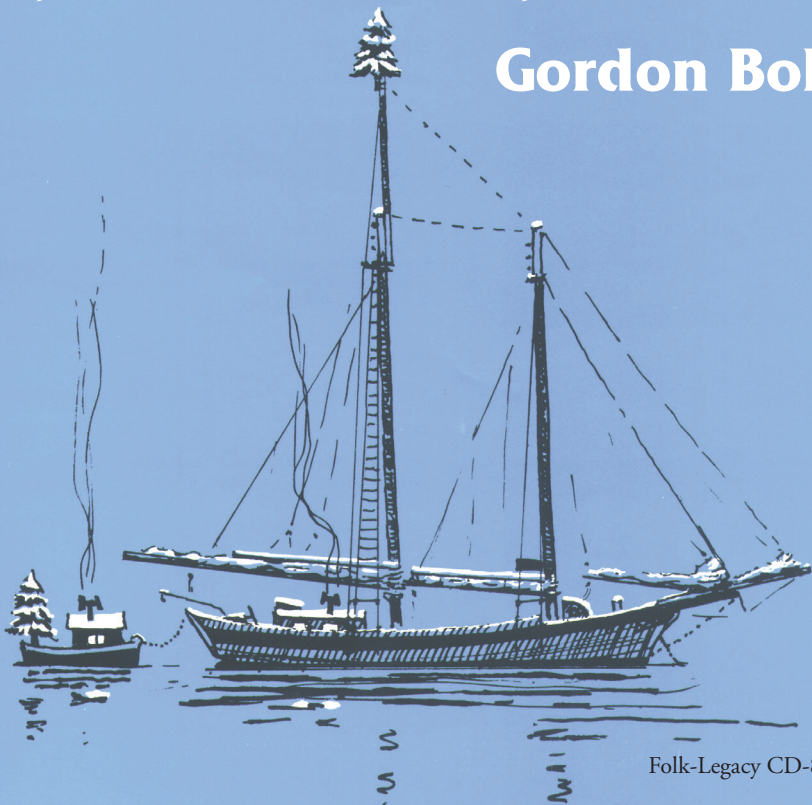


Jeremy Brown and Jeannie Teal

Gordon Bok



Folk-Legacy CD-84

Gordon Bok

Jeremy Brown and Jeannie Teal

For Shannon Bills and Shannon Bok

CD-84

1. Bay Saint Mary (Bok) - *hammered dulcimer*

Played as a prelude by Ann Mayo Muir on the hammered dulcimer. I follow the story playing it on the laud (la-ood'), originally a short, double-strung, gourd-shaped guitar-like animal from Spain and the Canary Islands. Nick Apollonio built this one for me a few years ago. That fall, he and I were driving down the French shore of Nova Scotia after doing a concert together in Wolfboro, watching the sun go down over Cape Saint Mary, tired and happy, heading home.

I was just holding the instrument when it started collecting notes from the land and the water and the people who lived there, like a butterfly net. So I played the notes and Nick told me to remember them because they were pretty. So all the way back across Bay of Fundy he remembered them and played them back to me. (He can play and sing anything.) So now I have the Bay of Saint Mary under October's setting sun, thanks to himself.

2. Jeremy Brown and Jeannie Teal (Bok)

I wrote this story, years ago, for the fun of it. I have an abiding fondness for working schooners and the crazy, dedicated people who sail them. I'm also fond of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and most people (including Hogans) who manage to live there. The characters in this story are probably fictitious.

3. Bay Saint Mary (Bok) - *laud*

4. **Herring Croon** (Bok)

One of the first songs I wrote (and kept) and still like to sing. People can tell you what they think or see, but I always wonder how things look to non-people, too. Most of the things I make are a sort of by-product of trying to understand the world I'm living in.

5. **All My Friends** (trad)

Many years ago, Ann Muir and I sang as often as we could with a fellow named Pete Davidson, now of Long Island. This is one of the songs he brought to us. It sounds English to me.

6. **Camping in the Bend** (trad)

A rare fellow in folksong here: a happy man. He's seen the route of the migrant shearer and only wants to be in one place — where he is. I learned it through Ray Wales, who now lives somewhere near Perth, Australia.

7. **Modest and Bright Eileen O'Farrell** (trad)

Somehow, the Irish people help make this world a little easier to live in. They give us songs we can live in, fly in, drown in, share the cares and joys of the world in. They're masters at making melody of the human condition, whatever it may be. Jo-Ellen and Ed Bosson and Helen Stokoe gave me this lovely tune a few years ago on a porch in the hills of New York. Jo-Ellen says they learned it from a record of the Chieftains, where it was ascribed to the collection of Edward Bunting, published in 1809.

8. **The Schooner *Ellen Munn*** (trad)

It's not hard to lose an old vessel in skim ice; her seams amidships lie so parallel to the waterline that the ice can reef one of them out so easily you'd never know it until she started to go down under you.

Many years ago, Doyle's Pharmacy of St. John's, Newfoundland, put out a little book that was half songs, half advertisements. This song was in it. Capt. Jim Sharp loaned it to me because he thought I could read music.

9. Harvest Home/Gordon's Fancy (trad/Bok)

I learned "Harvest Home" from Truck Croteau: the second tune is my own. It's easier than it sounds, really; you just pretend you're frailing the banjo. You don't need to know how to play the banjo (I don't), nor do you really need a thumb on your right hand, for that matter.

10. Hook Or Rionn Ohee (trad)

Learned from my aunt Beanto (Boericke) Cohen. She learned it from Alice Lang of Edinborough (who, she said, was born in Valparaiso, which accounts for some of the softness in her way of speaking and singing). Beanto also said that, dreamy as the song is, when you have to row or drive a canoe into a headwind it helps a lot to sing this. She and her sister Ethelwyn used it in the woods years ago to keep in touch with each other, each singing alternate lines. When she first sang it to me, I could hear two bells off the ledges singing it, too. She sang it alone, but I asked the 12-string to help me with the bells.

Gordon Bok

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A booklet, illustrated with drawings by Gordon Bok, containing the complete texts to the story and the songs on this CD is available for \$2 from Folk-Legacy.



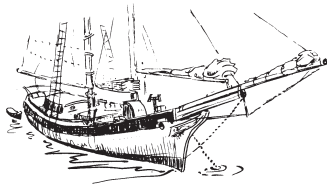
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Gordon Bok Jeremy Brown and Jeannie Teal

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|---|-------|
| 1. Bay Saint Mary (Bok) - hammered dulcimer | 1:18 |
| 2. <i>Jeremy Brown and Jeannie Teal</i> (Bok) | 17:46 |
| 3. Bay Saint Mary (Bok) - laud | 1:14 |
| 4. Herring Croon (Bok) | 3:24 |
| 5. All My Friends (trad) | 3:13 |
| 6. Camping in the Bend (trad) | 3:17 |
| 7. Modest and Bright Eileen O'Farrell (trad) | 2:11 |
| 8. The Schooner <i>Ellen Munn</i> (trad) | 3:20 |
| 9. Harvest Home/Gordon's Fancy (trad/Bok) | 1:59 |
| 10. Hook Or Rionn Ohee (trad) | 3:25 |



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Recorded by Bob Stuart in Camden, Maine
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