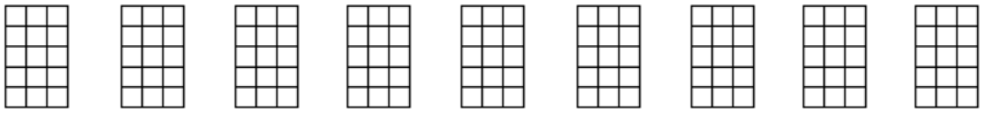
I'M A YANKEE DOODLE DANDY

Words and Music by George M. Cohan



F G7
I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy,
C7 F
A Yankee Doodle do or die;
D7 Gm
A real live nephew of my Uncle Sam's,
G7 C7
Born on the Fourth of July.
F G7
I've got a Yankee Doodle sweetheart,
C7 F
She's my Yankee Doodle joy.
C7 F C7
Yankee Doodle came to London,
F C7 F D7
Just to ride the ponies,
G7 C7 F
I am a Yankee Doodle boy.

Yankee Doodle Dandy is a 1942 biographical film about George M. Cohan, starring James Cagney, Joan Leslie, Walter Huston, Richard Whorf, Irene Manning, George Tobias, Rosemary DeCamp and Jeanne Cagney. The song "Yankee Doodle Boy" was Cohan's trademark piece, a patriotic pastiche drawing from the lyrics and melody of the old Revolutionary War number, "Yankee Doodle". The song's origins were in a pre-Revolutionary War song originally by British military officers to mock the disheveled, disorganized colonial "Yankees" with whom they served in the French and Indian War. The word doodle first appeared in the early seventeenth century to mean a fool or simpleton, and is thought to derive from the Low German dudeltopf, meaning "fool" or "simpleton". At the time, the most common meaning of the word doodle was that of "simpleton" or "fool".

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