

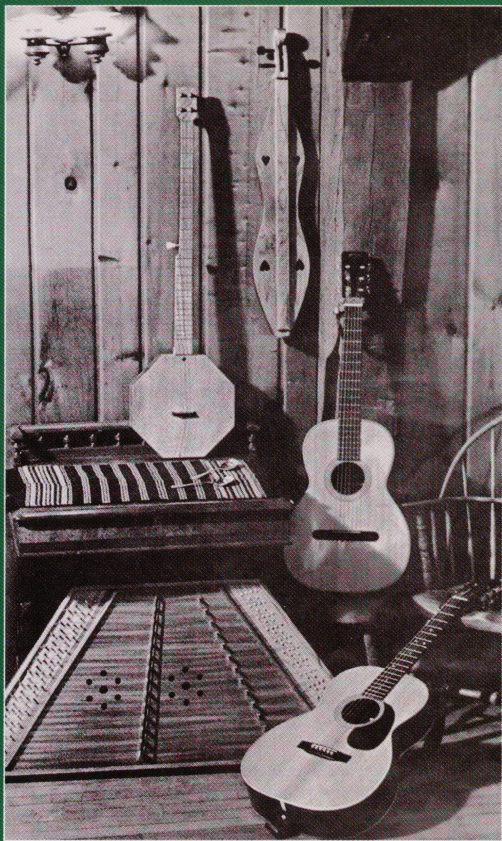
*The New
Golden Ring*

**FIVE
DAYS
SINGING**

Volume II



Folk-Legacy Records, Inc.
CD-42



Introduction

Actually, the "Golden Ring" has never been an established group of specific individuals; it has always been more a concept, an approach to informal, non-competitive music-making by a gathering of friends, often solo performers in their own right, who simply enjoy singing and playing together. Our first recorded example of this was the "original" Golden Ring, recorded at WFMT in Chicago in 1963 and now available as Folk-Legacy's CD-16.

For some years following the release of that recording, we wanted to produce a sequel, but the "original" artists were scattered around the country and managed to get together only once a year at the Fox Hollow Festival that Bob Beers produced every August in upstate New York. There, around the campfires, the ring seemed to expand each year as members of the group brought in new friends and partners. In fact, new "rings" were developing all over the country as the various participants gathered others around them, wherever they were living, for the simple purpose of sharing the music they loved.

We finally decided to invite all who could come for a reunion at the home of Sandy and Caroline Paton, a remodeled barn on a rural hillside in Sharon, Connecticut, that also houses Folk-Legacy. There we would make music together for a week or so before we all went on up to Fox Hollow. Friends came from Denver, Chicago, Ann Arbor, Washington, Boston, Philadelphia, Accokeek (Maryland), Falls Church (Virginia), Camden (Maine), New Haven and Madison (Connecticut). When we ran out of extra bedrooms and couches, air mattresses were strategically laid out on the living-room floor. The Armstrong family pitched their tent in the back yard by the pond and the Dildines took up quarters in our pick-up camper which was parked behind the house. They probably got more sleep than those of us who stayed in the house, but, truth to tell, no one slept very much. To go to sleep would mean missing the music still being made by other, more tireless song-swappers.

It was not what one might call a well-controlled recording situation. I set up microphones, set levels as well as I could, pushed the buttons, and then dashed in to add my tenor to the chorus. Caroline took on the task of feeding the multitudes and organized it

brilliantly. Loathe to leave the perpetual music to prepare meals, she had baked a number of casseroles ahead of time and stored them in the freezer. When people began to show signs of hunger, she would pop a couple of these in the oven and run back to sing another song or two while they heated. Everyone pitched in to help with the kitchen chores, of course, often experimenting with harmonies on a new song while scrubbing pots and pans. With over twenty-five folks to feed, all the meals were strictly buffet and paper plates.

It was five days of a marvelous musical marathon, exhilarating and exhausting, following which we all trekked up to Fox Hollow for another five days of singing and playing with an even larger assembly of friends. When it was all over, I must have slept for a couple of days before editing the many tapes which resulted in the two volumes of this set. But we'd do it again – and, in fact, we did, with somewhat smaller gatherings, to produce the cassette titled *Sharon Mountain Harmony: A Golden Ring of Gospel (C-86)* and, recently, in sessions which resulted in *'Twas On a Night Like This: A Christmas Legacy (CD-114)* and *For All the Good People, A Golden Ring Reunion (CD-121)* – for that's what it's all about, really: good times, with good music and good friends.

