

Popular Graduation Song

Just Passing By

by Donna Rhodenizer



- Celebrate your graduates with a special song
- Use the “Just Passing By” performance track at graduation ceremonies or present a live performance
- Enjoy “Just Passing By” using the printed music, lyrics, teaching strategies, cross-curricular activities, and audio tracks
- Print this PDF download to use as a reference

Unison arrangement in English or French
Also available in SSA, SAB arrangement
from www.redcastlepublishing.com

Donna Rhodenizer

Music education specialist

Performer

Composer

RECORDING ARTIST



Donna has been writing songs for young elementary-aged singers since the 1980s, with over 400 songs in her catalogue! She is intrigued by the world around her and delights in sharing her unique perspective writing songs that are catchy and capture the imagination of young singers. Her child-centered lyrics and musical stylings make her songs favourites with elementary students and young vocal students. The solid musicality of her writing makes her songs popular with music educators in elementary classrooms and private vocal studios.

Get the *Just Passing By* - Super Pack at this link:

<https://donnaandandy.com/just-passing-by/>

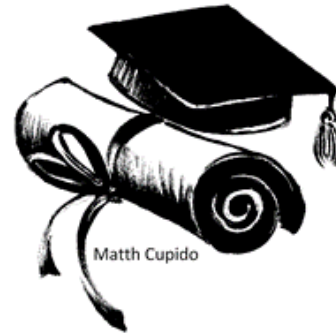
Visit Donna’s Facebook page: [Elementary Music with Donna](#) to view over 400 videos on teaching strategies, repertoire suggestions, concert planning and more.

For Donna’s original songs and classroom activities, go to:

www.donnaandandy.com

Concert Repertoire

Just Passing By is perfect for graduation ceremonies and celebrating the end of the school year with your students. This song explores celebrating friendship, looking ahead, and saying goodbye but remembering shared experiences. Play the performance track for your special students or have them learn the song and sing it themselves using the instrumental accompaniment track. Written in a pop style, this song is sure to be a hit with students (and adults!) of all ages. The French version of *Just Passing By* (*Une traversée*) is also included in the Super Pack.



Expressive Singing

Discuss the sentiment of the song.

The mood of this song is optimistic even though the singer is saying goodbye.

Use dynamics to support the lyrics and sing expressively.

The key change before the third chorus helps “lift” the piece and give it some momentum.

Use the higher, brighter key to convey the sense of optimism of the lyrics.

Form

Just Passing By begins with the chorus.

ABABA form

The form of the piece is ABABA - Chorus, verse, chorus, verse, altered chorus.

Although there are three choruses, in the third chorus the words change.

How will you sing the third chorus differently than the previous two choruses?

Musical roadmap

You will need to know how to follow the musical “road map” of this song.

Discuss repeat signs and 1st and 2nd endings.

Follow the music as you listen to the performance track.

Listen and Discuss

Extend the song into a time of discussion and personal reflection.

- Listen to the performance track of *Just Passing By*.

- Read the lyrics and get to know the music.
- *Use Just Passing By* to initiate and stimulate engaging discussion with students.
 - How do the students feel about graduating?
 - Discuss the emotions of ending one phase of life and beginning another.
 - At what other occasions might people feel these same emotions?

Teachers - is singing restricted in your area?

The full performance track of *Just Passing By* can be used in graduation ceremonies (online and in person).

- Play the track as the students assemble or leave the graduation ceremony.
- Play the track as part of a video presentation.

