

UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS SONGS

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FP 6828

Cover design by Ronald Clyne

RECORDED IN CANADA BY LAURA BOULTON



M
1678
U35
1956

MUSIC LP

The Grey Cuckoo—"Shchedrevka"
The Miracle of the Birth—"Kolyada"

Today There is News in Bethlehem
People Be Happy

In the Farmer's Yard
Alle-Allelujah!

Heaven and Earth Today Rejoice
Here is News for the Whole World

Good Wishes!
Christmas Church song

UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS SONGS

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

FOLKWAYS RECORDS Album No. FW 6828

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Ukrainian Christmas Songs

recorded by Laura Boulton
in Canada



Folkways Records & Service Corp., New York

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UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS

by Laura Boulton

To the boundless spaces of the prairies and to the industrial centers of the New World, many thousands of Ukrainians came at the turn of the century seeking new homes, new farm country. They became patriotic citizens of their adopted land, but at the same time preserved the time-honored traditions which they brought from their far off homeland. At Christmas time their year reaches its climax. The Ukrainians still follow the Julian Calendar inherited from Roman times when the Christian church began so they celebrate Christmas on the 7th of January. For two weeks their holidays (from Christmas Eve, January 6th, until Jordan Day, January 19th, when they commemorate the baptism of Christ in the Jordan River) are gay with fine old songs, beautiful costumes, dances and colorful traditions.

The whole family is busy for weeks before the holiday with the Christmas preparations. The house is beautifully cleaned and the Icons are decorated with embroideries and gay flowers. Grandfather puts a large sheaf of wheat in the big family room to represent Diduk, the ancient God of Plenty, who has always fed and protected the family. Hay is spread under the tablecloth and straw under the table. Each blade of hay represents an ancestor, and the straw beneath the table reminds the family that Christ was born in a manger. The mother hides nuts in the straw for the children, and if they find many, it indicates rich crops and abundance for the next year.

When the children, watching at the window, see the first star of the evening, the meal can start. The supper begins with a spoonful of koutja (wheat grains and poppy seeds cooked in honey) which is served to each one by Grandfather acting as family high priest.

The little boys chop wood for days to keep the fires going while the mother makes ready the special foods for the Holy Christmas Eve Supper. There are twelve different foods for the twelve Apostles, the most important of which are the koutja and the holy bread. The holy bread, prepared with ancient ritual, is regarded as sacred by the whole family, and is given the place of honor in the center of the table. Grandfather throws a spoonful of koutja to the ceiling to begin the meal; if a great deal sticks to the ceiling, everyone is very happy for that means a good crop of honey for the coming year.

Each Ukrainian holiday has its special cycle of songs. Many of these, like the rituals, have come down from pagan ceremonies when the Sun was the supreme God. Ancient songs, many of them pre-Christian, are now a part of the heritage of Christmas Carols. These ancient songs "Kolyadki" were sung in pagan times toward the end of December in honor of "kolyadki", the birth of a new Sun when the days began to grow longer and the Sun's power grew longer. With the coming of Christianity Christmas took the place of "Kolyadki" festival.

On Christmas Eve carolers dressed as the Three Wise Men, Shepherds, and peasants go from house to house singing these beautiful carols. The Angel with them greets the family: "We greet you on Christmas, wishing you health. May the Little Jesus bless all of you in this home with happiness and good things. May you celebrate this festival joyfully, and live well until the next. Christ is born."

The carolers join the family supper and all sing carols together. After dinner when the children hunt for nuts in the straw, the young girls go outside and rattle spoons at the garden gate. They listen for the barking dogs and from the direction of the sound they know their lovers will come.

The animals in the stables share the Christmas feast. Grandfather takes holy hay and holy bread from the table and wishes the animals contentment. On this one night of the year the animals in the stable are believed to have the power of speech and to speak among themselves of the past, the present, and the future. When every-

one has gone to bed, Boptcha, the Grandmother, leaves a dish of Koutja on the window sill for the spirits of the departed ones.

On Christmas morning the Ukrainians gather from far and near to follow the Greek Orthodox ritual two thousand years old. The churches, like the houses, are scrubbed, polished and decorated for the holidays. The church choir has practiced the carols in preparation for the High Mass, in which everyone, young and old, participates.

