

"KEEP ON THE SUNNY SIDE"

This popular American song originally written in 1899 by Ada Blenkhorn (1858–1927) with music by J. Howard Entwisle (1866–1903). The song was popularized in a 1928 recording by the Carter Family. A recording of the song with The Whites was featured in the 2000 movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

In 1899 Ada was inspired to write this hymn by a phrase used by her nephew. Her nephew was disabled and always wanted his wheelchair pushed down "the sunny side" of the street. The Carter Family learned of the song from A. P. Carter's uncle who was a music teacher, and they recorded the song in Camden, New Jersey in 1928. "Keep on the Sunny Side" became their theme song on the radio in later years. A.P. Carter's tombstone has a gold record of the song embedded in it.

Performance Notes:

1. There is a good example of this tune on YouTube with Maybelle and the Carter sisters. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qEhj-rQSAU&feature=related>. Their arrangement is in the Key of C. I used the same key since it also fit my vocalist's range. I've seen it performed in other keys, such as D and higher. The key you chose will ultimately depend on the vocal range of your singer(s).
2. The first arrangement is based on the melody line. It would be good to learn this linear version since the Banjo solo is based on the vocals.
3. The Banjo Solo is straight forward, based on the "Scruggs" style rolls. Below the tab, there will be **larger/bold** letters. These are the melody notes. Play them a little harder to help the melody surface.
4. The Banjo intro and ending are the same as measures 30-34 of the Banjo solo.
5. At measures 11, 18, 19, 26, 27 and 31, I've included the left hand fingerings (chording hand). These letters represent the index (I), middle (M), ring (R), and pinky (P) fingers. The letters below the tablature are the right hand (picking) fingerings.

Keep On The Sunny Side

www.jaybuckey.com

A. Blenkorn (Lyrics)
J. Entwisle (Music) - 1899
Arrangement by Jay Buckey

Melody line:

1 C F C

There's a dark and a trou - bled side of life, There's a
Oh, the storm and it's fu - ry broke to - day. Crush - ing
Let us green with a song of hope each day. Though the

6 G

bright and a sun - ny side too; Though you
hopes that we cher - ish so dear. Clouds and
mo - ment be cloud - y or fair. Let us

10 C

meet with the dark - ness and strife The
storms will in time pass a - way, The
trust in our Sa - vior a - way, Who

14 G C

sun - ny side may al - so find you.
sun a - gain will shine bright and clear.
keep - eth ev - 'ry one in His care.

18

F

Keep on the sun - ny side al - ways on the sun - ny side

22

C

G

keep on the sun - ny side of life. It will

26

C

F

C

help us ev - 'ry day, it will bright - en all the way, if we

30

C

F

C

G

C

Keep on the Sun - ny Side of Life.

The complete arrangement for “Keep on the Sunny Side”, including:

- The Banjo solo and backup
- multiple play along mp3s at slow, medium and faster tempos,
 - with or without the Banjo
 - with or without the lead and/or harmony vocals

are on this page: http://jaybuckey.com/music_pages/downloads/isd/isd.htm