

## ***"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:***

1. 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 also used the Key of C (no capo) 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. The first arrangement is the vocal line. It's straight forward and a good start for the beginning Guitarist to get familiar with melody in the C major scale. The second guitar arrangement is the harmony part
3. The recording begins with a kickoff with twin guitars. This is based on the last four measures of the guitar solos. This is good technique to remember if you need to start off a song with a short kick off; just play the last 4 measures of the solo or vocal line.
4. There are a couple of ways to approach the guitar solo. The first would be to play the straight melody line and add a second guitar for the harmony. This is an excellent opportunity for guitar teachers to accompany their students.

5. The second guitar arrangement (beginning at measure 34) is based closely to the way Mother Maybelle plays it on the video link above. The “/” between the bass melody notes are simple chord strums on the first couple or three strings while holding the guitar chord.
6. For added interest, I’ve included a “Carter Style” harmony guitar part to compliment guitar solo 1. This arrangement works the same as the first two guitar arrangements with the single melody line.
7. If you don’t have a teacher or fiddle friend to play the second part, you can use the matching play along mp3s and I’ll play the missing parts with you. The arrangements for the Fiddle and Mandolin also have harmony parts. These can be mixed and matched with the Guitar arrangement.

# Keep On The Sunny Side

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

Guitar 1:

1 C F C

There's a dark and a trou - bled side of life, There's a  
Oh, the storm and it's fu - ry broke to - day. Crush - ing  
Let us green with a song of hope each day. Though the

T 4 4  
A 4  
B 4

6 G

bright and a sun - ny side too; Though you  
hopes that we cher - ish so dear. Clouds and  
mo - ment be cloud - y or fair. Let us

T 3 3 5 3 0 3 1 3  
A  
B

10 C V

meet with the dark - ness and strife The  
storms will in time pass a - way, The  
trust in our Sa - vior a - way, Who

T 1 0 3 3 3 0 3 1 1 1  
A  
B

14 G C

sun - ny side may al - so find you.  
sun a - gain will shine bright and clear.  
keep - eth ev - 'ry one in His care.

T 3 3 3 1 0 0 2 0 1  
A  
B

18 C

F

Keep on the sun - ny side al - ways on the sun - ny side

T 3 3 5 | 3 0 0 | 1 1 1 3 | 1 1 0 2  
A  
B

22 C

G

keep on the sun - ny side of life. It will

T 0 1 3 | 0 0 1 0 | 3 | 0 3  
A  
B

26 C

F

C

help us ev - 'ry day, it will bright - en all the way, if we

T 5 3 3 5 | 0 3 1 | 3 1 1 2 | 0 1 3  
A  
B

30 C

F

C

G

C

Keep on the Sun - ny Side of Life.

T 0 1 1 | 0 0 3 0 | 1 | -  
A  
B

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

- Guitar arrangements for the vocal line, twin guitar solos, twin Carter style solos
- multiple play along mp3s at slow, medium and faster tempos,
  - with or without the Guitar
  - with or without the lead and/or harmony vocals

are on this page: [http://jaybuckey.com/music\\_pages/downloads/isd/isd.htm](http://jaybuckey.com/music_pages/downloads/isd/isd.htm)