After Christmas Day, the hay and straw are carried out of the house. Some is bound to the fruit trees to make them productive. The rest is carried out to the front gate, formed into a cross and burned. Bits of hay are scattered along the path from the house to the road to lead the spirits to the cross of hay. The children leap over the burning cross to purify themselves in its flames. Everyone in the family, as well as the stock in the barns is thought to be protected from disease by this rite.

On New Year's Day the little children shower Grandmother with seeds of grain to insure a good wheat crop, a custom born of a farming people's need for rich crops through the coming year.

Down on the river in the piercing cold the villagers and farmers of the prairies cut great blocks of ice two feet thick and build a beautiful cross of ice in the churchyard for Jordan's Day, January 19th, to remember that Christ was baptized in the Jordan River. On this day the congregation marches with beautiful banners around the church singing Christmas carols. The Priest blesses them with Holy Water and each one carries a bottle full away with him to bless his home until the next Jordan's Day.

But gaiety and color and dance are as much a part of the Ukrainian's lives as the religious rites. In the homes and in the community halls Ukrainians dance and sing throughout the Christmas Holidays.



The songs in this album I recorded with the Ukrainians of Canada where in many communities Christmas is still observed in every detail exactly as in the old days in the Ukraine.

LAURA BOULTON recorded these albums for Folkways Records.

10" Longplay :

FP 805 Yugoslavia Songs and Dances
FP 807 Swiss Songs and Dances
FP 836 Spanish Christmas Songs
FP 845 Portuguese Christmas Songs

12" Longplay :

P 434 Folkmusic of Yugoslavia
P 444 Folkmusic of the Eskimo
FP 80/1 Songs and Dances of Turkey

This album FP 828 Ukrainian Christmas Songs was translated by Isabella and Nicholas Fomenko.
Moses Asch : production director.

SIDE I, Band 1. THE GREY CUCKOO

The grey cuckoo wishes good health
To good people on this beautiful holiday evening.

The cuckoo flew to this house to declare his good wishes
To good people on this beautiful holiday evening.

To declare and wish much happiness
To good people on this beautiful holiday evening.

Oh Lord, bring happiness to the man of this house;
To good people on this beautiful holiday evening.

To the man of this house and to his family.
To good people on this beautiful holiday evening.

This is a folksong called "Shchedrevka".
Usually it is sung by women as they go
caroling from house to house, and is
also sung in the home on the eve of the
Ukrainian holiday called JORDAN.

OIJ, SIVAYA TAYA ZOZOOLEN(b)KA.

OIJ, SIVAYA TAYA ZOZOOLEN(b)KA...

Chorus:
SCHEDRĪIJ VECHEER, DOBRĪIJ VECHEER,
DOBRĪM LUDYAM NA ZDOROVLYA!

PRĪLETEELA DONA SCHEDROOVATĪ...

SCHEDRĪIJ VECHEER, DOBRĪIJ VECHEER,
DOBRĪM LUDYAM NA ZDOROVLYA!

SCHEDROOVATĪ, SCHASTYA POBAZHATĪ...

SCHEDRĪIJ VECHEER, DOBRĪIJ VECHEER,
DOBRĪM LUDYAM NA ZDOROVLYA!

SCHASTĪ, BOZHE, GOSPODARU TS(b)OMOO!

SCHEDRĪIJ VECHEER, DOBRĪIJ VECHEER,
DOBRĪM LUDYAM NA ZDOROVLYA!



ОЙ, СИВАЯ ТАЯ ЗОЗУЛЕНЬКА

Ой, сивая тая зозуленька...
Щедрий вечір, добрий вечір,
Добрим людям на здоровля!

Прилетіла дома щедрувати.
Щедрий вечір, добрий вечір,
Добрим людям на здоровля!

Щедрувати, шастя побажати...
Щедрий вечір, добрий вечір,
Добрим людям на здоровля!

Шастя, Боже, господарь цьому!
Щедрий вечір, добрий вечір,
Добрим людям на здоровля!

