



The Cuckoo and the Donkey

D A

The cu-ckoo and the don - key, They quar-elled one fine

D G A

day, As to who could bet - ter sing, As to who could bet - ter

D G D A D

sing, In the love - ly month of May, In the love - ly month of May.

German

Dancing in two lines that face one another is like a conversation. Although the rascally cuckoo is fast becoming an endangered species, this dynamic song preserves its place in our folk heritage. To begin, the children stand in two lines facing each other and sing:

Verse one:

**THE CUCKOO AND THE DONKEY,
THEY QUARRELLED ONE FINE DAY,**

One line is designated as the cuckoos and the other as the donkeys. During this verse, the cuckoos take eight steps forward.

**AS TO WHO COULD BETTER SING,
AS TO WHO COULD BETTER SING,**

The donkeys take eight steps forward to meet the cuckoos in the middle.

**IN THE LOVELY MONTH OF MAY,
IN THE LOVELY MONTH OF MAY.**

The cuckoos and the donkeys take eight steps backward to their original positions.

Verse two:

**THE CUCKOO SAID, "HEAR ME SING,"
AND SOON BEGAN TO CALL,**

The cuckoos take eight steps forward.

**"BUT I CAN DO IT BETTER,"
"BUT I CAN DO IT BETTER,"**

The donkeys take eight steps forward.

**SAID THE DONKEY, WITH "HEE-HAW,"
SAID THE DONKEY, WITH "HEE-HAW."**

The cuckoos and the donkeys take eight steps back to their original positions.

Verse three:

**THESE SOUNDS SO SWEET AND LOVELY,
ONE HEARD THEM FAR AND WIDE,**

The cuckoos take eight steps forward.

**THEY SANG SO WELL TOGETHER,
THEY SANG SO WELL TOGETHER,**

The donkeys take eight steps forward.

"CUCKOO, CUCKOO."

The cuckoos keep advancing, while pushing the donkeys back.

"HEE-HAW."

The donkeys keep advancing, while pushing the cuckoos back.

"CUCKOO, CUCKOO."

The cuckoos keep advancing, while pushing the donkeys back.

"HEE-HAW!"

The donkeys keep advancing, while pushing the cuckoos back.

Line dance

Age 7 and older

Spring