

FRENCH FOLK SONGS FOR CHILDREN

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SUNG BY ALAN MILES WITH GUITAR

SUR LE PONT D'AVIGNON • AH! QUI MARIERONS-NOUS? • MONTÉ SUR UN ÉLÉPHANT

M
1997
M657
F87
1953
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MUSIC LP RECORDS

• LA CHOUETTE GRISE • Y A UN RAT • MICHAUD EST TOMBÉ
• YOYE PLANTER DES CHOUX? • ALQUETTE! • J'AI PERDU LE DO

• LES CHOUX • A LA VOLETTE • QUAND P'TIT JEAN REVINT D

• OÙ JE SU MARCHÉ • EN ROULANT MA BOULE • IL ÉTAIT UN PETIT

• MARIE-JANE S'EN VA-T-EN GUERRE

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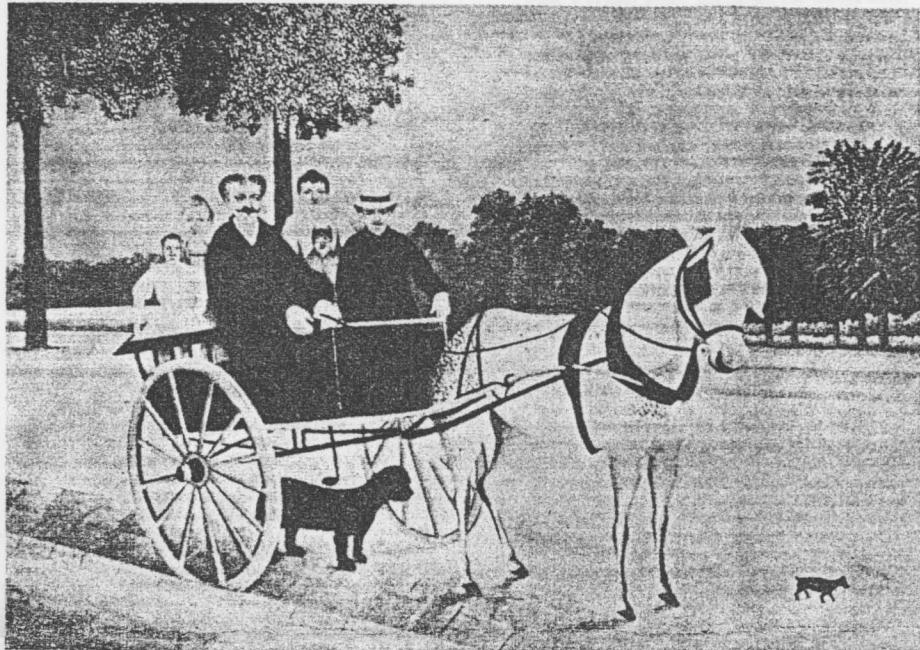
FRENCH FOLK SONGS ENGLISH AND GERMAN

Design - 100 pages Inside Pocket

FOLKWAYS RECORDS Album No. FC 7208
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SUR LE PONT D'AVIGNON • AH! QUI MARIERONS-NOUS? • MONTÉ SUR UN ÉLÉPHANT
A POULETTE GRISE • Y A UN RAT • MICHAUD EST TOMBÉ • LET PETIT PRINCE
AVEZ-VOUS PLANTER DES CHOUX? • ALOUETTE! J'AI PERDU LE "DO" DE MA CLARINETTE
EUNIER, TU DORS • A LA VOLETTE • QUAND P'TIT JEAN REVINT DU BOIS • MA MÈRE
ENVOIE-T-AU MARCHÉ • EN ROULANT MA BOULE • IL ÉTAIT UN PETIT NAVIRE • IL ÉTAIT
IN BERGERE. • L'APPRENTI PASTOURIAU • MARIANN' S'EN VA-T-AU MOULIN
MARLBROUGH • S'EN VA-T-EN GUERRE

FC 7208 FOLKWAYS RECORDS & SERVICE CORP., N. Y.

Notes on the Recordings by Alan Mills

In this, his third album for FOLKWAYS, the popular Canadian folk-singer, Alan Mills, has recorded twenty French folk songs for children, but the enjoyment of these songs is not confined to the young; in France and in Canada, they have been sung with much delight by adults, as well as children, for many generations.