Господарю і його родині...
Щедрий вечір, добрий вечір,
Добрим людям на здоровля!

GOSPODARU EE IJOGO RODINEE...

SCHEDRIIJ VECHEER, DOBRIIJ VECHEER,
DOBRIM LUDYAM NA ZDOROVLYA!

The birthday of Jesus was a marvelous wonder.
A little Child, Jesus Christ was born.
A little Child, Jesus Christ was born.

The dawn rose and stayed,
looking with delight on the born Jesus,
looking with delight on the born Jesus.

All the bells in the whole world rang.
Jesus Christ, Himself is born, and the Lord is made
manifest through Jesus,
Jesus Christ, Himself is born, and the Lord is made
manifest through Jesus.

This is called "Kolyada", a folksong sung
in church and in homes at Christmas time.

НА РОЖДЕСТВО ХРИСТОВЕЕ

На Рождество Христовее диво дивнее:
2 р. Народився Сам Сус Христос, Дитя малее.

Зійшла зоря, зійшла зоря, зупинилася,
2 р. На Ісуса рожденного задивилася.

Ой, вдарили у всі дзвони по всій вселенній:
2 р. Народився Сам Сус Христос, Сам Бог явлений.



NA ROZHDESTVO KHRISTOVEĚ.

NA ROZHDESTVO KHRISTOVEĚ DĪVO DĪVNEĚ:

NARODĪVSYA SAM SOOS KHRĪSTOS, DĪTYA MALEĚ. (2)

ZEEIJSHLA ZORYA, ZEEIJSHLA ZORYA, ZOOPŇĪLASYA,

NA EESOOSA ROZHDENNOGO ZADĪVĪLASYA. (2)

OIJ, V DARĪLĪ OO VSEE DZVONĪ PO VSEEIJ VSELENNEEIJ:

NARODĪVSYA SAM SOOS KHRĪSTOS, SAM BOG YAVLENĪJ. (2)

Today there is news in Bethlehem.
The Virgin Girl gave to the world a Son.
In a lowly stable, among animals,
Resting on the hay is the Lord of the Universe.

The Cherubim sang to Him, glory!
The choir of angels greeted the Saviour.
The poor shepherd brought the best gift he had
To present to the Lord's Child.

Oh, Lord's Son, look with favor
On our world and our families,
And send to us from Heaven great gifts
That we can adore you forever.

"Kolyada" is sung by Ukrainian people
in church during the Christmas holi-
days, and also in homes. It was writ-
ten in 1890 by Dr. Kalytovsky.

OO VIFLEEMEE NINEE NOVINA.

OO VĚFLEEMEE NĚNEE NOVĚNA:

PRECHISTA DEEVA ZRODILA ŠĚNA.

V OOBGEELJ STAJNEE POMEEZH BĚDLYATĚ)
SPOCHĚV NA SEENEE BOG NEOBNYATĚLJ.) (2)

VZHE KHEROOVĚMĚ SLAVOO SPEEVĚUT(b),
ANGEL(b)S(b)KEE KHORĚ SPASA VEETAUT(b).
PASTĚR OOBOGĚLJ NESE, ŠCHO MOZHE,)
SCHOB OBDARĚTĚ DĚTYATKO BOZHE.) (2)

GLYAN(b) DOBRĚM OKOM, O BOZHĚLJ ŠĚNOO,
NA NASHOO ZEMLU, NASHOO RODĚNOO,

ZEESHĚLĚ NAM Z NEBA DAR PREVELĚKĚLJ,)
SCHOB TYA SLAVĚLĚ PO VEECHNEE VEEKĚ.) (2)



У ВІФЛЕЄМІ НИНІ НОВІНА

У Вифлєсмі нині новина:
Пречиста Діва зродила Сина.
2 р. В убогій стайні поміж бідляти
Спочив на сіні Бог необнятий.

Вже Херувими славу співають,
Ангельські хори Спаса вітають.
2 р. Пастир убогий несе, що може,
Щоб обдарити Дитятко Боже.

Глянь добрим оком, о Божий Сину,
На нашу землю, нашу родину,
2 р. Зішли нам з неба дар превеликий,
Щоб Тя славили по вічні віки.

