

Katherine K. Davis was a prolific composer and music teacher. Born Katherine Kennicott Davis in St. Joseph, Missouri, on June 25, 1892, she graduated from Wellesley College in 1914, receiving the Billings Prize for Musical Composition. Wellesley College was one of several institutions where Davis later taught music, including Concord Academy. She was also a founder of the Concord Chorus. Davis studied at the New England Conservatory of Music, in France with Nadia Boulanger, and at the Thomas Whitney Surette Concord Summer School of Music. In 1941, she published "Carol of the Drum," based on an ancient Czech carol. It was later known as "The Little Drummer Boy" and was first recorded by the Trapp Family Singers in 1951. Many other ensembles have recorded it, including in 1977 by Bing Crosby & David Bowie.