One side of this long-playing record consists of thirteen "game" or "play" songs, while the other has seven of the most popular "story" songs of French-speaking people. The "play" songs include "rondes" or dance-songs; animal songs, cumulative songs; songs based on numbers, on colors, on the days of the

week, and on various other subjects. All of them invite participation, and most of them stimulate the imaginative minds of children to invent their own verses and add them to those given here.

The "story" songs, as distinct from the "play" songs, are those which actually tell complete stories, and special care has been taken in their selection so that groups may participate in these, as well, by singing the lines marked "CHORUS" or "REPEAT"...

Quite apart from their educational or instructional value, all the songs in this album reflect part of the folk culture of the French-speaking people of both the Old and the New worlds, and they are all easy to learn and fun to sing.

Alan Mills, Canada's outstanding interpreter of folk-songs in that country's two official languages, is a native Montrealer; he has been singing folksongs for the past twenty years. He received much of his early training from the noted English singer and musicologist, the late John Goss, with whose quintet of London Singers, Mills toured the United States and Canada from 1935 to 1937. Since 1947, he has been a regular broadcaster on both the National and International (short wave) services of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. His programs include: "Folk Songs for Young Folk" and "Songs Chez-Nous," both heard weekly on the Trans-Canada Network of the CBC, and "Songs of Canada," which is broadcast every week in several languages to countries in Europe and Latin America. He is particularly well-known to Canadian children through his program "Folk Songs for Young Folk," which has received high praise from educators. His work has won him one of Canada's top radio awards and has been featured by the National Film Board. He is the editor of the Alan Mills Book of Folk Songs & Ballads, published by Whitcombe & Gilmour Ltd., Montreal.

SIDE I.

SUR LE PONT D'AVIGNON

During the 13th century, when the French city of Avignon was the home of the Pope, the old Bridge of Avignon was the centre of much of the social and religious life of the district. There was a chapel on the bridge where the Pope himself used to celebrate Mass from time to time, and the same bridge was the scene of many a gay civic function attended by the lords and ladies of the time.

This well-known "action" song describes the lords and ladies, as well as others, bowing to each other as they danced a "ronde."

Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse, danse;
Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse en rond.
Les beaux Messieurs font comme-ci.
Les belles Dam's font comme-ca.

Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse, danse;
Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse en rond.
Les Capucins font comme-ci,
Les Militaires font comme-ca.

Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse, danse;
Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse en rond.

AH! QUI MARIERONS-NOUS?

Another "ronde," somewhat more lively than the first, this is one of many variants of an old French song made up of questions and answers which might be translated as follows:

GIRLS: Oh, who will marry us?
BOYS: We will.
GIRLS: Which one will you give me?
BOYS: I'll be your husband.
ALL: Then let us kiss.

Usually, two dancers take their position inside a circle of fellow-dancers, and after each verse they are replaced with another couple.

GIRLS: Ah! qui marierons-nous?
CHORUS:DANS CE JOLI JARDIN D'AMOURETTES
GIRLS: Ah! qui marierons-nous?
CHORUS:DANS CE JOLI JARDIN D'AMOUR.
DANS CE JOLI JARDIN D'AMOURETTES,
DANS CE JOLI JARDIN D'AMOUR.

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BOYS: Mam'zell' ca sera vous,
(CHORUS)
Mam'zell' ca sera vous,
(CHORUS)

GIRLS: Lequel me donn'rez-vous?
(CHORUS)
Lequel me donn'rez-vous?
(CHORUS)

BOYS: Je serai votre époux,
(CHORUS)
Je serai votre époux.
(CHORUS)

ALL: Amour, embrassons-nous,
(CHORUS)
Amour, embrassons-nous.
(CHORUS)

MONTE SUR UN ÉLÉPHANT

A nonsense song which is a good marching or hiking tune; it informs us, literally, that: "mounted on an elephant, it's high, it's terrible!" And the same goes for two elephants, three elephants, and so on, until you run out of breath, or elephants....

MONTE SUR UN ÉLÉPHANT, C'EST HAUT,
C'EST HAUT,
MONTE SUR UN ÉLÉPHANT, C'EST HAUT,
C'EST EFFRAYANT!

MONTE SUR DEUX ÉLÉPHANTS...etc....

LA POULETTE GRISE

An old lullaby which is also popular as a game song. A literal translation of the first verse:

There is a grey hen laying eggs in church.
She will lay a small egg for her little one who
goes to sleep.