Sandy Paton
Sharon, Connecticut
October, 1995

A booklet is available for this recording, containing notes on all of the songs and their complete texts. To obtain a copy, send \$2 to Folk-Legacy Records, Box 1148, Sharon, CT 06069.

Recorded and edited by Sandy Paton
Digitally remastered by Bob Katz; Digital Domain, NYC.
Cover photograph by Howie Mitchell
Graphics by Walter Schwarz, Figaro, Inc.; Sharon, CT.

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The New Golden Ring
FIVE DAYS SINGING, Volume 2

CD-42

1. **ROLLING HOME** (trad.)
Led by Ed Trickett, with Penny, Ruth, Harry, Joe, Jack, Barry, and John. Ed: guitar.
2. **ANGELINE THE BAKER** (trad.)
Led by Sara Grey, with John, Howie, Lynn, and Joe.
Sara and John: banjos; Howie: hammered dulcimer.
3. **SAMMY'S BAR [THE LAST BOAT'S A-LEAVING]** (Cyril Tawney)
Led by Joe, Lynn, and Ginny, with most of the group. Joe and Ed: guitars.
4. **THE KANGAROO SONG** (trad.)
Led by Lynn Hickerson, with Joe, Howie, and a few of the rest of us on the refrain lines.
5. **FEW DAYS** (trad.)
Led by Harry Tuft, with most of the men forming the chorus. Harry: guitar.
6. **CALVARY** (trad.)
Soprano: Ginny, Lyn, Ann. Alto: Lynn, Ruth. Tenor: Howie, Harry. Bass: Joe, Ed.
7. **MORTALITY** (trad.)
Same as on "Calvary."
8. **AH, ROBIN** (trad.)
First group: Howie, Ann, Jack, Lyn.
Second group: Ed, Penny, Ruth, Sara.
Third group: Joe, Lynn, Harry, Joanie.
9. **OVER THE WATER TO CHARLIE** (trad.)
Led by Sara Grey, with most of the women forming the chorus.
10. **SAM GONE AWAY** (trad.)
Led by Jack Stanesco, with all of the men forming the chorus.
11. **JUTE MILL SONG** (Mary Brookbank)
Led by Gerry and George Armstrong, with most of the group. Ed and Joe: guitars.
12. **THE GALVESTON FLOOD** (trad.)
Led by Joe Hickerson, with almost everyone joining in on the chorus.
Joe, Michael, and Ed: guitars.
13. **MIST COVERED MOUNTAINS** (trad.)
Becky and Jenny Armstrong: fiddles; George: bagpipe chanter; Michael: concertina;
Gerry: guitar.
14. **GOODBYE, FARE YOU WELL** (trad.)
Led by Jack Stanesco, with Sara singing harmony and everyone joining in on the refrains. Jack: guitar; Harry: 12-string guitar; Howie: hammered dulcimer.

The New Golden Ring

Folk-Legacy CD-42



COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

FIVE DAYS SINGING Volume II



1. ROLLING HOME	4:53
2. ANGELINE THE BAKER	5:12
3. SAMMY'S BAR	4:55
4. THE KANGAROO SONG	1:37
5. FEW DAYS	3:00
6. CALVARY	1:08
7. MORTALITY	:38
8. AH, ROBIN	1:37
9. OVER THE WATER TO CHARLIE	3:37
10. SAM GONE AWAY	1:23
11. JUTE MILL SONG	2:51
12. THE GALVESTON FLOOD	6:37
13. MIST COVERED MOUNTAINS	1:42
14. GOODBYE, FARE YOU WELL	2:56

Recorded by Sandy Paton

Notes by the various participants

Cover photograph by Howie Mitchell

Digital master by Bob Katz, Digital Domain, NYC

Graphics by Walter Schwarz, Figaro, Inc.; Sharon, CT

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The participants:

Becky Armstrong
George Armstrong
Gerry Armstrong
Jenny Armstrong
Gordon Bok
Joanie Bronfman
Lyn Burnstine
Dale Cooney
Michael Cooney
Ginny Dildine
John Dildine
Sara Grey
Joe Hickerson
Lynn Hickerson
Neal MacMillan
Ruth Meyer
Ann Mitchell
Howie Mitchell
Barry O'Neill
Caroline Paton
Sandy Paton
Liz Schoeberlein
Jack Stanesco
Ed Trickett
Penny Trickett
Harry Tuft