

Loy Krathong

Additional information for the World Celebrations feature on Loy Krathong in Thailand from the March/April 2010 (Volume 10 No. 5) issue of Music Express

ABOUT THE SONG

Dr. Kathy Sorensen collected this song when she interviewed immigrants from Thailand. She asked them what song from their culture they thought should be shared with American children to represent Thailand. "Loy Krathong" was the favorite.

Pronunciation:

Loy as in "boy" starting with an "l"

Krathong is krah tong (the "h" means that the t is aspirated.)

Ram wong wan Loy Krathong = rahm wong wahn loy krah tong

Bun ja song hai rao suk jai = bun jah song hai rao suk jai

The "u" in "bun" and "suk" is like the "u" in "put."

The "k" in "suk" is not aspirated, but like a hard "g"

"Hai" sounds like "hi" as in saying hi to someone.

"Jai" sounds like "hi" begun with a "j."

Interpretation:

Loy Krathong and the water is coming up.

We all, male and female, enjoy this Loy Krathong.

Let's go and float this lotus.

Let's go, let's go, let's go.

(After the flowers are gone, they dance. The song continues:)

Let's dance and have fun.

We know we are going to receive blessings

and we are going to be happy.

ABOUT CHING

Ching are a pair of small-cupped Thai cymbals that make a beautiful ringing sound when their sides are struck together. Often, in accompanying songs, a percussive muffled sound is also made by placing the cups together. Most Thai folk songs can be accompanied by alternating the ringing and the percussive sounds. If you do not have ching, you may substitute finger cymbals.