Subsequent verses tell of a white hen who lays eggs in the branches of a tree; a black hen in a cupboard, and a brown hen in the moon, but the rhymes may vary depending on the ingenuity of the singer.

In Canada, the names of children are sometimes sung instead of "little one," as indicated in the second verse.

C'est la poulette grise, qui pond dans l'église,
Ell' va pondre un petit coco
Pour son p'tit qui va faire dodiche,
Ell' va pondre un petit coco
Pour son p'tit qui va faire do-do.
Dodiche, do-do.

C'est la poulette blanche qui pond dans les
branches,
Ell' va pondre un petit coco
Pour Louise qui va faire dodiche,
Ell' va pondre un petit coco
Pour Louise qui va faire do-do.
Dodiche, do-do.

The song may be continued with the following rhymes:

Verse 3. --C'est la poulette Noire qui pond dans
L'ARMOIRE

Verse 4. --C'est la poulette Brune qui pond dans la
LUNE.

Other two-syllable names may be used instead of "Louise," and if names of only one syllable are used, for example "PIERRE", the third and fifth lines of each verse should start as follows: "Pour son Pierre qui va faire, etc.....

Y A UN RAT

A nonsense song which says:

"There's a rat in the barn; I hear the cat
'meowing'."

Y A UN RAT DANS L'GRENIER,
J'ENTENDS LE CHAT QUI MIAULE.
Y A UN RAT DANS L'GRENIER,
J'ENTENDS LE CHAT MIAULER.

J'ENTENDS, J'ENTENDS, J'ENTENDS LE CHAT
QUI MIAULE.
J'ENTENDS, J'ENTENDS, J'ENTENDS LE CHAT
MIAULER.

MICHAUD EST TOMBE

A very popular game song about a boy named Michaud who liked to climb trees. But each time he climbed a tree, a branch broke and he fell flat on his back. The one verse given here has Michaud climbing a "peuplier" (poplar tree). Other trees which may be used in subsequent verses include: "un cerisier" (cherry tree); "un grand pommier" (apple tree), and "un beau prunier" (plum tree). The last line of the verse is a plea to Michaud to get up off his back.

Michaud est monté dans un peuplier, (2)
La branche a cassé,
Michaud est tombé
Où donc est Michaud?
Michaud est su' l'dos.
Ahl relève, relève, relève, Ahl relève, relève,
Michaud, (2)

(When sung by groups of people, this song can be most effective if one section of the group acts as soloist and the other section repeats every line.)

LE PETIT PRINCE

Another good marching or hiking song. "On Monday morning," it says, "the Emperor, his wife and their young prince came to shake my hand. I wasn't home, and when the prince saw this, he said he would come back on Tuesday morning."

The same thing happens on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, when the prince says he'll come back no more.

*Lundi matin, l'emp'reur, sa femme et son
p'tit prince,
Sont venus chez-moi pour me serrer à la pince;
Mais comm' j'n'étais pas là, le petit prince a dit:
"Vue - que c'est comm' ça, nous reviendrons
mardi."

(*The second verse starts with "Mardi matin" and ends with "mercr'di;" the third verse starts with "Mercredi matin" and ends with "Jeudi;" the fourth verse starts with "Jeudi matin" and ends with "Vendredi;" the fifth verse starts with "Vendredi matin" and ends with "Samedi," and the final verse starts with "Samedi matin" and the last line is changed to this:

"Vue - que c'est comm' ça, nous ne
reviendrons plus!"

SAVEZ-VOUS PLANTER DES CHOUX?

An action song which asks the question: "Do you know how to plant cabbage the way we do at our place?" And the answers, with appropriate gestures, are:

We plant them with "les pieds" (feet); "les genoux"
(knees); "les mains" (hands); "le nez" (nose; etc., etc.

Savez-vous planter des choux à la mode, à la
mode?

Savez-vous planter des choux à la mode de
chez-nous?

On les plante avec les pieds, etc...
On les plante avec les genoux
On les plante avec les mains, etc....
On les plante avec le nez, etc....

J'AI PERDU LE "DO" DE MA CLARINETTE

A hiking song especially popular with Boy Scouts, this bit of nonsense names one note of the musical scale in each verse. For example, the first verse, as given here, starts off as follows: "I have lost the DO of my clarinet." The second verse starts: "I have lost the RE of my clarinet," and so on up the scale to MI, FA, SOL, LA, TI, and then back to DO, again until fatigue sets in. The rest of the words remain unchanged.

