



Honing Your Jam Leading Skills

1. Know your song REALLY well!!!!!!

- a. Listen to it on YouTube, Spotify, etc.
- b. If it is a well-known song, can you follow the rhythm and phrasing? A good example is the song "Ripple"
- c. Leading a group is NOT a performance.
- d. In the beginning, choose simple songs.**
- e. PRACTICE!**

SN = low B 1,2 1 vamp on G

Ripple: See <http://youtu.be/JT8zLTaKxeE> Radio City Music Hall. 1980
http://www.impossibledadimenticare.com/accordi/spartiti/stranieri_g/Grateful_Dead/Ripple.pro.parole.htm

[D]If my words could [G] glow with the glow of [C] sunshine
And my tunes were played on the harp un[G] strung
Would you hear my voice come through the [C] music?
Would you [G] hold it [D] near [C] as it were your [G] own?

It's a hand-me-down; the thoughts are [C] broken
Perhaps they're better left un[G] sung.
I don't know; don't really [C] care
[G] Let there be [D] songs [C] to fill the [G] air.

Chorus:

[Am]Ripple in still [D]water
Where there [G] is no pebble [C] tossed
Nor [A]wind to [D] blow

Reach out your [G] hand if your cup is [C] empty
If your cup is full, may it be a[G] gain
Let it be known there is a [C] fountain
[G]That was not [D]made [C] by the hand of [G] men

There is a road no simple [C] highway
Between the dawn and the dark of [G] night
And if you go no one may [C] guide you
[G] That path is [D] for [C]your steps a[G] lone

Chorus:

You must [G] choose to lead or [C] follow
But if you fall you fall [G] alone
And if you stand then who's to [C] guide you?
[G] If I knew the [D] way, [C] would take you [G] home.

La-n-da-da-da-daa.....



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2. Make sure the chart is in the key that is best for your voice. If not, here are your choices:

1. Rewrite the chart into a good key
2. Get help from the chart committee to rewrite it in a good key for you.

3. Choose another song



2b. Additional Notes:

Before you start, if need be, direct followers about specific parts.

- a. Perhaps back-up parts, like “Let’s Twist Again”
- b. Perhaps different parts for men and women, like “Tiny Bubbles”
- c. Parts for a divided room, etc., like “My Girl”



Everybody stand. Get audience to clap 1,2,3,4 then start words
Audience to say NO

Let's Twist Again – Chubby Checker 1961 SN = E

Each chord symbol is 4 beats, unless otherwise noted

(Italicized words sung by back-up singers. Notes for Oooo bop bop C A A B)

INTRO SPOKEN WITH CLAPPING

Men back up singers

Come on everybody, clap your hands

Ar ya lookin' good? I'm gonna sing my song, And it won't take long

We're gonna do the twist, and it goes like this

VERSE

C C Am Am
Come on, let's twist again, like we did last summer
Oooooooooo bop bop Oooooooooo bop bop

F F G7 G7
Yeah, let's twist again, like we did last year
Oooooooooo bop bop Oooooooooo bop bop

C C Am Am
Do you remember when, things were really hummin'
Oooooooooo bop bop Oooooooooo bop bop

F G7 C C
Yeah, let's twist again, twistin' time is here
Oooooooooo

CHORUS

F F C C7
A-round and around and a up and down we go again

F F G7 G7
Oh, baby let me know you love me so and then

C C Am Am
Let's twist again, like we did last summer
Oooooooooo bop bop Oooooooooo bop bop

F G7 C C
Let's twist again like we did last year
Oooooooooo

BRIDGE SPOKEN

C C Am Am
Who's that flyin' up there? Is it a bird?, **NO**

F F G7 G7
Is it a plane?, **NO** Is it the twister?, **YEAH!**

REPEAT VERSE and CHORUS

OUTRO

F G7 C C/
Come on, twist again twistin' time is here, Bop Bop

**at end, down stroke
on C, then raise
hand into the air**



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Women echo

Tiny Bubbles – C Leon Pober 1966. Performed by Don Ho

Each chord symbol = 4 beats, unless otherwise noted. SN = E

(Parenthesis) = echoes

Vamp on C. 1, 2 12

C **C** **G7** **G7**
Tiny bubbles (*tiny bubbles*) in the wine (*in the wine*)

