

## Song Circle

Everyone sings. This means everyone knows some songs. Singing alone or with others can make us feel playful, help us through tough times, and bring us together. In this time of quarantine, when people around the world are staying home to keep others safe, many Italians' nightly neighborhood song fests have brought people out on their balconies to sing together. In Italy many people live in homes with balconies, so singing together has been easy. In Chicago, 80's pop music has proven popular to sing from the balconies. Some people are also turning to the Internet to sing along with others in virtual concerts. Families are singing together as well. Without music class, band, or orchestra, lots of young musicians are at home, so here are some tips to inspire some song collecting and singing—alone or with others.

**Supplies** Pencil, paper, optional Internet for research, optional phone for recording

### Directions

1. Brainstorm songs you know how to sing, from childhood lullabies to school songs, pop tunes, hymns, ad jingles. Start a list, which you may add to later.
2. Looking at your list, what songs do you like most? Choose one and practice singing it a few times. Option: Record yourself singing the song. Listen and see if you hear places you would like to change.
3. Sing your song to people at home, on the phone, or virtually. Teach them the song and ask them to sing along.
4. Invite others to sing together, from windows, backyards, or online. Look at your list of songs from Step 1 to make suggestions for what people might like to sing and then ask them for more suggestions.

### Bonus Activities

- Use the Smithsonian Folkways website to explore children's music from around the world. <https://folkways.si.edu/search?query=Children%27s>
- Interview someone at home, on the phone, or virtually about songs they know using the Local Learning Song Interview Worksheet.