

## Doo-Wop 'n Pop Workshop: Rainy Camp 2016

Led by Susan Storer Clark

We are here to enjoy singing together, not to arrive at some scholarly definition of what doo-wop music is. A good working definition is this: harmony vocalizing using phonetic or nonsense syllables (like a repeated "doo-wop") for rhythm and intricate harmonic arrangements. It developed in African-American neighborhoods in U.S. cities, and other people living in those neighborhoods picked it up to sing on street corners. I consider it a type of folk music because of the way it developed, and because it can be sung anywhere, any time, without the aid of technology or even instruments.

Do you have to pick a doo-wop song to lead or sing in this workshop? Absolutely not. If there's some other pop song you like, go for it. I have a binder full of 50s pop songs.

My plan is to start with a couple of fairly simple songs, go around the circle to sing others, and end with "Wimoweh," which didn't develop in the doo-wop tradition, but is a great doo-wop song.

A really valuable source for me has been John Javna's *The Doo-Wop Sing-Along Songbook*, a couple of pages of which I have shamelessly copied for this workshop. I'm pretty sure it's out of print, but it's available on [Amazon](#).

In case you're interested in what some other great doo-wop songs might be, here's part of a list from the [Paddlesteamer](#) site. They list 100 top songs—I just have the first 10.

1. I Only Have Eyes for You – The Flamingos
  2. The Platters – Smoke Gets in Your Eyes (I personally don't consider the Platters to be a doo-wop group, and Jerome Kern certainly wasn't a doo-wop composer. But there you are.)
  3. Why Do Fools Fall In Love – Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers
  4. Since I Don't Have You – The Skyliners
  5. Only You – The Platters
  6. Sh-Boom – The Chords
  7. Stay – Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs
  8. The Great Pretender – The Platters (what, again?)
  9. Earth Angel – The Penguins
  10. In the Still of the Night – The Five Satins
-

Notice this list doesn't even mention songs / groups I think of, such as Dion and the Belmonts, or "Barbara Ann" recorded by several different groups, nor "Get a Job" by The Silhouettes. Lots of these are available on You Tube and other places on the web.

**Optional exercise: Building our own doo-wop song.**

Doo-wop songs come from improvised harmonies, so there are few compositional rules to obey. But we can give an example with the traditional song "Good Night Ladies."

The straight lyric, sung *legato*, "connected": Good night, ladies. Good night, ladies. Good night, ladies, we're sad to see you go. Merrily we roll along, roll along, roll along. Merrily we roll along, o'er the deep blue sea.

First, open up some space in the melody lyric for harmony. Sing short syllables with a beat in between: Good (beat) night (beat) ladies (three beats) etc.

Then put a bass line in the breaks:

Melody:            Good        night        ladies,                good        night        ladies,  
Bass: Dm-dm-dm        dm        dm                dm-dm-dm        dm        dm

Melody:            good        night        ladies                We're sad to see you go.  
Bass: Dm-dm-dm        dm        dm                dm-dm                sad to see you go.

And so forth. Now, making sure at least one person holds to the melody, start layering on harmonies, high, low, wherever. Make instrument noises, rhythmic clicks, shhh noises. Keep experimenting and remember Duke Ellington's Rule of Music: If it sounds good, it *is* good.

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Goin'

~~Goin'~~ to the Chapel – lyrics

Goin' to the chapel and we're gonna get married  
Goin' to the chapel and we're gonna get married  
Gee, I really love you and we're gonna get married  
Goin' to the chapel of love

Spring is here, the sky is blue, whoa oh oh  
Birds all sing as if they knew  
Today's the day we'll say, "I do"  
And we'll never be lonely anymore because we're

Goin' to the chapel and we're gonna get married  
Goin' to the chapel and we're gonna get married  
Gee, I really love you and we're gonna get married  
Goin' to the chapel of love

Bells will ring, the sun will shine, whoa oh oh  
I'll be his and he'll be mine  
We'll love until the end of time  
And we'll never be lonely anymore because we're

Goin' to the chapel and we're gonna get married  
Goin' to the chapel and we're gonna get married  
Gee, I really love you and we're gonna get married  
Goin' to the chapel of love

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Goin' to the chapel of love  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Goin' to the chapel of love

Read more: [The Dixie Cups - Chapel Of Love Lyrics | MetroLyrics](#)

# Sing-Along Lyrics

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INTRO:

**Bah-Bah-Bah, Bah-Bah-Ber Ann.**

**Bob-ber A-A-AAnn,**

Bah-Bah-Bah, Bah-Bah-Ber Ann

Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-

**Take my ha-a-a-and,**

**Bob-ber A-A-A-Ann.**

**You got me**

Ber Ann

Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Ber Ann.

Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah- Bah Ber Ann

You got me

**rock-in' and a-rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann**

rock-in' and a-rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann Bah Bah, Bah-Bah-Ber Ann.

FIRST VERSE:

**Went to a dance. Look-in' for ro-mance. Saw Bob-ber Ann so I thought I'd take a chance. Oh**

Went to a dance. Look-in' for ro-mance. Saw Bob-ber Ann so I thought I'd take a chance. Oh

**Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, Take my hand. Oh Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, take my hand**

Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, Take my hand. Oh Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, take my hand

**you've got me rock-in' and a-rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann**

you've got me rock-in' and a-rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann Bah-Bah- Bah-Bah-

Ber Ann.

**Bah-Bah-Bah, Bah-Bah-Ber Ann.**

**Bob-ber A-AAnn,**

Bah-Bah-Bah, Bah-Bah-Ber Ann

Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Ber

**Take my ha-a-and,**

**Bob-ber A-A-Ann.**

**You got me rock-in'**

Ann

Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Ber Ann Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Ber Ann. You got me rock-in'

**and a-rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann**

and a-rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann Bah Bah, Bah-Bah-Ber Ann.

SECOND VERSE:

**Played our favorite tune, danced with Bet-ty Lou, tried Peg-gy Sue, but I knew they would-n't**

Played our favorite tune, danced with Bet-ty Lou, tried Peg-gy Sue, but I knew they would-n't

**do. Oh Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, take my hand. Oh Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, take my**

do. Oh Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, take my hand. Oh Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, take my

Melody  
Doo-Wops  
hand. You got me rock-in' and a rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann.

hand. You got me rock-in' and a rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann. Bah-Bah-Bah-

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Melody  
Doo-Wops  
**REPEAT SECOND VERSE**

Bah-Ber Ann.

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Melody  
Doo-Wops  
**Bah-Bah-Bah, Bah-Bah-Ber Ann.**

**Bob-ber A-AAnn,**

Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Ber Ann Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Ber

---

Melody  
Doo-Wops  
**Take my ha-a-and,**

**Bob-ber A-A-Ann.**

**You got me rock-in'**

Ann Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Bah-Ber Ann. Bah-Bah-Bah, Bah-Bah-Ber Ann You got me rock-in'

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Melody  
Doo-Wops  
**and a-rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann**

and a-rol-lin', rock-in' and a-reel-in' Bob-ber Ann Bah Bah, Bah-Bah-Ber Ann.

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Melody  
Doo-Wops  
**CLOSE: Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann (FADE)**

Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann, Bob-ber Ann

# Stay

C Am F G C Am F G C Am F G

Ah — just a lit - tle bit long - er. Please please please puhleeze Tell me you're

ps Stay! Stay! Please!

C Am F G C Am F G

go - ing too - oo Now your Dad-dy don't mind And your

ps Bop Bop Bop Bop doo wa wa wa wa

S R MA JUBL AL N CTIV

C Am F G C Am F G

Mom-my don't mind If we have an-oth-er dance and kiss — just - a one more

elody

do-Wops Bop Bop Bop Bop doo wa wa wa wa Bop Bop Bop Bop do wa wa wa wa

Am C Am F G

Oh — won't you stay — ay just a lit - tle bit

elody

do-Wops One — more time — Bop Bop Bop wa doo Whop shoo wad-dy wad - dy

\* | — | — |

Melody: C Am F C Am F G C  
 long - er? please, let me dance Please say that you will  
 Doo-Wops: Bop Bop Bop wah-doo Bop shoo waddywaddy Bop Bop Bop wa doo wop shoo waddywaddy Say you

Melody: C E tacet D  
 Won't you place your sweet lips to mine Won't you say you  
 Doo-Wops: will! Bop Bop

Melody: G C Am F G C Am  
 love me All of the ti - eee-eye-ee-eye-ime Oh yeah just a lit-tle bit long-er  
 Doo-Wops: Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop Stay! Stay!

Melody: F G C Am F G C Am F G C Am  
 Please, please, please puhleeze, tell-a me that you're go-ing to come on c'mon c'mon, stay! Oh-oh, la-de-d  
 (Repeat ad lib)  
 Doo-Wops: Stay! Stay!

**1-ody**

C Am F C Am F G C

long - er? please, let me dance Please say that you will

**1-Wops**

Bop Bop Bop wah-doo Bop shoo waddywaddy Bop Bop Bop wa doo wop shoo waddywaddy Say you

**1-ody**

C E tacet D

Won't you place your sweet lips to mine Won't you say you

**1-Wops**

will! Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop

**Melody**

G C Am F G C Am

love me All of the ti - eee-eye-ee-eye-ime Oh yeah just a lit-tle bit long-er

**Doo-Wops**

Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop Bop Stay! Stay!