People be happy because the Lord
today is with us.

Glad news! The Virgin Mary has brought a Son.)
Maria! Maria! Maria!) (2)

God has come to earth in human form to live
spiritually with people forever.

Glad news! . . . (2)

Three Kings came to the stable
and brought Him gifts.

Glad news! . . . (2)

This is called "Kolyada", a folksong
sung in church and in homes at
Christmas.

RADOIJTECYA LUDI.

RADOIJTECYA LUDĚ V NAS:

BOG VESELĚJ NĚNĚE V NAS.

TOZH VESELA NAM NOVĚNA, -)

PORODILA DEEVA SĚNA...) (2)

MAREEYA! MAREEYA! MAREEYA!)

LUDS(b)KE TEELO BOG PRĚBRÁV,

SCHOB PREDVEECHNĚJ NE PROPÁV.

TOZH VESELA NAM NOVĚNA, -)

PORODILA DEEVA SĚNA...) (2)

MAREEYA! MAREEYA! MAREEYA!)

TRĚ TSAREE V VERTEP PRĚJSHĚJ

EE DAROONKĚ PRĚNESĚJ.



TOZH VESELA NAM NOVĚNA, -)
PORODILA DEEVA SĚNA...) (2)
MAREEYA! MAREEYA! MAREEYA!)

РАДУЙТЕСЯ ЛЮДИ

Радуйтеся люди в нас:
Бог веселый ныне в нас.
2 р. Тож весела нам новина, -
Породила Дѣва Сина...
Марія! Марія! Марія!

Людське тіло Бог прибрав,
Щоб Предвѣчний не пропав.
2 р. Тож весела нам новина, -
Породила Дѣва Сина...
Марія! Марія! Марія!

Три Царі в вертеп прийшли
І дарунки принесли.
2 р. Тож весела нам новина, -
Породила Дѣва Сина...
Марія! Марія! Марія!

А У ЦЬОГО ХАЗЯЇНА

А у цього хазяїна, на його дворі,
Горять свічі восковії - у його дворі.

Печуть рибу-осетрину та на родині:
Пречистая Діва Марія Дитя вродила.

Ізлітас та із неба аж два Янголи, -
2 р. Стали вони думать-гадати, яке ім'я дати.

Даймо Йому таке ім'я, - Ісусом Христом.
2 р. Сусе Христе, Сину Божий, помилуй Ти нас!

SIDE I, Band 5. IN THE FARMER'S YARD

In the farmer's yard
wax candles are lighted.
They bake sturgeon fish for a celebration.
The Virgin Girl Mary was delivered of a Child.
Two angels came down from above
and began to think about the name to be) (2)
given to the Holy Child.
They decided to name Him Jesus Christ.
Jesus Christ, Lord's Son, forgive us! (2)

This is called "Kolyadka". Ukrainian
people sing this song in church during
the Christmas holidays, and also in
homes.

A OO TS(b)OGO KHAZYAYEENA.

A OO TS(b)OGO KHAZYAYEENA, NA IJOGO DVOREE,
GORIAT(b) SVEECHEE VOSKOVEEYEE - OO IJOGO DVOREE.

PECHOOT(b) RYBOO-OSYATRYNOO TA NA RODINY:
PRECHYSTAYA DEEVA MAREEYA DITYA VRODILA.

EEZLEETAË TA EEZ NEBA AZH DVA YANGOLY, -
STALY VONY DOOMAT(b)-GADATY, YAKE EEM'YA DATY. (2)

DAIJMO IJOMOO TAKE, EEM'YA, - EESOOSOM KHRISTOM.
SOOSE KHRISTE, SINO BOZHIIJ, POMILOOIJ TY NAS! (2)



SIDE II, Band 1. ALLE-ALLELUAH!

Born! Born! Is Jesus.

Alle-Allelulia!

In a stable manger, at midnight,

Lord forgive us!

In a stable manger, at midnight,

Lord forgive us!

Jesus had neither swaddling clothes nor a pillow.

Alle-Allelulia!

Just knee-deep hay,

Lord forgive us!

