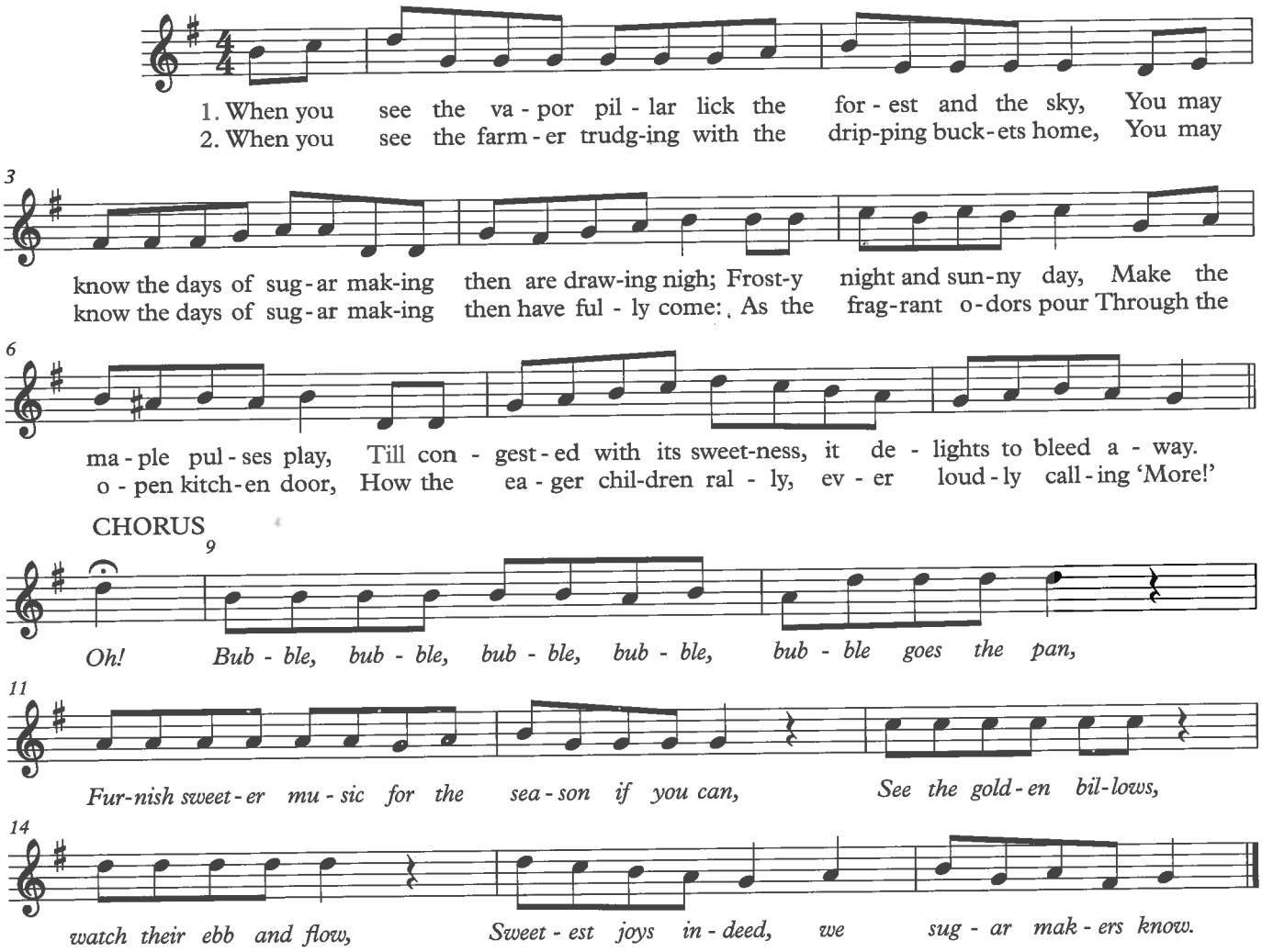
Disc 2

4 Pronunciation guide

Maple Sweet

Vermont, USA



3. Do you say you don't believe it?
Take a saucer and a spoon,
Though you're sourer than a lemon,
you'll be sweeter very soon.
Why, the greenest leaves you see,
On the spreading maple tree,
Though they sip and sip all summer
will the autumn beauties be.

4. And for home or love,
or any kind of sickness, 'tis the thing,
Take in allopathic doses,
and repeat it every spring;
Until everyone you meet,
If at home or on the street,
Will be half a mind to bite you,
for you look so very sweet.

Dating from the early 19th century, this song was collected in Underhill, Vermont, from the Jackson family, who have sung it for generations. When the warmer days of spring arrived, usually in March, maple trees were tapped and hung with buckets to catch their colourless sap, which flows freely after the cooler nights. For several weeks, men were busy tapping, gathering and boiling down the sap, making it into syrup and sugar.

Be careful not to make the quavers too regular or mechanical. Let the natural stresses of the words help shape your phrases. (Allopathic doses are regular medicines!)

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