi gong xi gong xo ni ya, gong xi gong xi gong xi —
- Chinese:** 恭 喜 恭 喜 恭 喜 你 呀, 恭 喜 恭 喜 恭 喜 —
- GL:** Accompaniment with rests and notes.
- A.X.:** Accompaniment with notes.
- B.X.:** Bass line accompaniment.

**Possibilities:**

- Sing the song and play the traditional bowing game.
- Sing the song with Orff arrangement.
- Use bubble wrap popping sounds as Introduction and Coda
- Sing the song with ribbon dance <sup>1</sup>
- Sing and perform the fan dance and dragon movement ( see Melanie Kang’s book: <https://beatinpathpublications.com/MK/home.html> )