

# Ikan Kekek

Malay children's song  
Tracy Wong

Vivace ♩ = 120

S. *p* hoi hoi

A. *p* i-loi, i-loi i-lai, i-lai

B. *mp* pony-fish *mf*  
I - kan ke - kek I - kan kek I -

5

S. *mp* hoi *mf* hoi

A. *mp* hoi, i-loi. *mf* hoi i-lai, i-lai I-

B. *f* kan ke - kek *mf* I - kan ke - kek I -

9 **A** pony-fish croaker fish

S. hoi hoi hoi hoi

A. - kek mak i - loi, i - loi i - kan ge-la-ma mak i - lai, i - lai Sung

B. *mf* kan ke - kek *mf* i-loi i-loi I - kan ke - kek i-lai i-lai I -

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my dear is very beautiful

but her laugh is loud (and not graceful)

13

S. *hoi hoi hoi hoi*

A. *guh can - tik sa - yang ku am - boi Ta - pi ke - ta - wa me - ngi - lai - ngi - lai I -*

B. *kan ke - kek i - loi i - loi I - kan ke - i - lai i - lai*

*mf* *f*

17

**B**

S. *na na na na na na na i - loi, i - loi . na na na na na na i - lai, i - lai*

A. *kan ke - kek . - loi i - kan ke - kek i - lai i -*

B. *Na na na na na na i - loi i - loi na na na na na na i - lai i - lai*

21

**P**

S. *Ting - in, ting - in, ting - in, ting - in, ting - in, ting - in, ting - in,*

A. *an ke - kek i - loi i -*

B. *na na na na na na na i - loi i - loi*

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23

S. *f*  
ting - in, ting - in, ting - in, ting - in, ting - in, ting - in, ting - in, ting - in,

A. *f*  
kan ke - kek i - lai I -

B. *f*  
na na na na na na na i - lai lai I -

25 **C**

S. ting i - loi i - i - lai i - lai

A. kan ke - kek - mak i - loi i - kan ge - la - ma mak i - lai i - lai Ka-

B. kan ke - kek - loi i - loi I - kan ke - kek i - lai i - lai I -

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

S. i - loi i - loi i - lai, i - lai I -

A. *f*  
au a - dik nak ja - di pan - dai Ma - ri be - la - jar ja - ngan - lah la - lai I -

B. *f*  
kan ke - kek i - loi i - loi I - kan ke - kek i - lai i - lai I -

33 **D**

S. kan ke - kek mak i - loi i - loi i - kan ge-la-ma mak i - lai, i - lai Sung -

A. kan ke - kek mak i - loi i - loi i - loi, I - kan ge-la-ma mak i - lai i - lai i - lai, Sung -

B. kan ke - kek mak i - loi i - loi i - loi, I - kan ge-la-ma lai i - lai i - lai, Sung -

37 *my dear is very beautiful* *br* *is loud (and not graceful)* *mp*

S. guh can tik sa-yang - ku am - boi . - pi ke-ta-wa me-nyi - lai - nyi - lai I -

A. guh can - tik sa-yang - ku , am-boi, Ta - pi ke-ta-wa me-nyi - lai - nyi - lai, nyi-lai, I -

B. guh can - tik sa-y am - boi, am-boi, Ta - pi ke-ta-wa me-nyi - lai - nyi - lai, nyi-lai I -

41 **E**

S. kan ke - kek, i - kan ke - kek, I - kan ke - kek ma i - loi, i - loi i -

A. an ke - kek, i - kan ke - kek, I na na na na na na na i - loi i - loi

B. 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*

S. *kan ge-la-ma mak i - lai i - lai Ka-lau a - dik nak ja - di pan-dai ma-*

A. *na na na na na na na i-lai i-lai na na na na na na na i-loi i - loi*

B. *kan ke - kek i-lai i-lai I - kan ke - i - loi i-loi I -*

49

*come learn (study hard), don't be lazy***F***calm*

S. *ri be-la-jar ja-ngan-lah la - lai te - nang a - ir di la-ut sam -*

A. *na na na na na na na i-lai Te - nang te - nang a - ir di la - ut, la-ut,sam -*

B. *kan ke - kek i-lai i-lai, Te - nang te - nang a - ir di la - ut, la-ut,sam -*

53

*the boat floor , the bluff**the heart recalls, the mouth smiles***rit.** . . . . .

// (solo)

S. *p - lek mudik ke ta - jung Ha - ti ter-ke - nang mu-lut ter - se-nyum, Bu -*

A. *pan go - lek mudik ke tan - jung, tan-jung, Ha - ti ter-ke - nang mu-lut ter - se-nyum*

B. *pan go - lek mudik ke tan-jung, tan-jung, Ha - ti ter-ke - nang mu-lut ter - se-nyum*

kindness is always encouraged

♩ = 120

57

S. *3*  
-di yang ba - ik Ra - sa di - jun - jung!

A.

B. HOI!  
HOI!

**G**

60 *f*

S. Ting-in, ting-in, ting-in, ting-in, ting-in, ting-in, ti g-in, ting-in, ting-in, ting-in, ting-in,

S2 *f*  
hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi

A. *f*  
Na na na na na na loi i - loi na na na na na na

B. *f*  
kan ke - i - loi i - loi, I - kan ke - kek

63 *p*

S. ting-in, ting-in, ting-in, ting-in, ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting-ting

S2 *p*  
hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi hoi

A. *p*  
na i - lai i - lai na na na na na na i - loi i - loi

B. *p*  
i - lai i - lai, I - kan ke - kek i - loi i - loi, I -

66

S. *f*  
ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting HOI!

S2 *f*  
hoi hoi hoi hoi HOI!

A.  
na na na na na na na i - la' lai HOI!

B. *f*  
kan ke - kek lai i - lai HOI!



**Tracy Wong** hails from Malaysia and is a choral conductor, music educator, vocalist, and pianist. She is currently pursuing 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 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 Lurie's choral compositions, a resource for music educators and choral directors.

Children's songs in Malaysia are 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 is useful for young people, although some are humorously written and are meant to entertain.

"Ikan Kekek", like many other Malay folk and children's songs, is composed based on the Malay Pantun - a form of Malay poetry that is made up of four rhyming lines with an ABAB rhyming scheme. The pantun is divided into two parts - the "prelude" (lines 1 and 2), and the "meaning" (lines 3 and 4). The former is usually a preamble ("ikan kekek" and "ikan kekek" 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 [cypresschoral.com](http://cypresschoral.com) for a pronunciation guide.

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