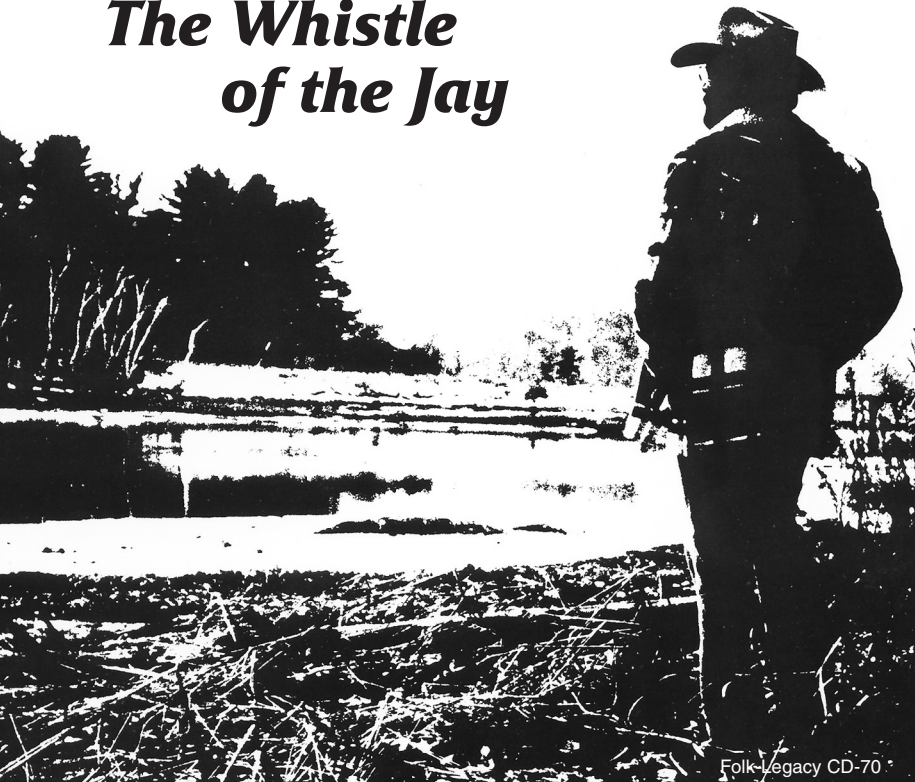


Bill Staines

***The Whistle
of the Jay***



Folk-Legacy CD-70

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The Whistle of the Jay

CD-70

The gold New England autumn was gone. The wood was in and only a few birds remained near my home in New Hampshire to cheer the arrival of the sun each morning. One jaybird, however, never failed to remind me that there were things to do or places to go. As if pretending to be some great songbird, he would sit on his tree branch outside my window and whistle and call until I was forced to throw back the curtain and look him straight in the eye. I would suddenly realize, however, that I was now wide awake and being blinded by the sun that he was using to warm himself.

It had been two years since I had recorded an album and so it was that at this time, just before the snows of winter, I gathered up some musician friends and we descended upon the home of Sandy and Caroline Paton in the hills of Connecticut to do this record. For two days we rehearsed, recorded, listened, laughed, recorded again, listened and smiled. Then there was some chicken and strawberry yogurt pie and more recording.

A special thanks goes to everyone who sang and played on this album. To Lana Pettey on bass, to Susan Hansen on five string viola, to Rick Lee who played piano and banjo, and to my favorite guitar player, Guy Van Duser.

So now it's all over and that jaybird's back calling to me again. I'll finish these notes now.

I'm on the road tonight.

Bill Staines
December, 1978

1. Missouri Road Song (Staines, BMI.)

A night drive through Ohio and Illinois in the wind and rain. The morning sun reflecting off of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis as I crossed the river, the chatter of the diesel jockeys on the radio, all bound for different parts of the country, the early morning feeling of late Spring — all became my inspirations for this song.

2. The Roseville Fair (Staines, BMI)

This is a song about falling in love — and staying in love.

3. Ol' Jack (Staines, BMI)

A tune pieced together from some feelings of living in the country where the air smells of wildflowers after a rain and you can still play ball in the road.

4. Joli Girl (Fowler)

“Joli Girl” was written by Elkin (Bubba) Fowler who now makes his home in Krum, Texas. Bubba wrote the song while living in New York City some years back, where it's easy to lose yourself and easier to write about it.

5. Henri LeBlanc (Staines, BMI)

North American history has always fascinated me, especially the era of the Franch trapping trade.

6. The Rivers of Texas (traditional)

Many times I've been reminded of this song as I've traveled through Texas and crossed one of the rivers mentioned in it. Rivers have always been magical things for me and I decided that it was time for me to record this song. It was collected in Arkansas by folklorist Vance Randolph from Mrs. Irene Carlisle, who claims to have learned it from a hired hand from Texas.

7. The Lover's Waltz (McQuillen)

This tune is by Bob McQuillen, accordion and piano player for numerous New England country orchestras, including the

Canterbury Orchestra. It's published in book #3 of ***Bob's Notebook; Jigs, Reels, and Other Tunes***, by Bob McQuillen, Dublin, NH.

8. The Logging Song (*Staines, BMI*)

This is a song developed from a story told to me by Cal Turner of Brantford, Ontario.

9. Piney River Girl (*Staines, BMI*)

Piney River is a little town nestled down in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia where the redbirds and the whippoorwills can touch you with a song.

10. A Cowboy's Hard Times (*Staines, BMI*)

I once saw an old wrangler sitting on a bench outside of a bar in Cut Bank, Montana. We talked for awhile and, later, I wrote this song for him.

11. Jubilee (*Staines, BMI*)

An old time get-together on the river — clowns, wide-eyed children, fiddles, people dancing, river packets. A picture of another time.

12. Mexico Way (*Staines, BMI*)

I wrote this song a long time ago, but it still remains a favorite of mine.

13. A Place in the Choir (*Staines, BMI*)

It makes me feel good to sing this one. It's fun to think of all the different animals clapping and making music. Listen to a porcupine sometime. This was the first recording of this song.

14. River (*Staines, BMI*)

A collection of thoughts about part of my life — winding, revealing, and always moving, much like a river. We all feel the flow of that river. This was my first recording of this one, too.

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1. **Missouri Road Song** (Staines, BMI) 2:31
2. **The Roseville Fair** (Staines, BMI) 3:26
3. **Ol' Jack** (Staines, BMI) 2:53
4. **Joli Girl** (Fowler, ASCAP) 3:05
5. **Henri LeBlanc** (Staines, BMI) 2:38
6. **The Rivers of Texas** (trad) 3:24
7. **The Lover's Waltz** (McQuillen) 2:01
8. **The Logging Song** (Staines, BMI) 2:15
9. **Piney River Girl** (Staines, BMI) 3:11
10. **A Cowboy's Hard Times** (Staines, BMI) 2:57
11. **Jubilee** (Staines, BMI) 3:14
12. **Mexico Way** (Staines, BMI) 3:06
13. **A Place in the Choir** (Staines, BMI) 2:40
14. **River** (Staines, BMI) 4:24

Recorded and edited by Sandy Paton
 Digitally remastered by Bob Katz, Digital Domain
 Photographs by Karen Elrod Staines
 Graphics by Sandy Paton

With:

Guy Van Duser
Lana Pettey
Susan Hansen
Rick Lee
Vicky Van Duser
Karen Staines
Caroline Paton
Stanley Longstaff

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