| Piece: Charlie Over the Ocean                 | Head Researcher: Abbey Monreal |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Composer and/or Arranger:                     | Assistant Researchers:         |
| Culture of Origin, African American Folk Cons |                                |

## Culture of Origin: African American Folk Song

#### **Cultural Context:**

- Earliest record of this song was in (White American) folklorist Harold Courlander's book and recordings entitled *Negro Folk Music of Alabama*
- The song was traditionally used by kids as an echo song with a chase game similar to "Duck Duck Goose."
- Quaver Ed recommends this song as a replacement for "Shortnin' Bread" because it teaches similar concepts

## Recommendation:

- Fine to use with context
- Use at your own discretion
- Unfit for the classroom given the current academic information provided

## **Recommendation Notes:**

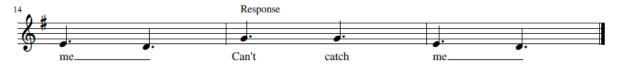
The piece does not have racist origins and was originally performed by African American children. I do think its origin and history should be taught with the song to educate about different cultures and to avoid appropriation.

#### Score:

# Charlie Over the Ocean







### Variations:

Charlie over the water,

Charlie over the sea.

Charlie caught a big fish.

Can't catch me.

Different renditions replace "black bird" with "big Bird" and "blackfish" with "big fish"

### Sources:

*Charlie Over the Ocean*. (n.d.). https://folkways.si.edu/east-york-school-ala/charlie-over-the-ocean/african-american-music-american-folk-childrens/music/track/smithsonian.

QuaverEd. (2020, June 1). A message to the QuaverEd Qmunity. *QuaverEd Press*. https://quavered.com/2020/06/01/a-message-to-the-quavered-qmunity/

VanderGraff, Z. (2021). Charlie Over the Ocean game and lesson plan. Dynamic Music Room.

<a href="https://dynamicmusicroom.com/charlie-over-the-ocean/#:~:text=Charlie%20Over%20The%20Ocean%20was,contour%20and%20head%20voice%20singing.">https://dynamicmusicroom.com/charlie-over-the-ocean/#:~:text=Charlie%20Over%20The%20Ocean%20was,contour%20and%20head%20voice%20singing.</a>

Row, D. (2018, January 28). *Black History Month in the music room*. Make Moments Matter. https://makemomentsmatter.org/classroom-ideas/black-history-month-in-the-music-room/