"KEEP ON THE SUNNY SIDE"

This popular American song originally written in 1899 by Ada Blenkhorn (1858–1927) with music by J. Howard Entwisle (1866–1903). The song was popularized in a 1928 recording by the Carter Family. A recording of the song with The Whites was featured in the 2000 movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*.

In 1899 Ada was inspired to write this hymn by a phrase used by her nephew. Her nephew was disabled and always wanted his wheelchair pushed down "the sunny side" of the street. The Carter Family learned of the song from A. P. Carter's uncle who was a music teacher, and they recorded the song in Camden, New Jersey in 1928. "Keep on the Sunny Side" became their theme song on the radio in later years. A.P. Carter's tombstone has a gold record of the song embedded in it.

Performance Notes:

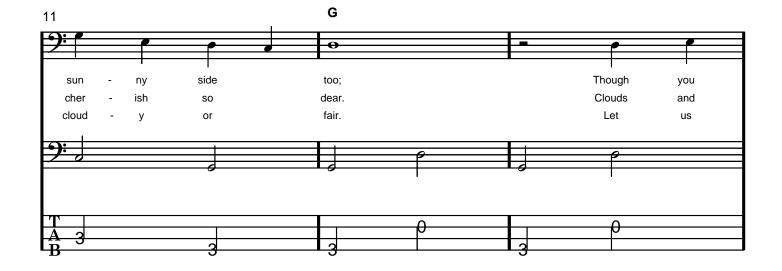
- There is a good example of this tune on YouTube with Maybelle and the Carter sisters. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qEhj-rQSAU&feature=related. Their arrangement is in the Key of C. I used the same key since it also fit my vocalist's range. I've seen it performed in other keys, such as D and higher. The key you chose will ultimately depend on the vocal range of your singer(s).
- 2. There are two bass arrangements. The first is a standard backup pattern with bass runs separating the Verse and Chorus sections.
- 3. Bass arrangement 2 begins at measure 42. The main difference between these two arrangements is the chromatic bass runs connecting the chord roots.
- 4. At measure 65, I've included an extended chromatic bass walk of five measures. It begins on the root of the V chord (dominant, G), lands on the root of the (I) chord (Tonic) and continues onto the root of the IV chord (subdominant, F). This type of chromatic run from the dominant, tonic to subdominant adds extra excitement to the overall arrangement. I rarely see bass players play this style, even top professionals. However, it is very effective and the technique can be used on thousands of other songs with this same, familiar chord progression.

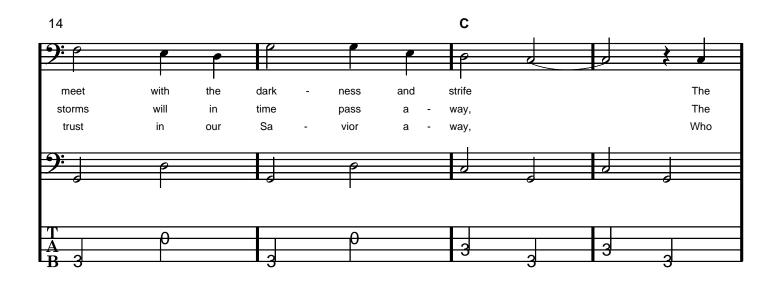
Keep On The Sunny Side

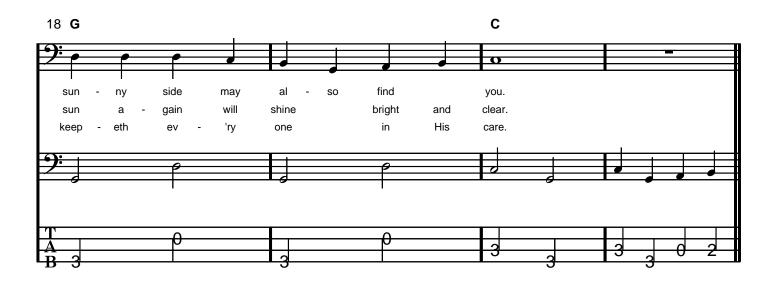
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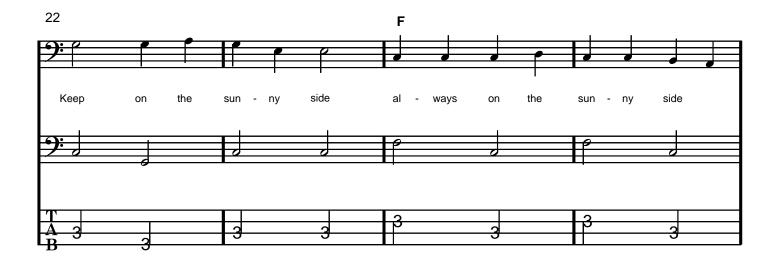
A. Blenkhorn (Lyrics) J. Entwisle (Music) - 1899 Arrangement by Jay Buckey