Just knee-deep hay,

Lord forgive us!

This is called "Kolyada". Ukrainian people sing this song in church at Christmas time, and also in homes.

NARODĬVSYA, NARODĬVSYA SĬZŬIJ.

NARODĬVSYA, NARODĬVSYA SĬZŬIJ, -

ALĬ-ALŬLOOYA! -

V STAJN(b)OMOO ZHOLOBEE)

EE V PEEVNEECHNEEL DOBEE...) (2)

GOSPODĬ POMĬLOOIJ!)

A NEE PELUSHKŬ, A NEE PODOOSHKŬ, -

ALĬ-ALŬLOOYA! -

TEEL(b)KŬ SEENTSYA)

SEENTSYA PO KOLEENTSYA...) (2)

GOSPODĬ POMĬLOOIJ!)



НАРОДИВСЯ, НАРОДИВСЯ СИЗИЙ

Народився, народився Сизий, -

Али-Алилуя! -

2 р. В стайньому жолобі

І в північній добі...

Господи помилуй!

А ні пелюшки, а ні подушки, -

Али-Алилуя! -

2 р. Тільки сінця

Сінця по колінця...

Господи помилуй!

SIDE I, Band 2. HEAVEN AND EARTH TODAY REJOICE

Heaven and earth, heaven and earth, today rejoice!
Angels and people, angels and people, joyfully celebrate:

Chorus: Jesus is born, The Lord Incarnate, born amongst men.
Angels sing and greet the King.
They salute Him while shepherds play,
Shepherds play, shepherds play.
Miracle! Miracle! the shepherds tell the world.

In Bethlehem, in Bethlehem, is joyful news!
The Virgin Girl, the Virgin Girl has brought the Son.

Chorus: Jesus is born, . . .

And we in humility, and we in humility greet the Lord.
Glory in the highest, Glory in the highest we sing to Him.

Chorus: Jesus is born, . . .

This song is called "Kolyada". Ukrainian people sing this in church during the Christmas holiday time and also in their homes. Early in the 18th century this song was taken from the church book called "Pochaiyefski".

NEBO EE ZEMLYA NĖNEE TORZHESTVOOUT(b).

NĖBO EE ZEMLYA, NĖBO EE ZEMLYA NĖNEE TORZHESTVOOUT(b)

ANGELĬ, LUDĬ. ANGELI, LUDĬ VESELO PRAZDNOOUT(b):

Chorus: KHRĬSTOS RODĬVSYA, BOG VOPLŔTĬVSYA, -

ANGELI SPEEVAYUT(b), TSAREEE VEETAYUT(b),

POKLEEN VEEDDAYUT(b), A PASTĬREEĖ GRAUT(b),

"CHŔODO, CHŔODO!" POVEEDAYUT(b).

OO VĬFLEĖMEE, OO VĬFLEĖMEE VESELA NOVĬNA:

PRECHĬSTA DEEVA, PRECHĬSTA DEEVA PORODĬLA SĬNA!

Chorus: KHRĬSTOS RODĬVSYA, . . .

EE MĬ SMĬRENNO, EE MĬ SMĬRENNO BOGŔO POKLEEN DAIJMO:

"SLAVA VO VĬSHNEEKH, SLAVA VO VĬSHNEEKH" YEOMOO ZASPEEVAIJMO.

Chorus: KHRĬSTOS RODĬVSYA, . . .

НЕБО І ЗЕМЛЯ НИНІ ТОРЖЕСТВУЮТЬ

Небо і земля, небо і земля нині торжествують,
Ангели, люди, Ангели, люди весело празднують:
Христос родився, Бог воплотився, -
Ангели співають, Царі вітають,
Поклін віддають, а Пастиріє грають,
"Чудо, чудо!" повідають.

У Вифлєсмі, у Вифлєсмі весела новина:
Пречиста Діва, Пречиста Діва породила Сина!
Христос родився і т.д.

І ми смиренно, і ми смиренно Богу поклін даймо:
"Слава во вишніх, слава во вишніх" Йому заспіваймо.
Христос родився і т.д.

