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Hey there and welcome to episode 77 of Busy Kids Love Music, a podcast for music loving families. I'm Carly Seifert, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and I'm so happy you're joining me today for a brand new episode of Busy Kids Love Music. Before we get started, I just want to let all my listeners know that enrollment for my online piano lesson membership opens next week on August 22nd, for a limited time. I have a membership for adults called Busy Moms Do Piano, and a membership for kids called Busy Kids Do Piano. The membership includes access to hundreds of professionally recorded, step-by-step piano lesson videos, downloadable sheet music, online theory games, monthly practice challenges and an incredibly supportive community. So I hope you'll consider joining me inside my membership program if you've ever wanted to learn to play the piano or maybe have been taking a break from piano lessons and are looking to jump back in. You can join my waitlist at busykidsdopiano.com/waitlist and that way you'll be e-mailed on August 22nd when we open for enrollment so that you don't miss out on that limited time window. I'll pop the link to join the waitlist in this episode's show notes as well.

This summer, we visited Peru, Morocco, Italy and Indonesia, and learned so much about the rich and beautiful folk music that is part of these countries' history and culture. Today we've reached our final destination in *Around the World with Busy Kids Love Music* – we're headed to the continent of North America to the most easterly province of Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador.

As you listen to this sample of folk music it might sound similar to the music of another country we visited in last summer's edition of *Around the World with Busy Kids Love Music* – Ireland. That's because folk music in Newfoundland and Labrador has a connection with Celtic Music – music made by the Celtic peoples of Brittany, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The earliest explorers and fishermen immigrants of Newfoundland and Labrador likely

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entertained themselves with music – probably church hymns, fiddling, flute playing, bagpiping and performing ballads and tunes carried over from Europe. But the singers and performers also wrote new songs to reflect the stories and tragedies and unique experiences of their communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The lyrics of the folk music of Newfoundland and Labrador focuses on the region’s seafaring traditions, and so you’ll hear a lot of sea shanties and other sailing songs. A sea chanty is a folk song that would be sung to accompany the rhythmic work aboard a large merchant sailing ship. The words might sound a little random and nonsensical, but the emphasis was on fitting the work.

Improvisation and stock verses were part of shanty singing – ideas which came from African-American music. Improvisation is where you make up words on the spot. A stock verse would be something such as a phrase or a formula that would appear in different songs.

Now that you’ve heard a few examples of traditional music from this region, do you have any observations about what the people might be like who live there?

The people of Newfoundland and Labrador are known for being warm, welcoming, and fun-loving folks. The music was passed from generation to generation orally – as music often is. By the end of the 19th century, some communities in the province had church choirs as well as military and civilian bands. Morovian missionaries introduced Protestand spiritual music to the people of Labrador, who formed choirs and brass bands in every community. Unfortunately in this process, the original music of the native Inuit tribe was virtually eradicated. Sadly, little is known about the music of the indigenous tribes there as there is no written record of what it might have looked or sounded like.

Throughout the 20th century, there was a revival of interest in the traditional music of Newfoundland and Labrador. New bands began to

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play old tunes and ballads with electric instruments and add their own rock and roll flavor to the folk music of their ancestors.

Since 1976, an annual folk festival in St. John's, Newfoundland's famous music capital, celebrates musicians, dancers and storytellers of Newfoundland and Labrador. It began as a single day festival with 100 attendees, and has since become a 3-day celebration with over 10,000 people in attendance. As you look at and listen to the line-up of musicians in this modern-day festival, you can easily see the importance and relevance of traditional folk music even in the music enjoyed by so many today.

Head over to busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/77 to grab your passport stamp for Newfoundland & Labrador, and also check out the curated playlist I've linked to on YouTube that will have some of the music from today's episode as well as other performances of folk music from this region. In case you missed any of our other stops from this summer's Around the World with Busy Kids Love Music, I'll link to those episodes as well. Again, you'll find all that at busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/77.

Thanks so much for joining me for this episode and for traveling the world with me this summer to learn about the folk music from so many different parts of our beautiful and diverse planet. I hope you've had as much fun as I have, and I would love to see photos of you with your passports. You can tag me on instagram [@busymomsdopiano](https://www.instagram.com/busymomsdopiano) or e-mail them to me: carly@busymomsdopiano.com

I look forward to connecting with you again in two weeks for the next episode of Busy Kids Love Music. Bye for now!