

## Ikan Kekek

Malay children's song  
arr. Tracy Wong

**Vivace** ♩ = 120

S1  
hoi hoi

S2

A1  
*p*  
i-loi, i-loi i-lai, i-lai

A2  
*mp* *pony-fish*  
I - kan ke - kek I - kan ke - kek I - *mf*

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5

S1  
*mp* hoi hoi i -

S2  
*mp* hoi *mf* I -

A1  
*mp* hoi *mf* i - lai, i - lai

A2  
kan ke - kek *f* I - kan ke - kek *mf* I -

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9 **A** *pony-fish* *croaker fish*

S1  
kan ke - kek\_ mak i - loi, i - loi i - kan ge - la - ma\_ mak i - lai, i - lai Sung

S2  
kan ke - kek\_ mak i - loi, i - loi i - kan ge - la - ma\_ mak i - lai, i - lai Sung

A1  
i - loi, i - loi i - lai, i - lai

A2  
kan ke - kek i - kan ke - kek i -

13 *my dear is very beautiful* *but her laugh is loud (and not graceful\_*

S1  
guh can - tik sa-yang - ku am-boi Ta - pi ke-ta-wa men-gi - lain - gi - lai.

S2  
guh can - tik sa-yang - ku am-boi Ta - pi ke-ta-wa men-gi - lain - gi - lai. I -

A1  
i - loi i - loi i - lai i - lai

A2  
kan ke - kek I - kan ke - kek

17 **B**

S1  
-

S2  
kan ke - kek i - loi i - kan ke - kek i - loi i -

A1  
na na na na na na na i - loi i - loi na na na na na na na i - lai i - lai

A2  
na na na na na na na i - loi i - loi na na na na na na na i - lai i - lai

21

S1  
ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing

S2  
kan ke - - kek i - loi i -

A1  
na na na na na na na i - loi i - loi

A2  
na na na na na na na i - loi i - loi

23

S1 ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing ting - ing

S2 loi ke - - kek i - lai I -

A1 na na na na na na na i - lai i - lai I -

A2 na na na na na na na i - lai i - ai I -

*f*

**C**

25

S1 *f* ting *mf* i - loi i - loi i - lai i - lai

S2 kan ke - kek i - loi i - loi i - kan ke - kek i - lai i - lai I -

A1 kan ke - kek\_ mak i - loi i - loi i - kan ge-la- ma\_ mak i - lai i - lai Ka-

A2 kan ke - kek\_ mak i - loi i - loi i - kan ge-la- ma\_ mak i - lai i - lai Ka-

29 *if you (little one) want to be wise* *come learn (study hard), don't be lazy*

S1 i - loi, i - loi i - lai, i - lai I -

S2 kan ke - kek i - loi, i - loi I - kan ke - kek i - lai, i - lai I -

A1 lau a - dik\_ nak ja - di pan-dai Ma - ri be-la- jar\_ jan-gan- lah la - lai I -

A2 lau a - dik\_ nak ja - di pan-dai Ma - ri be-la- jar\_ jan-gan- lah la - lai I -

*f*

**D**

33

S1  
kan\_ ke - kek\_mak i - loi i-loi i - kan ge-la- ma\_mak i - lai i - lai Sung

S2  
kan\_ ke - kek\_mak i - loi i - loi i-loi i - kan ge-la- ma\_mak i - lai i - lai i-lai Sung

A1  
kan\_ ke - kek\_mak i - loi i - loi i - kan ge-la- ma\_mak i - lai i - lai Sung

A2  
kan\_ ke - kek\_mak i - loi i - loi, i-loi i - kan\_ ge-la-ma mak i - lai i - lai la Sung

37 *my dear is very beautiful* *but her laugh is loud (and not graceful)*

S1  
guh. can - tik sa-yang - ku am boi Ta - pi ke-ta-wa\_men-gi - lai - ngi - lai *mp*

S2  
guh. can - tik sa-yang - ku am - boi, am-boi Ta - pi ke-ta-wa\_men-gi - lai - ngi - lai, ngi-lai I- *mp*

A1  
guh. can - tik sa-yang - ku am - boi Ta - pi ke-ta-wa\_men-gi - lai - ngi - lai I- *mp*

A2  
guh. can - tik sa-yang - ku am - boi, am-boi Ta - pi ke-ta-wa men-gi - lai - ngi - lai, ngi-lai I-

**E**

41

S1  
*f* I - kan ke - kek\_mak i - loi, i-loi i -

S2  
*f* kan ke - kek, i - kan ke - kek i na na na na na na i - loi, i - loi

A1  
*f* kan ke - kek, i - kan ke - kek I - kan ke - kek\_mak i - loi, i - loi, i -

