

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FS 3570

THE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM

With Kevin Roth on the Dulcimer



M
1630.18
R845
M928
1977
v.1

MUSIC LP

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FS 3570

Side 1

1. The Red Hair Boy/Marie's Wedding (Traditional)
2. Planxty George Brabazon (Traditional)
3. Norwegian Woods (Lennon & McCartney)
4. Duncan (Kevin Roth)
5. Southwind/The Wind That Shakes The Barley (Traditional)
6. Copos de le Montagne (Traditional)
7. Sally In The Garden (Traditional)
8. Farewell To Tarwathie/Sheebeg and Sheemore (Traditional)
9. Soldiers Joy (Traditional)

Side 2

1. Ragutati Ragava Raga Ram (Traditional)
2. Singing In The Country (Pete Seeger)
3. Dry Bones (Kevin Roth)
4. June Apple (Traditional)
5. Nightingale (Judy Collins)
6. Thinking About The Old Ways
(Dulcimer medley—Soldiers Joy, Water Bound,
Somebody Kicks My Dog Around)
(Traditional)
7. Greensleeves (Traditional)
8. Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing (Traditional)
9. Bring In Good Ale (Traditional)
10. Clementi Sonatina—A Dulcimer variation
(Traditional)

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43 W. 61st ST., N.Y.C., U.S.A. 10023

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THE
MOUNTAIN DULCIMER
INSTRUMENTAL ALBUM
With Kevin Roth
on the Dulcimer

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

COVER PHOTO BY DAVID TEEPLE

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FS 3570

FOLKWAYS RECORDS Album No. FS 3570

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Picture of Ola Belle Reed with Kevin Roth

KEVIN ROTH

I was 13 years old when I first saw and heard a dulcimer played. It was played by Anne Stokes of Chestnut Hill, Pa. Her instrument had four strings and was made by David Field of New Jersey. She sang me the songs "Simple Gifts" and "Carry It On." A few weeks later I bought my first dulcimer. It was made out of spruce and had a fiber glass side and back. It was hanging in a book store where I lived.

I saw and bought the dulcimer during a very difficult time in my life. My mother had just died, my family situation changed, and we moved to Kennett Square, Pa., a small town known for its mushrooms!

Well, I have recorded four solo albums and have appeared on many other recordings, such as one from National Geographic and a few recordings friends have made. I am now working on part two of this collection of dulcimer music. I have given concerts, television and radio appearances, etc., over the last seven years.

My life is one of dulcimer music and poetry. My musical background is in piano and the folk music of Peter, Paul and Mary, Judy Collins, and many others. I sing the songs of traditional mountain folk as well as the urban street singers and songwriters. But now I am finding that I too have things to express, so I am writing and weaving my own words into music through the dulcimer and the keys of the piano.

If I am known as a dulcimer player, it is because of my innovative style of playing the instrument. I play in a form that was criticized and contradicted several years ago by the narrow-minded traditionalists. I'd like to think that the constant number of new and innovative dulcimer players is partly due to my music. I also play the traditional dulcimer songs in the traditional style, but I guess I am in heart from "Both Sides Of The Mountain," the traditional, and urban.

It is all music, and dulcimer is the most beautiful form of music I know of to play. I hope you like. I love it.

February 15, 1977
Kevin Roth

THE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER (A Brief History)

The origin of this instrument is not fully known. We do know that there are several instruments around the world that have similar relations to our dulcimer, but how it came into the United States no one knows.

Not only is the history a bit confusing, but so is the name. "Dulcimer" is a Latin word meaning "sweet song." In Latin we would translate the word like this: *dulcis*, sweet + *melos*, song. So we have the words "sweet song," which fit the instrument, and I'd like to think this album, to a tee. But there is another definition of the word dulcimer, and the most important of all. The name "dulcimer" applies to an instrument struck with hammers called a *Hammered Dulcimer*. The Hammer Dulcimer and the Mountain Dulcimer are two entirely different instruments in structure and sound. The instrument you hear on this recording is really a Fretted Zither and not a dulcimer at all!!!

So why call it a dulcimer? Well, maybe because of the sweet sound, and maybe not. It was around long before I was even born, and long before my parents were ever conceived of. The instrument dates back to the 1800's. I have listed a bibliography in the back of this booklet. There you will find the history needed for more comprehensive information.

Many people in the mountains played the dulcimer. For a while I hear it told that the instrument was gaining some popularity around the country, but soon died out of existence. I don't know how true that really was, but I do know that now more people than ever have a dulcimer, and it is being used in more styles than one.

