

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This song is traditionally sung in *Bahasa Melayu*, the national language of Malaysia. This language and its variants—such as *Bahasa Indonesia*—descended from the Majapahit Empire in the Nusantara archipelago region of Southeast Asia.

“Ikan Kekek” comes from the Malay tradition of *dikir barat*, a type of musical duel in which singers improvise new words on each verse. The song is repeated numerous times as singers compete to gather crowd support. The person who creates the most humorous words is the winner, as decided by cheers and applause from the audience. Lyrics typically incorporate Malay idioms, parables, wise sayings, and advice.

A favorite line (though not included in this arrangement) is “Tidak lari gunung dikejar.” This Malay parable roughly translates to “You can’t chase the mountain because it will always be out of reach.” Indeed, a mountain in view is out of reach, and a mountain reached is out of view. In other words, don’t neglect the present moment in favor of chasing an illusion or pipedream.

“Ikan Kekek” remains a popular Malay children’s folk song, often sung using just the first verse. This arrangement restates the verse and its lyrics in a variety of ways, capturing the energy and excitement of the traditional *dikir barat*.

## MALAY PRONUNCIATION & TRANSLATION

### Ikan kekek, mak iloi iloi.

*Ee-kahn keh-kehk mahk ee-loy ee-loy*  
(Ponyfish, mother iloi iloi.)

### Nanti adik, mak iloi iloi.

*Nahn-tee ah-deek mahk ee-loy ee-loy*  
(Wait little brother, mother iloi iloi.)

### Ikan gelama, mak ilai ilai.

*Ee-kahn guh-lah-mah mahk ee-lahee ee-lahee*  
(Croaker fish, mother ilai ilai.)

### Pulang sama, mak ilai ilai.

*Poo-lahng sah-mah mahk ee-lahee ee-lahee*  
(Go back (with) mother ilai ilai.)

The words “iloi iloi,” “ilai ilai,” and “oi” (pronounced *oy*) are expressions with no specific translation.

Visit [alfred.com](http://alfred.com) to view a pronunciation video spoken by the arranger.

## PERCUSSION

The following percussion patterns are based on a traditional *dikir barat* rhythm. Improvise as desired, or visit [alfred.com/choralparts](http://alfred.com/choralparts) to download free percussion parts.

The percussion notation is presented in three staves, all in 4/4 time. The first staff, labeled 'SMALL GONG', shows a single quarter note on the first line. The second staff, labeled 'SHAKER', shows a sequence of quarter notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth. The third staff, labeled 'HAND DRUM', shows a sequence of eighth notes: eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter, eighth, eighth, quarter, quarter.

# IKAN KEKEK (Ponyfish)

for S.A.B. voices and piano  
with optional percussion and PianoTrax\*

Traditional Malaysian Folk Song  
Arranged by JERRY LIM

Brightly (♩ = ca. 116)

*opt. percussion begins*

PIANO

*f*

*decresc.*

4 SOPRANO *mf* 5  
ALTO I - kan ke - kek, — mak i - loi i loi. I -  
BARITONE

7  
kan ge - la - ma, — mak i - lai i - lai. I - kan ke - kek, — mak i -  
*mf*

\* Also available for 2-part (51393). PianoTrax 17 accompaniment CD available (51275).  
Visit [alfred.com/choralparts](http://alfred.com/choralparts) to download free percussion parts.  
Visit [alfred.com](http://alfred.com) for digital scores and audio.

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loi i - loi. I - kan ge - la - ma, — mak i - lai i - lai. Nan -

13

ti a - dik, mak i - loi i - loi. Pu - lang sa - ma, — mak i -

lai i - lai. Nan - ti a - dik, mak i - loi i - loi. Pu -

19

lang sa - ma, — mak i - lai i - lai.

22

SOPRANO

23

I - kan ke - kek, — mak i - loi i - loi. I -

ALTO

I - kan ke - kek, — mak i - loi i -

BARITONE

I - kan ke - kek, — mak i -

Preview Only  
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25

kan ge - la - ma, \_ mak i - lai i - lai. I - kan ke - kek, \_ mak i -  
 loi. I - kan ge - la - ma, \_ mak i - lai i - lai. I - kan ke -  
 loi i - loi. I - kan ge - la - ma, \_ mak i - lai i - lai.

28

loi i - loi. I - kan ge - la - ma, \_ mak i - lai i - lai.  
 kek, \_ mak i - loi i - loi. I - kan ge - la - ma, \_ mak i - lai i -  
 kan ke - kek, \_ mak i - loi i - loi. I - kan ge - la - ma, \_ mak i -

31

32

Nan - ti a - dik, mak i - loi i - loi. Pu-  
 lai. Nan - ti a - dik, mak i - loi i - loi. Pu-  
 lai i - lai. Nan - ti a - dik, mak i - loi i - loi. Pu-

34

lang sa - ma, mak i - lai i - lai. Nan - ti a - dik, mak i -  
 lang sa - ma, mak i - lai i - lai. Nan - ti a - dik, mak i -  
 lang sa - ma, mak i - lai i - lai. Nan - ti a - dik, mak i -

37

loi i - loi. Pu - lang sa - ma, — mak i - lai i - lai. I -

loi i - loi Pu - lang sa - ma, — mak i - lai i - lai.

loi i - loi. Pu - lang sa - ma, — mak i - lai i - lai.

40

kan ke - kek, oi, — ke - kek! I -

I - kan ke - kek! I -

I - kan ke - kek! I - kan ke - kek, oi, —

43

*cresc.* *f*

kan ke - kek! I - kan ke - kek, i - kan ke - kek! I -

*cresc.* *f*

kan ke - kek! I - kan ke - kek, i - kan ke - kek! I -

*cresc.*

— ke - kek! I - kan ke - kek, i - kan ke - kek!

46

kan ke - kek, — mak i - loi i - loi. I - kan ge - la - ma, — mak i -

kan ke - kek, — mak i - loi i - loi. I - kan ge - la - ma, — mak i -

*f*

I kan ke - kek, i - loi. I - kan ke -



49

lai i - lai. I - kan ke - kek, mak i - loi i - loi. I -  
 lai i - lai. I - kan ke - kek, mak i - loi i - loi. I -  
 kek, i - lai. I - kan ke - kek, i - loi.

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kan ge - la - ma, mak i - lai i - lai. Nan - ti a - dik, mak i -  
 kan ge - la - ma, mak i - lai i - lai. Nan - ti a - dik, mak i -  
 I kan ke - kek, i - lai.

*mf* 54

*mf*

*mf*

55

loi i - loi. Nan - *f*

loi i - loi. Pu - lang sa - ma, — mak i - lai i - lai Nan - *f*

*mf* Pu - lang sa - ma, — mak i - lai i - lai. Nan - *f*

58

ti a - dik, mak i - loi i - loi. Pu - lang sa - ma, mak i -

ti a - dik mak i - loi i - loi. Pu - lang sa - ma, — mak i -

ti a - dik, mak i - loi i - loi. Pu - lang sa - ma, mak i -

61

62

lai i - lai! I - kan ke - kek, oi, ke - kek! I -

lai i - lai! I - kan ke - kek, mak i - loi i -

lai i - lai! I - kan ke - kek!

64

*cresc.* kan ke - kek, oi, i - kan ke - kek! *ff* Oi!

*cresc.* loi. I - kan ge - la ma, mak i - lai, ke - kek! *ff* Oi!

*cresc.* I - kan ke - kek! *ff* Oi!