A2  
*f* kan ke - kek, i - kan ke - kek I - kan ke - kek i - loi, i - loi, i -

45 *if you (little one) want to be wise*

S1  
kan ge-la- ma\_ mak i - lai, i - lai Ka-lau a - dik\_ nak ja - di pan-dai Ma-

S2  
na na na na na na na i-lai, i-lai na na na na na na na i-loi, i-loi

A1  
kan ge-la- ma\_ mak i - lai, i - lai Ka-lau a - dik\_ nak ja - di pan-dai Ma-

A2  
kan ke - kek i-lai, i-lai i - kan ke - kek i - loi, i-loi i -

49 *come learn (study hard), don't be lazy* **F** *the sea is calm*

S1  
ri be-la- jar\_ jan-gan-lah la - lai Te- nang, te - nang\_ a-ir di\_ la-ut Sam-

S2  
na na na na na na na i-lai i-lai Te- nang, te - nang\_ a-ir di la - ut, la-ut Sam-

A1  
ri be-la- jar\_ jan-gan-lah la - lai Te- nang, te - nang\_ a-ir di la - ut Sam-

A2  
kan ke - kek i-lai, i-lai Te- nang, te - nang\_ a-ir di la - ut, la-ut Sam

53 *the boat floats towards the bluff* *the heart recalls, the mouth smiles*

S1  
pan go - lek\_ mu-dik ke\_ tan-jung Ha - ti\_ ter-ke- nang\_ mu-lut ter - se - nyum

S2  
pan go - lek\_ mu-dik ke tan - jung, tan-jung Ha - ti\_ ter-ke- nang\_ mu-lut ter - se-nyum Bu - *rit.* *solo*

A1  
pan go - lek\_ mu-dik ke ran-jung Ha - ti ter-ke- nang\_ mu-lut ter - se - nyum

A2  
pan. go - lek mu-dik ke tan-jung, tan-jung Ha - ti\_ ter-ke- nang\_ mu-lut ter - se - nyum

57

S1 kindness is always encouraged Hey!

S2 - di yang ba - ik ra - sa di - jun - jung!

A1 Hey!

A2 Hey!

60

**G**

S1 *f* ting- ing, ting- ing, ting- ing, ting- ing, ting- ing, ting- ing, ting- ing, tinging ting- ing, ting- ing, ting- ing, ting- ing,

S2 *f* hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi

A1 *f* na na na na na na na i - loi i - loi na na na na na na

A2 *f* kan ke - kek i - loi i - loi i - kan ke - kek

63

S1 *p* ting- ing, ting- ing, ting- ing, tinging ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting

S2 *p* hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi

A1 *p* na i - loi, i - loi na na na na na na na i - loi, i - loi

A2 *p* i - loi i - loi i - kan ke - kek i - loi, i - loi i -

66

S1  
ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting HOI

S2  
hoi hoi hoi hoi HOI

A1  
na na na na na na na i - lai, i - lai HOI

A2  
kan ke - kek i - lai, i - lai HOI

*f*



**Tracy Wong** hails from Malaysia and is a choral conductor, music educator, vocalist, and pianist. She is completing a Doctor in Musical Arts (Choral Conducting) degree at the University of Toronto under the tutelage of Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt after obtaining a Master in Music Performance (Choral Conducting) at the same institution. At the Faculty of Music, she is the Co-Conductor of the Women's Chorus (2015-16, 2017-18). She is also a proud recipient of the Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowship in Choral Conducting (2016, 2017). Tracy's choral works have been published and performed by Malaysian, Canadian, European, and American choirs at international competitions and festivals. She has also recently completed the compilation of Canadian composer Nancy Telfer's choral compositions, a resource for music educators and choral directors.

Children's songs in Malaysia is usually taught by rote and passed down from generation to generation. As with children's songs from other countries, Malaysian children's songs consist of simple, catchy, and repetitive melodies. These tunes, usually lively and festive, introduce new vocabulary and encourage children to sing freely. The lyrics often tell a story or bear advice which are intended for young people, although some are humorously written and are meant to entertain.

"Ikan Kekek", like many Malay folk and children's songs, is composed based on the Malay Pantun - a form of Malay poetry that is usually made up of four rhyming lines with an ABAB rhyming scheme. The pantun is divided into two parts - the "shadow" (lines 1 and 2), and the "meaning" (lines 3 and 4). The former is usually a preamble ("ikan kekek" and "ikan gelama" are types of fishes found in Malaysia) and sometimes has little relation with the latter, besides rhyming. The "meaning" delivers the true message of the pantun (in this song, it's either a tease or an advice).

Visit Tracy's page at [cypresschoral.com](http://cypresschoral.com) for a pronunciation guide.

percussion part (hand drum) available upon request - gratis - [cypresschoralmusic@gmail.com](mailto:cypresschoralmusic@gmail.com)