G7 **G7** **C** **C**
Make me happy (*make me happy*) Make me feel fine (*make me feel fine*)

C **C//** **Cmaj7//** **C7//** **F** **F**
Tiny bubbles (*tiny bubbles*) Make me warm all over

C **G7** **C** **C7**
With a feeling that I'm gonna love you till the end of time

F **F** **C** **C**
So here's to the golden moon and here's to the silver sea

D7 **D7** **G7** **G7//**
And mostly here's a toast to you and me

C **C** **G7** **G7**
Tiny bubbles (*tiny bubbles*) in the wine (*in the wine*)

G7 **G7** **C** **C**
Make me happy (*make me happy*) Make me feel fine (*make me feel fine*)

C **C//** **Cmaj7//** **C7//** **F** **F**
Tiny bubbles (*tiny bubbles*) Make me warm all over

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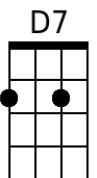
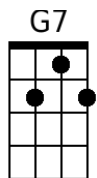
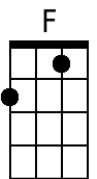
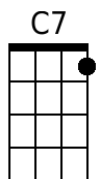
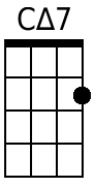
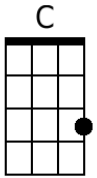
G7 **G7** **C** **C**
Make me happy (*make me happy*) Make me feel fine (*make me feel fine*)

C **C//** **Cmaj7//** **C7//** **F** **F**
Tiny bubbles (*tiny bubbles*) Make me warm all over

C **G7** **C** **C**
With a feeling that I'm gonna love you till the end of time

(ritard) **C** **G7** **C** (tremulo)

With a feeling that I'm gonna love you till the end of time





2b. Additional Notes:

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- b. Perhaps different parts for men and women, like “Tiny Bubbles”
- c. Parts for a divided room, etc., like “My Girl”





2c. Additional Notes:

During the song, direct followers as needed.

For example, slow down, one strum, softer now, louder now, tag the last line, tag it again, ritard, accapella, etc.

At the end. Encourage your jammers to look at you. Good followers will automatically look at the leader for clues as to how he/she will end the song.

Lion Sleeps Tonight, The – C Pete Seeger 1952; The Tokens 1961

Based on a South African hunting song by Solomon Linda 1939

[The Tokens - The Lion Sleeps Tonight \(Wimoweh\) \(Audio\)](#)

4/4 time Sing on 1st beat: 1,2, 1234 SN=C Rev. 4/14/2026

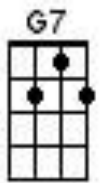
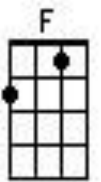
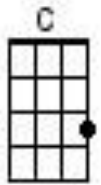
C F C G7
Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Dee-um-um-a-weh
C F C G7
Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Dee-um-um-a-weh
C F
A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh
C G7
A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh Ahhhhhhhh
C F
A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh
C G7
A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh Ahhhhhhhh

C F C G7
In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps to-night
In the jungle, the quiet jungle, the lion sleeps to-night

Chorus:

C F C G7
Weeee – ee-ee-ee- ee-um, a-wim-a-weh
Weeee – ee-ee-ee- ee-um, a-wim-a-weh
C F
A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh
C G7
A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh Ahhhhhhhh
C F
A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh
C G7
A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh A-wim-a-weh Ahhhhhhhh

Women sing **RED** and
Men sing **GREEN**
Simultaneously



C F C G7
Near the village, the peaceful village, the lion sleeps to-night.
Near the village, the quiet village, the lion sleeps to-night.