Popular recording and concert artists have used the dulcimer in their work—Joni Mitchell, Richard Farina, Judy Collins, Steeleye Span, The Rolling Stones, and the list goes on.

There is a new breed of player: the innovative maker and composer on the instrument. We now have an electric dulcimer. The possibilities are endless. The amazing thing about the dulcimer is no matter what form of playing you use, or how talented you are, the dulcimer will always sound good. It's one of the most interesting and easiest instruments to play. It used to be thought of as an instrument with limitations, but I hope that the recording you have in your hands will prove that whoever said that was mistaken.

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BOOKLET OF SONGS

for

SIDE ONE

Side One: Cut One

THE RED HAIR BOY / MARIE'S WEDDING

Traditional. Adapted and arranged by Kevin Roth

The Red Hair Boy is also known as *Old Johnny Doo*, *The Little Beggar Man* and several other titles. The song is an old Hornpipe. *Marie's* (pronounced Mary's) *Wedding* is a Scotch/Irish song. The two songs seem to go so well together that I decided to record them that way.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, C. (four string)

Side One: Cut Two

PLANXTY GEORGE BRABAZON

Traditional. Adapted and arranged by Kevin Roth

This song is an O'Carolan composition. O'Carolan was a 17th century blind Irish harp player.

A Planxty is a song written for or in honor of someone, usually a patron or a friend. This song was a drinking song written for George Brabazon apparently by O'Carolan himself.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, C.

Side One: Cut Three

NORWEGIAN WOODS

By Lennon and McCartney

This song by the Beatles makes an interesting dulcimer song. I have used the basic form of the song and composed another song within the dulcimer's limits. The tuning is a little different. I have dropped the third string down one whole step to the note "F." This gives me all the sharps and flats I need to play the song.

Dulcimer tuning: C, F, C, C.

Side One: Cut Four

DUNCAN

By Kevin Roth

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I wrote this on a five string dulcimer with a double melody string. I tuned the first two melody strings one fifth apart, and came up with some interesting ideas and images.

I like to think of this as my jazz dulcimer song. It was written for a guy I once knew in high school. Sometimes people bring out images and ideas in other people without their knowing it.

I recorded this song on my second Folkways album (FTS 31045) with guitar, flute, bass, congas and a flute that flows in and out of the song like a river.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, CG.

Side One: Cut Five

SOUTHWIND /
THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY

Adapted and arranged by Kevin Roth

Southwind was originally written as a jig, and now it is played as an air. I hear it told that it's a fishing song. *The Wind That Shakes The Barley* is an old Irish Reel.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, C.

Side One: Cut Six

COPOS DE LE MONTAGNE

I learned this tune from Holly Tannen, a dulcimer player from California. She got it from the piping of Bob Thomas. It is from Mallorca, and sounds best in the "Bag-pipe" tuning.

Dulcimer tuning: C, C, C. (played on a three string dulcimer)

Side One: Cut Seven

SALLY IN THE GARDEN

Adapted and arranged by Kevin Roth

One evening, a friend of mine came over with his fiddle and taught me a few tunes. This one somehow sounded very nice when played with the dulcimer and the fiddle in a duet form.

Many of the fiddle tunes sound great on the dulcimer. If you play dulcimer, pick up a book of fiddle tunes in a folk music shop and fool around with some of the songs. I think you'll be quite delighted.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, Bb. (Minor Tuning)

Side One: Cut Eight

FAREWELL TO TARWATHIE /
SHEEBEG AND SHEEMORE

Adapted and arranged by Kevin Roth

Farewell To Tarwathie is a whaling song. Judy Collins recorded this son on her album *Whales and Nightingales*. *Sheebeg and Sheemore* is about one big elf and one little elf. Like many of the folk songs, the history is a bit mixed up, but one thing for sure—two elves and one whale make an interesting couple!

Dulcimer tuning: G, G, C. (Three String)

Side One: Cut Nine

SOLDIER'S JOY

I learned this from a Howie Mitchell record, and many phone conversations with the man. It sounds hard to play at first, but all it really is is a rocking back and forth with your fingers.

It took me several weeks to master, and I thank Howie for giving his time to a very frustrated dulcimer player. This song is for him.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, C.

