

15. Xin Nian Kuai Le - Chinese New Year

Words and Music by Hap Palmer

In the wintertime when the moon is new
The dancing dragon and the lion appear
The drums and cymbals fill the air
Celebrating Chinese New Year

Xin Nian Kuai Le, Xin Nian Kuai Le
Gather your family and friends so dear
Xin Nian Kuai Le, Xin Nian Kuai Le
Wishing you a happy new year

The dragon's head floats up and down
As the dancers circle 'round and 'round
The lion crouches, springs and jumps
To the thumping of the big drum's sound
(Percussion Interlude)

May good fortune shine on all you try
Gong Xi Fa Cai (Mandarin)
May the New Year bring you wealth and joy
Gong Hay Fat Choy (Cantonese)

Xin Nian Kuai Le, Xin Nian Kuai Le
Gather your family and friends so dear
Xin Nian Kuai Le, Xin Nian Kuai Le
Wishing you a happy new year



*The instant-sing line for this song is Xīn Nián Kuài Lè . Phonetically, it is pronounced, "Sheen Nian Kwai Luh," This is how we say "Happy New Year" in Chinese. **Xin Nian** means "New Year" and **Kuai le** means happiness, joy, or delight.*

*The idea of good fortune and wealth are included with other greetings traditionally used during Chinese New Year. Both **Gong Xi Fa Cai** (Mandarin), and **Gong Hay Fat Choy** (Cantonese) are ways of saying, "Wishing you prosperity in the coming year."*

Chinese New Year marks the first day of the New Year in the Chinese lunar calendar. It is celebrated between January 21 and February 20. It is often an occasion for Chinese families to gather for a reunion dinner.

As you sing this song, listen for the changes in tempo from slow to fast and the changes in time signature from 4/4 to 6/8 meters. Try creating a dragon dance individually or in a group and respond to these changes. When doing an individual dance you can use a scarf and let it flow above your head to represent the dragon.