Chorus:

C/ F/ C/ G7/
Hush my darling, don't fear my darling, the lion sleeps to-night.
Hush my darling, don't fear my darling, the lion sleeps to-night.

Chorus: X2 **first time soft 2nd louder**

C F C G7
Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Dee-um-um-a-weh
C F C G7 C/
Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Dee-dee-dee-dee-dee, Dee-um-um-a-weh

softly

Ritard last line



2c. Additional Notes:

During the song, direct followers as needed.

For example, slow down, one strum, softer now, louder now, tag the last line, tag it again, ritard, accapella, etc.

At the end. Encourage your jammers to look at you. Good followers will automatically look at the leader for clues as to how he/she will end the song.



3. Counting-in **Write it down on your chart**

a. Many songs start on the first beat, like “Blowin’ in the Wind”.

1, 2, 1234 or 1, 2, 123 sing SN = D

G **C** **G** **Em**

How many roads must a man walk down

b. But others do not:

Beat 2 **You are My Sunshine - C:** 1, 2, 1 or 1, 2 sing SN = low G

C **C** **C** **C**

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine

Beat 3: **Pearly Shells - C:** 1, 2, 12 or 1, 2, 1 sing SN = low E

C **C** **C** **C**

Pearly Shells, from the ocean

Beat 4: **Don’t Be Cruel - G:** 1, 2, 123 or 1, 2, 12 sing SN = low B

G **G** **G**

You know I can be found



4. You are ready to lead the group. So how do you start?

1. Pluck/Hum the starting note. **Write it on your chart.**
2. Sing the song in your head to establish the tempo.
3. Possibly vamp on the first chord.
4. If you do this, check-in with your bass player to make sure he/she is with you.
5. Is the whole group with you?
6. Tell them the count-in, **which you have written on your chart**, and start singing

You Are My Sunshine

Vamp on C Count in 1, 2, 1 SN=G

C	C	C	C
You are my sunshine, my only sunshine			
C	F	F	C
You make me happy when skies are gray			
C	F	F	C
You'll never know dear, how much I love you			
C	C	G7	C C/
Please don't take my sunshine away			



5. Let's lead/start some songs together.

a. **Imagine – C**

C

F

Imagine there's no heaven

b. **Rawhide - Am:**

Am

Am

Rollin' rollin', rollin'

c. **Ragtime Cowboy Joe - C:**

C

C

Ragtime, talk about your ragtime

d. **Side by Side - C:**

C

C

F// C//

Oh we ain't got a barrel of money

e. **Amazing Grace – C :**

C

C7

F

C

A-mazing grace, how sweet the sound



5b. Let's lead/Start some songs together.

a. **Imagine – C** 1, 2, 1 or 1, 2 sing SN=G

C **F**

Imagine there's no heaven

b. **Rawhide - Am:** 1, 2 1234 or 1, 2 123 sing SN=A

Am **Am**

Rollin' rollin', rollin'

c. **Ragtime Cowboy Joe - C:** 1, 2 1234 or 1, 2 123 sing SN=E

C **C**

Ragtime, talk about your ragtime

d. **Side by Side - C:** 1, 2 123 or 1, 2 12 sing SN=C

C **C** **F//** **C//**

Oh we ain't got a barrel of money

e. **Amazing Grace – C :** 123, 12 or 123, 1 sing SN=low G

C **C** **C7** **F** **C**

A-mazing grace, how sweet the sound



6. Summary

- a. Know your song REALLY well
- b. Choose simple songs in the beginning
- c. Listen to recordings – learn the tempo and phrasing
- d. Determine the starting note and the count-in
- e. If needed, before beginning, give brief directions to your jammers.
- f. Make the leap and HAVE FUN!!!!!!

Now it's your turn to try