J'ai perdu le DO de ma clarinette.
I'ai perdu le DO de ma clarinette.
Ah! si papa, il savait ca, tra-la-la,
Ah! si papa, il savait ca, tra-la-la,
Au pas, camarade, au pas, camarade, au
pas, au pas, au pas!
Au pas, camarade, au pas, camarade, au
pas, au pas, au pas!

MEUNIER TU DORS

Another very popular nonsense song in which part of the tune resembles the preceding melody. It tells of three ducks swimming in a mill-pond and quacking aloud their unceasing complaint: "When shall our troubles ever end?"

SOLO: *Trois canards, deployant leurs ailes,
CHORUS: COIN! COIN! COIN!
SOLO: Disalent à leurs cannes fidèles:
CHORUS: COIN! COIN! COIN!
SOLO: Quand donc finiront nos tourments?
CHORUS: COIN! COIN! COIN!
SOLO: Quand donc finiront nos tourments?
CHORUS: COIN! COIN! COIN! COIN!
ALL: MEUNIER, TU DORS, TON MOULIN
VA TROP VITE,
MEUNIER, TU DORS, TON MOULIN
VA TROP FORT,
TON MOULIN, TON MOULIN, VA
TROP VITE,
TON MOULIN, TON MOULIN,
VA TROP FORT.

* More verses may be added, the second verse starting with four ducks, the third with five, and so on... the other words remaining unchanged.

QUAND P'TIT JEAN REVINT DU BOIS

This is about a donkey who was eaten up by wolves. When the donkey's owner, "Little Jean," finds his donkey's skeleton, he laments: "poor donkey, no more will your head bear a bridle; no more will your back bear a saddle; no more will your hooves be shod with iron, and no more will your tail kill flies!"

SOLO: Quand p'tit Jean revint du bois (repeat)*
Trouva la tête de son an' que les
loups avaient mangé.
CHORUS: TET'! TET'! PAUVRE TET'!
PAUVRE TET'!
SOLO: Tu ne port'ras plus de brid', Carionnette,
CHORUS: NE DE BRID' NI DE BRIDON,
CARIONNONS!

SOLO: Quand p'tit Jean revint du bois (repeat)
Trouva le dos de son an' que les loups
avaient mangé.
CHORUS: DOS! DOS! PAUVRE DOS! PAUVRE
DOS!
SOLO: Tu ne port'ras plus de selle, Carionnette,
CHORUS: NI DE SELLE, NI DE SELL'RON,
CARIONNONS!

SOLO: Quand p'tit Jean revint du bois (repeat)
Trouva les patt's de son an' que les loups
avaient mangé.
CHORUS: PATT'S! PATT'S! PAUVRES PATT'S!
PAUVRES PATT'S!
SOLO: Vous ne port'rez plus de fers, Carionnette,
CHORUS: NI DE FERS, NI DE FERONS,
CARIONNONS!
SOLO: Quand p'tit Jean revint du bois (repeat)
Trouva la queue de son an' que les loups
avaient mangé.
CHORUS: QUEUE! QUEUE! PAUVRE QUEUE!
PAUVRE QUEUE!
SOLO: Tu ne tueras plus de mouches, Carionnette,
CHORUS: NI DE MOUCHES, NI DE MOUCH'RON,
CARIONNONS!

*(All repeats may be sung by the chorus, if desired)

MA MERE M'ENVOIE-T-AU MARCHE

A game song of the cumulative variety, it starts off as follows: "My mother sent me to market to buy a pair of sabots (wooden shoes)." Subsequent verses include a duck, a hen, a rooster, a flute and a drum, with appropriate imitations of each, and every verse concluding with: "I am no merchant, mother, to buy..... (whatever it is the verse deals with).... The song can be made as long as desired just by adding a few more animals and/or objects.

SOLO: Ma mere m'envoie-t-au marche,
c'est pour des sabots acheter.
CHORUS: MA MERE M'ENVOIE-T-AU MARCHE,
C'EST POUR DES SABOTS
ACHETER.

SOLO: Mes sabots fonts
CHORUS: Digne-don-daine,
SOLO: Digne-don-daine fonts mes sabots.
ALL: JE N'SUIS PAS MARCHAND, MA MERE,
POUR DES SABOTS ACHETER.