**Melody**

F G C Am F G C Am F G C Am

Please, please, please puh-leeze, tell-a me that you're go-ing to come on c'mon c'mon, stay! Oh-oh, la-de-d

**Doo-Wops**

Stay! Stay! (Repeat ad lib)

# Sing-Along Lyrics

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INTRO:

Melody Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-

Doo-Wops YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP BOOM Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na-Na, BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na-

Melody Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na Sha-Na-Na-Na,

Doo-Wops Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na-Na,

Melody Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na-Na. Yip-yip-yip-yip- yip-yip- yip-yip, Boom- Boom- Boom- Boom- Boom-

Doo-Wops Sha-Na- Na-Na-Na-Na. OH YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

Melody Boom Get A Job, Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na

Doo-Wops BOOM GET A JOB, Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na

FIRST VERSE:

Melody Ev'-ry morn-in' a-bout this time she gets me out of my bed a-cry-in' Get A Job,

Doo-Wops BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na- Na Sha- Na-Na-Na-Na BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na-Na

Melody Af-ter break-fast e'-vry day she throws the want ads right my way and she

Doo-Wops Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na BA-DOO Sha- Na- Na- Na Sha- Na- Na- Na- Na She

Melody nev-er fails to say . . . "Get A Job." Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na Sha-Na-Na-

Doo-Wops nev-er fails to say GET A JOB Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na- Na-Na BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na-

Melody Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na Sha-Na-Na-Na,

Doo-Wops Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na-Na,

Melody Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na. Yeah Yip-yip-yip-yip-yip-yip-yip- yip, Boom- Boom- Boom- Boom- Boom-

Doo-Wops Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na. OH YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

Melody Boom, Get A Job Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na.

Doo-Wops BOOM GET A JOB Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na.

BRIDGE:

Melody And when I read the pa-per I read it through and through.

Doo-Wops Ba- Doo Dip Did-Id-It Ba-Doo Dip Did-Id-It Ba-Doo Dip Did-Id-It Ba-Doo Dip Did-Id-It

Melody And my ba-by never fails to say. If there is any work for ME-E-E-E. Then I go back to

Doo-Wops Ba-Doo Dip Did-Id-It Ba- Doo Dip Did-Id-It If there is any work for ME-E-E-E the



Sody house. Hear that wom-an's mouth. Preach-in' and a-cryin', tells me that I'm ly-in' about a jo-  
o-Wops Preach-in' and a-cryin', tells me that I'm ly-in' about a jo-

Sody o-o-o-b that I nev-er could find.  
o-Wops o-o-o-b THAT I NEVER COULD FIND

Sody Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na  
-Wops Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na, BA-DOO

Sody Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na, Well Yip-yip-  
-Wops Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na BA-DOO Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-Na-Na-Na-Na OH YIP YIP

Sody yip-yip-yip-yip-yip-yip Boom-Boom-Boom-Boom-Boom-Boom Get A Job Sha-Na-Na-Na, Sha-  
Wops YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP YIP BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM GET A JOB Sha-Na-Na-Na,

Sody Na-Na-Na-Na-Na REPEAT FROM BRIDGE  
Wops Na-Na-Na-Na-Na,

IR. BASSMAN **Get A Job**

Musical notation for the first line of the bass part. Chords G and C are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are: Yip yip yip yip yip yip yip boom shana na na sha na na na na ba doo shana na na sha na na na na ba

Musical notation for the second line of the bass part. Chords F and C are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are: doo shana na na sha na na na na ba doo shana na na sha na na na na well,

Musical notation for the third line of the bass part. Chords G, F, and C are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are: yip yip yip yip yip yip yip boom boom boom boom boom boom Get a Job.



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**Optional exercise: Building our own doo-wop song.**

Doo-wop songs come from improvised harmonies, so there are few compositional rules to obey. But we can give an example with the traditional song "Good Night Ladies."

The straight lyric, sung *legato*, "connected": Good night, ladies. Good night, ladies. Good night, ladies, we're sad to see you go. Merrily we roll along, roll along, roll along. Merrily we roll along, o'er the deep blue sea.

First, open up some space in the melody lyric for harmony. Sing short syllables with a beat in between: Good (beat) night (beat) ladies (three beats) etc.

Then put a bass line in the breaks:

Melody:            Good        night        ladies,                good        night        ladies,

Bass: Dm-dm-dm            dm            dm            dm-dm-dm            dm            dm

Melody:            good        night        ladies                We're sad to see you go.

Bass: Dm-dm-dm            dm            dm            dm-dm                sad to see you go.

And so forth. Now, making sure at least one person holds to the melody, start layering on harmonies, high, low, wherever. Make instrument noises, rhythmic clicks, shhh noises. Keep experimenting and remember Duke Ellington's Rule of Music: If it sounds good, it *is* good.