BOOKLET OF SONGS

for

SIDE TWO

Side Two: Cut One

RAGUTATI RAGAVA RAGA RAM

I first heard this song from Howie Mitchell at his home in Washington, D.C. Howie learned the song from a Pete Seeger concert he attended in the late 1950's. I wrote to Pete and asked him if he knew anything about the song. This was his reply:

"The song is one of the favorites of Gandhi's. He had prayer meetings often when someone would stand up and sing this out, and the thousands on the ground would sing it back.

I learned this song 20 years ago from a young Indian student. I found out that the song is sung in various ways in India with different melodies and so on. Translated the words roughly mean praise God, praise God, but at one point and a very crucial point they say who is Allah and who is Ram. In other words, these are two names and why are we killing ourselves. As you know, a few years later, Gandhi was killed because some Hindu Nationalists were outraged at the suggestion that Moslems could unite with Hindus."

I have come up with a Sitar effect in the song. Due to my not having any accompaniment on this recording, and due to the lack of Sitar instructors, I have tried my best to do it all on dulcimer!

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, Bb.

Side Two: Cut Two

SINGING IN THE COUNTRY

By Pete Seeger

David Field taught me this song, and later on we recorded the tune on my third album with a three-part dulcimer arrangement.

I never could figure out why Pete called this song "Singing" *In The Country*. There were never any words to it. Oh well, maybe he'll write them one day.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, C.

Side Two: Cut Three

DRY BONES

By Kevin Roth

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This song was written on an 8 string dulcimer in the key of "C." I capoed the instrument on the third fret, which puts the dulcimer in the key of "F."

The idea behind the song was to make use of the capo idea, as well as to have a song that was fun to play. On my third album, *Somebody Give Me Direction*, there is a Moog Synthesizer that plays along with the song. The effect is just as crazy as the idea, and both work too well to be believed.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, C. (Capoed on the third fret) .

Side Two: Cut Four

JUNE APPLE

This song originated in and around Galax, Virginia. It's an old American fiddle tune.

I learned this song from Neal Hellman at the Fox Hollow Folk Festival several years ago. Neal taught me some very beautiful things on the dulcimer, and I owe him a belated thanks for the song and the special afternoon in the back woods of the festival.

I recorded the song on my first album in much the same style. I play it on a three stringed dulcimer.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, G.

Side Two: Cut Five

NIGHTINGALE

By Judy Collins
Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park.
Music ASCAP

This song is from my favorite Judy Collins album, *Whales and Nightingales*. *Nightingale* seemed to make such a nice dulcimer song that I had to record it. I play it in the double thumbing style.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, C.

Side Two: Cut Six

THINKING ABOUT THE OLD DAYS

(*Soldier's Joy, Water Bound, Somebody Kicks My Dog Around*)

This medley is dedicated to the memory of a fine dulcimer player, Paul Clayton. Paul recorded a great album called *Dulcimer Songs And Solos* for Folkways Records. It's the finest of its kind.

This song starts off with his version of *Soldier's Joy*. As you may notice, *Soldier's Joy* also appears on the first side of this album. They both have the same title but are different versions. I learned *Water Bound* and the last tune from the Golden Ring album on Folk-Legacy records.

This song is played on a three-stringed dulcimer made by Ake Tugel. The dulcimer has staple frets under the first string only. This was the traditional way of fretting the instrument. I had it made as close to a Jethro Amburgy style as possible. Mr. Amburgy got his style of dulcimer making from a man by the name of J. Edward Thomas, the first dulcimer builder in the country. The dulcimer on this record was made out of walnut, and has that clear light sound similar to an Amburgy instrument.

Dulcimer tuning: G, G, C.

Side Two: Cut Seven

GREENSLEEVES

No folk song in the world is an indestructible as this one, and none has been subjected to more indignities. It has been played on electric guitars and sung by female quartets. It has been used as a jingle and twisted by vulgar parodies, but it still holds and haunts.

The earliest written reference to it was in 1580. A reading of the lyrics will show that it is not a sweet, innocent love song, but a plea from some 16th century sugar daddy to his bored mistress.

(Quote from a book of Folk Songs. Author unknown)

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, Bb.

Side Two: Cut Eight

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

This song is a Baptist hymn. The music was written by John Wyeth between 1770-1858.

I learned it from David Field, who plays it much faster. It makes a neat little dulcimer song.

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, C.

Side Two: Cut Nine

BRING IN GOOD ALE

I don't remember where I first heard this song, but I am almost sure that it was on a Tim Hart and Maddy Prior album that I heard while I was living in New Hampshire. I never looked to make sure, and it wasn't until I recorded it that I thought about where it came from. Many miles down the road, I guess/ Oh, well! The Folk Process!!

Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, Bb.

Side Two: Cut Ten

CLEMENTI SONATINA (A Variation for Dulcimer)

I had part of this song as a piano piece to study. The song's light and easy style made it stick inside my head, until I figured parts of it out on the dulcimer.

The rest of the music is other musical images that I've written into the song to make it one beautiful composition for dulcimer. I am now writing it out for piano.

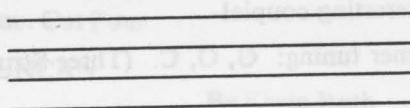
Dulcimer tuning: C, G, C, C.

DULCIMER INFORMATION

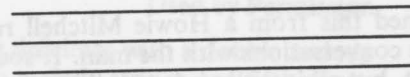
The most important thing you should understand is what kind of dulcimer you have. It may be a three string and it may be a four string. I have listed the books for these instruments separately.

Here is a short diagram of the different string placements, and what kind of dulcimer they apply to. Check your dulcimer for a match of the strings.

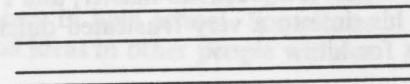
FOUR STRING:



THREE STRING:



THREE STRING:



Note: Even though there are four strings, the placement allows you to only use the first two strings as one. So in effect you are in a three string arrangement.

BE SURE TO CHECK TO SEE IF YOU HAVE ANY EXTRA SLOTS ON YOUR DULCIMER NUT AND BRIDGE, TO MOVE YOUR STRINGS AROUND FROM A THREE TO A FOUR AND VICE VERSA.

MANY PEOPLE BUY BOOKS FOR A THREE STRING AND DISCOVER THEY HAVE A FOUR. *THESE BOOKS WILL BE USELESS IF YOU DON'T THINK BEFORE YOU BUY. JUST A WORD OF CAUTION.*



P.S. YOU MAY SEE OR OWN A SIX STRING DULCIMER. THIS IS JUST A THREE STRING WITH EACH STRING DOUBLED. JUST THINK OF IT AS A THREE STRING.

THERE IS ALSO A FIVE STRING DULCIMER. IT CAN BE A FOUR STRING DULCIMER WITH ONE STRING DOUBLED (The first string closest to the player), OR IT CAN BE AN ARRANGEMENT OF FIVE SEPARATE STRINGS, BUT THIS IS RARE TO FIND. MOST FIVE STRING DULCIMERS WILL BE IN THE STYLE OF FOUR STRING. JUST THINK OF A FIVE AS A FOUR, AS YOU WOULD A SIX A THREE!!

ALL ABOUT THE DULCIMER

INSTRUCTION BOOKS:

(These books will be for *three* string only)

1. *The Dulcimer Book*, Jean Ritchie, Oak Publications, N.Y. 1963
2. *Four And Twenty Songs For The Mountain Dulcimer*, Lynn McSpadden, The Dulcimer Shoppe, P.O. Box 110 Mountain View, Arkansas 72560. 1970
3. *In Search Of The Wild Dulcimer*, Robert Force and Albert D'Ossche, Vintage Books, N.Y. 1974
4. *Life Is Like A Mountain Dulcimer*, Neal and Sally Hellman. Ludlow Music Corp., N.Y. 1974
5. *Playing Lead Dulcimer*, Richard Wilkie, 3 Cities Press, 192 Mount Hope Drive, Albany, N.Y. 12202. 1974
6. *Plucked Dulcimer and How To Play It*, John F. Putnam 1905 Hopefield Road, Silver Springs, Md. 20904. 1961
7. *Appalachian Dulcimer Book*, Michael Murphy Folksay Press, Mills Road, R.R. 3, St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950. 1976

(For *Four* String Only:)

1. *How To Make And Play The Mountain Dulcimer (After A Fashion)*, by Howie Mitchell. Folk Legacy Records, Sharon, Conn. 1966

(For *Three* and *Four*):

1. *Pictures, Poems, and Dulcimer Pieces*, by Kevin Roth. Kevin Roth Productions, Box #314, Unionville, Pa. 19375. 1977

SONG BOOKS FOR THREE STRING ONLY:

The following numbers indicate the books listed above. Rather than repeat them here, just look at the top list. These are the books that are song books as well as instruction books.

