

# MUSIC IN THE STREETS

A fascinating collection of music and musicians recorded on the streets of New York City

Conceived and recorded by TONY SCHWARTZ

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FOLKWAYS FD 5581

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*Don Freeman*  
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Photographs by Ken Heyman

Italian Street Festival Parade Musician

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**A fascinating collection of music and musicians**

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In any city in the world you will find music being played in the streets. The first tapes for this album were recorded on the streets of New York City in the Spring of 1950. The last tapes to be included were recorded in the Fall of 1957. This record is in no way a complete collection of New York City's street music, it is just a sampling of the material I came upon while walking or traveling the streets of New York City.

-- Tony Schwartz

SIDE I, Part I:  
STREET MUSICIANS

Band (a): A lone saxophone player was recorded as he walked down the white line in the center of 57th Street. Superimposed over the sound of the saxophone is the voice of Pietro Carbone, a guitar and instrumental repair man of 184 Bleecker Street, telling of the tradition of street musicians.

Band (b): A glass bowl player recorded in a store doorway at 81st Street and Broadway.

Band (c): These teenagers were recorded on the steps of the New York Public Library at 42nd Street and 5th Avenue, one Saturday afternoon.

Band (d): "The Carnegie Hall Fiddler", Professor Guisseppi Ravita was recorded in front of Carnegie Hall.

Band (e): The Blind Reverend Gary Davis was recorded playing his guitar on 6th Avenue and 46th Street.

Band (f): This blind accordion player was recorded in Times Square.

Band (g): "Moondog" was recorded in a doorway on 52nd Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

SIDE I, Part II: WASHINGTON SQUARE



Band (a): One of the teenagers tells of her singing in the Square. Her voice is recorded over the music of a banjo and wash tub bass.

Band (b): The Kossoy twins, "Rambling Around"

Band (c): Ralph Rinzler and Kossoy twins, "King Edward" calypso.

Band (d): "When the Saints Go Marching In", spoons and ocarina.

Band (e): "Met a little Gypsy", John Gibbons.

Band (f): "Deep Blue Sea", Jane Soyer.

Band (g): "Another Man Done Gone", Fred Gerlach with 12-string guitar.



Washington  
Square



SIDE II, Part I:

RELIGIOUS MUSIC

Band (a): Church bells at 53rd Street and 5th Avenue.

Band (b): Salvation army trumpet and song recorded at 7th Avenue and Broadway.

Band (c): Salvation Army Band, 5th Avenue and Radio City at Christmas time.

Band (d): Gospel street meeting of Puerto Rican New Yorkers at 56th Street and 9th Avenue.

Band (e): "Just A Closer Walk With Thee", Gospel singer at 34th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues.

SIDE II, Part II:

STREET FESTIVAL

Many groups in the city, religious and non-religious, conduct street festivals. The Festival recorded here is one conducted by an Italian Church on their "Saints Day."

Band (a): Dances are held in the evenings of the days of the festival. Small instrumental groups play for the dancing crowds.

Band (b): Further down the block, members of the band on the stand improvise some dances for the crowd.

Band (c): During the festival many small parades are held. Some are solemn and some are joyful. Here is a gay parade, the last night of the festival. Hundreds of dancing children followed the small band as it marched up and down the block.

Band (d): One night of the festival a concert is held at the bandstand. Here is the way a typical song sounds over the Public Address System.

SIDE II, Part III: PARADES

Every city has a street known for parades. In New York City most parades use 5th Avenue. Here is a montage of sections of music from some of the many 5th Avenue parades. Young Kathy Roberts describes what she likes about parades.



Italian Street Festival Parade Musician

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