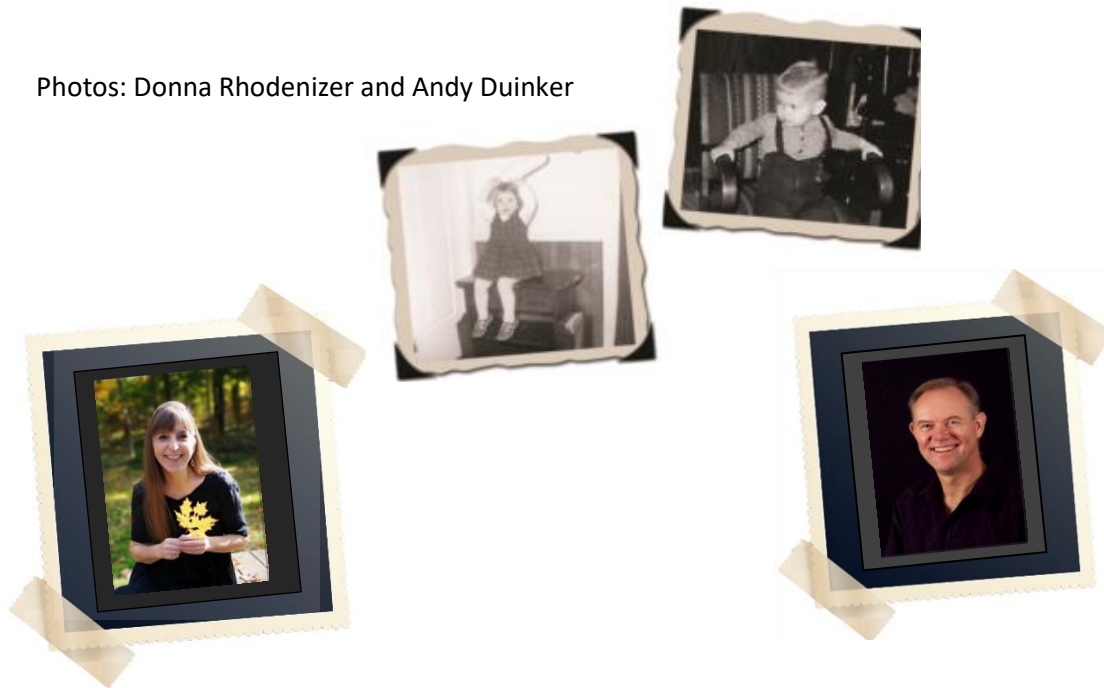
Special Graduation Presentation

Have each member of the graduating class provide their photo from Kindergarten plus a more recent photo.

Organize the photos in two-photo groupings showing the younger photo first and then reveal who that youngster is by showing their recent photo.

Use the performance track of *Just Passing By* as the background for your photo presentation for a memorable walk down “memory lane”.

Photos: Donna Rhodenizer and Andy Duinker



Cross-curricular extensions

The *Just Passing By* - Super Pack provides 12 activities in a variety of curricular subject areas. Cross-curricular extensions are provided in the following subject areas:

Language Arts
 Personal Development
 Visual Art
 Memory Skills
 Social Studies
 Personal development
 History
 Math

Sequential instructions are provided for each activity. Preparation/supplies are indicated.

Activities presented in the Super Pack include:

- Explore quotes of encouragement and positive life messages.
- Create cards with positive messages and deliver them to family and friends. (Particularly important for people dealing with illness and isolation.)
- Play a memory game – how many items can you remember and name after seeing them for only 30 seconds?
- Play the travel game, “I am going on a trip”.
- Create a class yearbook with photos, writeups, stories, poems and other class contributions. Include space for autographs and messages from friends, teachers and even the principal!
- Create a friendship rainbow using hand tracings and writing memories of your friends on each hand.
- Make a class time capsule.
- Interview someone in your home. Show the video of the interview. Create a photo display featuring your interview subject.
- Create a family tree.
- Create a timeline of memorable events that have happened in your life.

View sample pages [here](#).
 Get your Super Pack [here](#).

[Just Passing By - Super Pack](#) audio and printables:



English and French

Print music – Vocal Score

Print music – Full score (vocal and piano with guitar chords)

Lyrics (two formats: with and without coloured graphics)

Audio track - English (studio recording – full performance – Donna & Andy - from CD: Dinosaurs, Dragons and Me)

Audio track - French (studio recording – full performance – Donna & Andy, featuring soloist, Leah Alkenbrack - from CD: La vie pour moi)

Audio track (studio recording – instrumental)

Permission to use audio tracks for performances, both online and in person

Copyright license to make print copies for student/teaching purposes

Colouring page

Activity Pack (12 cross-curricular activities – English only)

The audio tracks for *Just Passing By* are performed by singing duo, Donna & Andy. They have been writing, performing, and recording top quality music for children since 1996. Printed books, e-books, digital downloads, and full CDs of their music are available at: www.donnaandandy.com

Send us YOUR song video

We would love to see your performance of Just Passing By. There is no licensing fee required when you post your video. In your video post title, please include Donna Rhodenizer's name as the composer as well as the title – Just Passing By. This helps people find your video and will generate more video views. Then, send us your YouTube Video link so we can promote it and maybe post it on one of our webpages.