

FOLK MUSIC OF WASHINGTON SQUARE

RECORDED AND EDITED BY MELVYN T. REITER

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FA 2353



M
1629.7
N6
F666
1962

MUSIC LP

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I NEVER WILL MARRY Roger Lubin (vocal & guitar)
RHYTHM Paul Dorsey (drumsticks played on guitar case)
Frank Guerra (guitar)
WHERE DOES IT LEAD? Ana Perez (vocal & guitar)
LA MACARENNA John B. Carman (guitar instrumental)
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD
Carol J. Virili (vocal & guitar)
ROWING GAMBLES Alice L. McKillen (vocal)
Melwyn T. Reiter (guitar)
HOW LONG BLUES Henry Bradley (guitar & vocal)
CAR-CAR Melwyn T. Reiter
TWO BROTHERS Susan Yesselman (vocal & guitar)
GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK
Howard Tarnower (vocal & banjo)
Gary Lapow (vocal & guitar)
Daniel Williams (vocal)

TOY Henry Schifter (vocal & guitar)
MAN OF CONSTANT SORROW Roger Lubin (vocal & guitar)
COO-COO BIRD Howard Tarnower (vocal & guitar)
MARIANNE Marianne De Mott (vocal & guitar)
HIROSHIMA Robin Zeitlin (vocal & guitar)
Lynn Ispell (vocal & guitar)
HARD TRAVELING Bruce Allen (vocal & guitar)
NOBODY KNOWS YOU WHEN YOU'RE DOWN AND OUT
Ken Kino (vocal & guitar)
RAILROAD BILL & FREIGHT TRAIN MEDLEY
Gary Lapow (guitar instrumental)

FOLK MUSIC OF WASHINGTON SQUARE

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE
PHOTOGRAPH BY MELVYN T. REITER
DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

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SIDE I

- Band 1: Shucking On The Corn
Howard Tarnower (vocal & banjo) Gary Lapow (guitar)
Band 2: Dona, Dona Robin Zeitlin (vocal & 12-string guitar)
Lynn Isbell (vocal)
Band 3: I Never Will Marry
Roger Lubin (vocal & guitar)
Band 4: Rhythm Paul Dorsey (drumsticks played on guitar case)
Frank Guerra (guitar)
Band 5: Where Does It Lead? Ana Perez (vocal & guitar)
Band 6: La Macarenya John B. Carman (guitar instrumental)
Band 7: Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child
Carol J. Virill (vocal & guitar)
Band 8: Roving Gambler Alice L. McKillen (vocal)
Band 9: How Long Blues Henry Bradley (guitar & vocal)
Band 10: Car-Car Melvyn T. Reiter
Band 11: Two Brothers Susan Yesselman (vocal & guitar)
Band 12: Grandfather's Clock Howard Tarnower (vocal & banjo)
Gary Lapow (vocal & guitar) Daniel Williams (vocal)

SIDE II

- Band 1: Fare Thee Well Major Wiley (vocal & guitar)
Band 2: Blowing Down That Old Dusty Road
Jolly Robinson (vocal & guitar)
Band 3: Toy Henry Schifter (vocal & guitar)
Band 4: Man of Constant Sorrow Roger Lubin (vocal & guitar)
Band 5: Coo-Coo Bird Howard Tarnower (vocal & guitar)
Band 6: Marianne Marianne De Mott (vocal & guitar)
Band 7: Hiroshima Robin Zeitlin (vocal & guitar)
Band 8: Hard Traveling Bruce Allen (vocal & guitar)
Band 9: Nobody Knows You When You're Down And Out
Ken Kino (vocal & guitar)
Band 10: Railroad Bill and Freight Train
Gary Lapow (guitar instrumental)

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MUSIC LP

If you go down to Greenwich Village on a Sunday, at about 2P.M., you will see a lot of people carrying guitars, banjos, violons, mandolins and other instruments. If you follow them, they will lead you to the square in Washington Square Park. Here, the instrument bearing people gather, and tune up their instruments. A crowd of spectators begins to gather, slowly at first, then more rapidly.

Suddenly at one end of the square, three boys begin singing and playing their instruments. Simultaneously other groups begin singing and playing. Each group is surrounded by its own audience. Sometimes the audience joins in singing along with the group, and the only way you can tell the performers from spectators, is by the instruments which the performers are playing.

Why are these people here? They've come to play and sing the music that they love - FOLK MUSIC. The performers are for the most part amateurs, and they do not get paid for their performances. They come here to sing and play their instruments because they enjoy doing it.

Many of the performers seem to be totally unaware of the spectators because they are playing for themselves, not an audience. Other performers are more aware of the spectators, and they invite audience participation.

The atmosphere is electric and dynamic; nothing is stagnant; everything is continuous. When one area quiets down, another becomes alive with vitality.

A spectator in search of variety is never disappointed. At one end of the square they're playing Bluegrass style folk music; at the other end Italian folk songs; still another group is playing American folk songs; while a fourth group is playing Flamenco and Spanish Guitar.

There is a continuous turnover of performers, as newcomers steadily arrive, and others are leaving. Similarly the music changes as each new arrival brings his own special brand of folk music.

Spectators rarely stick with one group. This is natural because after a performance, the entertainers usually take a break, and they discuss technique. The conversation usually goes something like this:

"Say you got a capo ?" "Don't play this song in the key of D, it sounds better in C." And sometimes the performers don't talk shop, but they just chat, and the conversation sounds something like this:

"Anybody got change for a five ?" "Hey! Look at that chic in the red shorts. Man! Is she something!" "Does anyone want to play my guitar ?"

Meanwhile another group is going hot and heavy, and so the audience is strongly attracted to this new group. However, the first group quickly bounces back, and steals away audiences from other less vigorous groups.

There is a great range of ability in both the playing of instruments and the singing from group to group. The explanation for this is that some groups are composed of advanced amateurs who play their instruments with great facility, and sing with force and conviction. Other groups are composed of rank amateurs who have not yet mastered their instruments. As you would expect the more proficient performers attract the largest audiences.

At about 5:45 P.M., the performers begin packing up their instruments, because after 6 P.M. the playing of folk music is no longer permitted in Washington Square Park.

Melvyn T. Reiter

About the album

When I went down to Greenwich Village to record the FOLK MUSIC of Washington Square, I never dreamed I would record folk music of such a high quality. The performances on this record are for the most part professional in quality.

In this album you will find a variety of different types of folk music represented; such as, Bluegrass, Ballads, Blues, Childrens songs and Spanish Guitar.

If you enjoy folk music as much as I do, I am sure this album will appeal to you.

About myself

I am a graduate of New York University, and I have a B.S. degree in FINE ART. I am a creative photographer, and I have published in Popular Photography magazine. Some months back I became interested in FOLK MUSIC and recently I bought a good guitar.