

"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 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 Mandolinist 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 mandolins. This is based on the last four measures of the mandolin 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. If you don't have a teacher or mandolin 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 Guitar and Fiddle also have harmony parts. These can be mixed and matched with this Mandolin arrangement.

5. The mandolin fills begin at measure 34 and will be found behind the third verse of the vocals. The fills are based on standard 6th harmonies. To help the sustain, I add tremolo. Angle your pick into the strings slightly. This will help the pick to “glide” over the two sets of strings when moving both forward and reverse.
6. When playing fills behind the vocals, you will want to get into the habit of taking turns with the other players in the group. In this particular arrangement, the Banjo has the first set of backup fills behind verse 1. Then, the Dobro has verse two. The mandolin fills will then play behind verse three. There are no set rules to the order that each instrument will play the backup fills. This is simply the order that I chose when recording this play along arrangement.

Keep On The Sunny Side

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

Mandolin 1:

1

C F C

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

T 4 3 3 || 3 5 0 | 5 3 2 0 | 5 | - 3 0 | 3 3 5

A 4

B 4

7

G

sun - ny side too; Though you meet with the dark - ness and
cher - ish so dear. Clouds and storms will in time pass a -
cloud - y or fair. Let us trust in our Sa - vior a -

T 3 0 5 3 | 5 | - 5 0 | 1 0 5 | 3 3 0

A 4

B 4

12

C G C

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

T 5 3 3 | 3 3 | 5 5 5 3 | 2 5 0 2 | 3 | -

A 4

B 4

18

F

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

T 3 3 5 | 3 0 0 | 3 3 3 5 | 3 3 2 0

A

B

22 C

G

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

T 5 3 5 | 0 0 1 0 | 5 | - 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 5 3 | 5 3 3 0 | 5 3 5

A

B

30 C

F

C

G

C

Keep on the Sun - ny Side of Life.

T 0 1 1 | 0 0 5 2 | 3 | -

A

B

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

- Mandolin arrangements for the vocal line, twin mandolin solos and mandolin backup fills
- multiple play along mp3s at slow, medium and faster tempos,
 - with or without the Mandolin
 - with or without the lead and/or harmony vocals

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