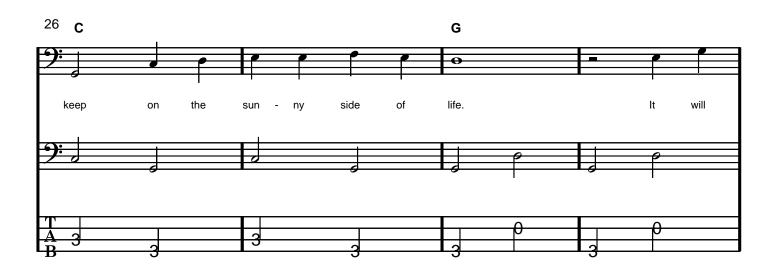


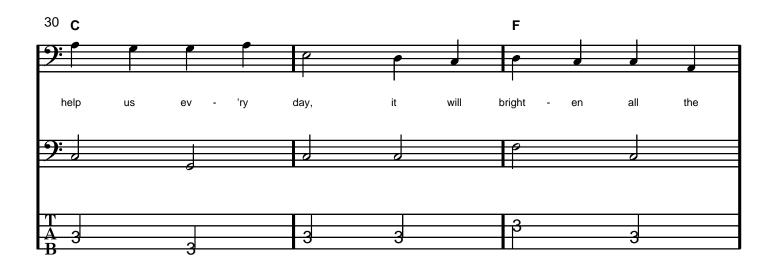


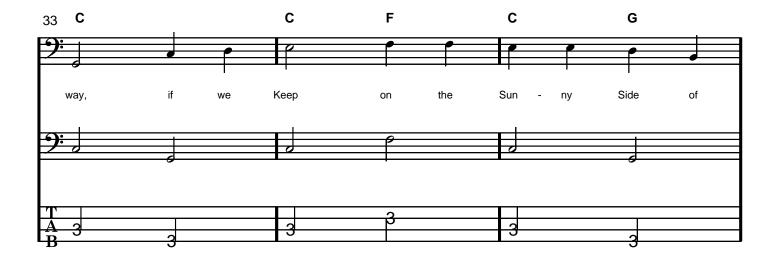


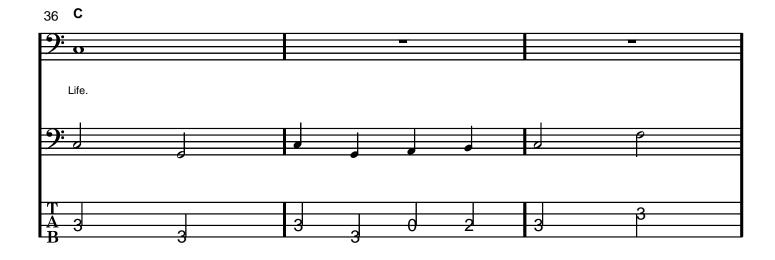


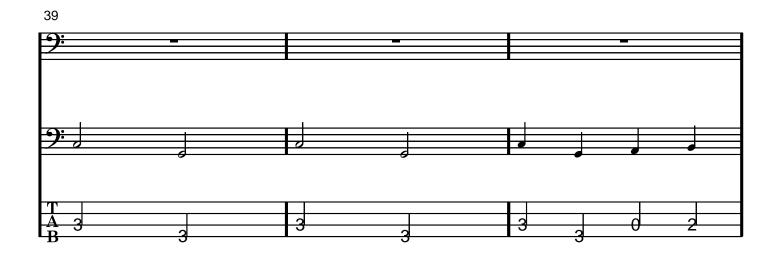












The complete arrangement for "Keep on the Sunny Side", including:

- Bass arrangements 1 and 2.
- · multiple play along mp3s at slow, medium and faster tempos,
 - · with or without the Bass
 - with or without the lead and/or harmony vocals

are on this page: http://jaybuckey.com/music pages/downloads/isd/isd.htm