(NUMBERS: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8)

(FOR *FOUR* STRING: Both Howie's and Mine)

Other Song Books:

1. *Musicks Delite On The Dulcimer*, Roger Nicholson, Scratchwood Music, London, 1974
2. *nonesuch for dulcimer*, Roger Nicholson (same as above)
3. *Best Loved Hymns Arranged For Dulcimer*, Mark & Carol Blair.
4. *Simmons Family Song Book*, Tommy & Jean Simmons

CONSTRUCTION BOOKS:

1. *How To Make And Play The Dulcimer (After A Fashion)*, by Howie Mitchell, Folk Legacy Records, Sharon, Conn.
2. *How To Make And Play The Dulcimer*, by Chet Hines, Stackpole Books, Harrisburgh, Pa.
3. *The Dulcimer Book*, by John Pearse, English Song And Dance Society, London.
4. *Full-Size Dulcimer Plans*, by Scott Antes

RECORDINGS:

1. Paul Clayton — *Dulcimer Songs And Solos* — Folkways Records
2. George and Gerry Armstrong — *Simple Gifts* — Folkways Records
3. Richard and Mimi Farina — *"The Best Of"* — Vanguard
4. Margaret MacArthur — *On The Mountain High* — Living Folk Records
5. Margaret MacArthur — *The Old Songs* — Philo Records
6. Howie Mitchell — *Howie Mitchell* — Folk Legacy Records
7. Howie Mitchell — *(Instruction record, comes with book)* — Folk Legacy
8. Roger Nicholson — *Nonesuch*, + *Times And Traditions*, + *Musicks Delight* — Argo Records
9. Jean Ritchie — *The Appalachian Dulcimer Book* — Folkways Records
10. Russell Family — *The Russell Family* — County Records
11. Jean Schilling — *Old Traditions* — Traditional Records
12. Ralph Lee Smith — *Old Time & Traditional Music* — Skyline Records
13. Andrew Rowan Summers — *Andrew Rowan Summers* — Folkways Records
14. Tim Hart and Maddy Prior — *Summer Saulstice* — Chrylis Records
15. Joni Mitchell — *Blue*, + *Miles Of Aisles* — Asylum Records
16. Judy Collins — *Recollections*, + *The Best Of Judy Collins* — Elektra
17. Ila Anderson — *Ila* — (order from Dulcimer Players News)
18. The Rolling Stones — *Aftermath* — (Out Of Print)
19. Fairport Convention — *Angel Delight* — A & M Records
20. Jamie Brockett — *Remember The Wind And The Rain* — Capitol Records

The books and records that I have listed are just a few of the many ones available on the market today. I have listed only the ones I have seen and heard. Included in this booklet is a complete list of books and recordings available on the dulcimer. Please keep in mind that every new year brings new books and records, so this list will be a little out of date give or take a year or two.

If you are into dulcimer, I insist you look into a quarterly magazine called: *THE DULCIMER PLAYERS NEWS*. This magazine supplies a constant flow of dulcimer information from and to people all over the world. The address of this amazing magazine is:

THE DULCIMER PLAYERS NEWS
P.O. BOX 157
FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA 22630

CREDITS

Produced by: Kevin Roth for Kevin Roth Productions.
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Assisting Engineers: Jim Spencer and David Rabideau

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Booklet Photo by: Daniel Axler

Thank you: David Field, Howie Mitchell, Neal Hellman, Pete Seeger, Holly Tannen, and Kevin Tallent for your songs.

OTHER ALBUMS BY KEVIN ROTH:

****KEVIN ROTH SINGS AND PLAYS DULCIMER

****THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN FTS 31045

****SOMEBODY GIVE ME DIRECTION FTS 31050

Kevin Roth's dulcimer book: *PICTURES, POEMS, AND DULCIMER PIECES* will soon be available. For more information, please contact:

Kevin Roth Productions
Box 314

Unionville, Pennsylvania 19375
(215) 347-1808

Kevin Roth is represented exclusively through:
Kevin Roth Productions

THIS ALBUM IS DEDICATED TO MY FRIEND
OLA BELLE REED.

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43 West 61 Street, NYC 10023 USA

These are the craftsmen of the dulcimers that appear on this recording. All of these makers are fine dulcimer builders, and I give them highest praise for their workmanship, and a special thanks for their instruments and the voices within them.

1. Lucky Diamond—2317 Briggs Road, Silver Springs, Maryland 20906
2. David Field—424 West High St., Glassboro, N.J. 08028
3. Litwin Luthiers—Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
4. Smith-Bourquin-Smith—759 South 4th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19147
5. Ake Tugel—226 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff, N.Y.

For Additional Information About FOLKWAYS RELEASES

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