SIDE II, Band 3. HERE IS NEWS FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Here is news for the whole world!
The Virgin Mary gave birth to a Son.
Lightly covered with hay, and laid in a manger,)
is God's Son.) (2)

The Virgin Mary asked The Lord,
"In what should I swathe my son?
You the Heaven's King, send to me gifts)
for the man of this house.") (2)

Angels descended from heaven to earth
and brought gifts for the Virgin Mary:
Three wax candles and vestments of silk)
for Jesus Christ.) (2)

This song is called "Kolyada". People sing this in church during the Christmas holiday time and also in their homes.

ПО ВСЬОМУ СВІТУ СТАЛА НОВИНА

По всьому світу стала новина:
Діва Марія Сина вродила,
Сіном притрусила,
В яслах положила
Господнього Сина.

Діва Марія Бога просила:
В що ж би я Сина свого сповила?
Ти, небесний Царю,
Пришли мені дари -
Цього дому господарю.

Прийшли Янголи з неба до землі,
Принесли дари Діві Марії:
Три свічі воскові,
Ще й ризи шовкові,
Ісусові Христові.

PO VS(b)OMOO SVEETOO STALA NOVINA:

DEEVA MAREEYA ČINA VPODĚLA,

SEENOM PRĚTROOSĚLA,)

V YASLAKH POLOZHĚLA) (2)

GOSPODN(b)OGO ČINA.)

DEEVA MAREEYA BOGA PROSĚLA:

V SCHO ZH BĚ YA ČINA SVOGO SPOVĚLA?

TĚ, NEBESNĚIJ TSARU,)

PRĚSHLĚ MENEE DARĚ -) (2)

TS(b)OGO DOMOO GOSPODARU.)

PRĚJSHLĚ YANGOLĚ Z NEBA DO ZEMLEE,

PRĚNESLĚ DARĚ DEEVEE MAREEYEE:

TRĚ SVEECHEE VOSKOVEE,)

SCH IJ RĚŽĚ SHOVKOVEE,) (2)

EESOOSOVEE KHRĚSTOVEE.)

SIDE II, Band 4. GOOD WISHES

In Jordan's River the Lord's Son was baptized.
He was praying for you, the man of this house:

That the Good Lord from highest Heaven
Send to you health and everything good.

That in your house be love and peace.
That you have everything good, and all bad things pass by you.

That health and happiness ever increase,
And that you forget not your own church.

We greet you on this good evening. Be of good cheer.
Jesus is baptized.

Good wishes are extended by groups of children and young people, going from house to house. They sing outside the house and are then invited to come in, at which time the wishes are expressed by the youngsters. After this, the hosts treat them to food and some times small piece of money. This Ukrainian holiday called JORDAN is the day when Jesus was baptized.

POBAZHANNYA.

NA IJORDANS(b)KEEIJ REECHTSEE SĚN BOZHĚIJ KHRĚSTĚVSYA,

ZA VAS, GOSPODARU, SCHĚRO VEEN MOLĚVSYA:

SCHOBĚ GOSPOD(b) DOBRĚIJ Z VĚSOKOGO NEBA

PEESLAV VAM ZDOROB'YA EE VSE, CHOGO TREBA;

SCHOB OO VASHEEIJ KHATEE BOOLO LUBO, TĚKHO,

SCHOB VAM VSE TEEKALO, OMINALO LĚKHO;

SCHOB ZDOROV'YA, SCHASTYA ZAVZHDĚ PRĚBOOVALĚ

EE ZA REEDNOO TSEKVKOO SCHOB NE ZABOOVALĚ.

EEZ SCHEDRĚM VECHOROM, BOOD(b)TE ZDOROVEE, -

KHRĚSTOS KHRĚSTĚVSYA.

П О Б А Ж А Н Н Я

На Йорданський річці Син Божий христився,
За вас, господарю, щиро Він молився:

Щобя Господь добрий з високого неба
Післав вам здоров'я і все, чого треба;

Щоб у вашій хаті було любо, тихо,
Щоб вам все тікало, оминало лихо;

Щоб здоров'я, щастя завжди прибували
І за рідну церкву щоб не забували.

Із щедрим вечором, будьте здорові, -
Христос христився.