MYTH, MUSIC AND DANCE OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Student Songbook

Collected, Edited and Adapted by RUTH DE CESARE, Ph.D



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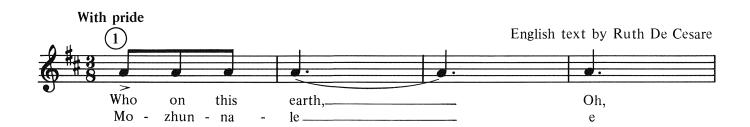
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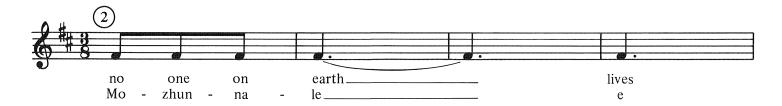
A FABLE

Once there were some mice who lived under a crooked log. They thought they were the only living things in the whole world! One of the mice, who considered himself very clever, was able, by standing on his hind legs and stretching out his little front legs, to barely touch the under side of the log.

When he touched the log, the silly mouse believed he had touched the sky because he was so very tall. The proud mouse sang this song about how wonderful he thought he was.











THE MYTH OF YOUNG EAGLE

Young Eagle, a Southern Paiute, feels that he is ready to leave his boyhood behind and enter manhood. In order to accomplish this, according to Paiute beliefs, he must travel from his Western home, Eastward to the country of the Sibit Paiutes. He asks permission from his mother to make this journey.

The words of many Indian songs imply more than they say, often assuming generally accepted cultural beliefs without expressing them. In this song, it is assumed that Young Eagle really wishes to go East so that he can hunt jackrabbits, a task permitted only to men of the tribe. Having accomplished this, according to tradition, Young Eagle will then be able to find a wife.