2. C'est pour un canard acheter. Canard
Canard fait "Coin! Coin! Coin!"
3. C'est pour une poule acheter. Poule
fait "cluck-cluck-cluck!"
4. C'est pour un beau coq acheter. Mon
coq fait "co-co-ri-koo!"
5. C'est pour une flute acheter. Ma flute
fait "doodle-doodle-doo!"
6. C'est pour un tambour acheter.
Mon tambour fait, "boum-boum-
boum!"

ALOUETTE

The best known of all French game songs, this is another of the cumulative type of song and needs no translation. It is at its best when sung by a soloist, with a chorus to handle all the repeat lines.

Wherever possible, in this recording both the solo lines and the repeats are sung, but in the cumulative part of each verse the repeats are indicated by two sharp strums on the guitar.

SOLO: Alouette, gentille alouette; alouette,
je t'y plumerai.
CHORUS: ALOUETTE, GENTILLE ALOUETTE:
ALOUETTE, JE T'Y PLUMERAI

SOLO: Je t'y plumerai la tête, je t'y plumerai
la tête.
CHORUS: JE T'Y PLUMERAI LA TÊTE, JE
T'Y PLUMERAI LA TÊTE.

SOLO: Et la tête,
CHORUS: ET LA TÊTE

SOLO: Alouette
CHORUS: ALOUETTE

ALL: AH!

SOLO: Alouette, gentille alouette; alouette,
je t'y plumerai...
(etc.)

2. Je t'y plumerai les yeux.
3. Je t'y plumerai le nez.
4. Je t'y plumerai le cou.
5. Je t'y plumerai le dos.
6. Je t'y plumerai les ailes.

EN ROULANT MA BOULE

One of a hundred Canadian versions of an old French folksong which tells the story of a young prince who goes out hunting and shoots down a young lady's white duck. This particular version is very popular with children, chiefly because of its chorus, which might be freely translated as: "Roll the ball, oh roll it along; roll the ball along-o!"

CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE ROULANT:
EN ROULANT MA BOULE (Repeat)
SOLO: Derrier' chez-nous y'a-t-un étang.
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE
SOLO: Trois beau canards s'en vont baignant,
Rouli-roulant, ma boule roulant.
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE ROULANT,
EN ROULANT MA BOULE (Repeat)

SOLO: Trois beaux canards s'en vont baignant
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE
SOLO: Le fils du roi s'en va chassant,
Rouli-roulant, ma boule roulant.
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE ROULANT,
EN ROULANT MA BOULE (Repeat)

SOLO: Le fils du roi s'en va chassant,
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE,
SOLO: Avec son grand fusil d'argent,
Rouli-roulant, ma boule roulant.
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE ROULANT,
EN ROULANT MA BOULE (Repeat)

SOLO: Avec son grand fusil d'argent,
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE
SOLO: Visa le noir, tua le blanc,
Rouli-roulant, ma boule roulant.
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE ROULANT,
EN ROULANT MA BOULE (Repeat)

SOLO: Visa le noir, tua le blanc,
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE
SOLO: O fils du roi, tu es méchant!
Rouli-roulant, ma boule roulant.
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE ROULANT,
EN ROULANT MA BOULE (Repeat)

SOLO: O fils du roi, tu es méchant!
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE
SOLO: D'avoir tué mon canard blanc,
Rouli-roulant, ma boule roulant.
CHORUS: EN ROULANT MA BOULE ROULANT,
EN ROULANT MY BOULE (Repeat)

IL ETAIT UN PETIT NAVIRE

Another Canadian variant of a widely-known French folksong, this tells the story of a little ship that went on a long voyage on the Mediterranean Sea. After five or six weeks at sea, the crew of the ship ran out of food, and the sailors became so hungry that they decided the only thing to do was to choose one of their own men to be eaten by the others. All the sailors agreed to pick straws to see which one would be the victim, and it turned out that the youngest sailor drew the shortest straw and thus was doomed: for the stew-pot. Not relishing the idea very much, the youth prayed to the Virgin Mary to save him, and no sooner had he offered up his prayers than a miracle happened: thousands of fish leaped out of the sea and fell flapping on deck. The hungry sailors pounced on the fresh fish and had a wonderful feed, and thus the young fellow was saved.

SOLO: Il était un petit navire
CHORUS: IL ETAIT UN PETIT NAVIRE
SOLO: Qui n'avait jam-jam-jamais navigué,
CHORUS: QUI N'AVAIT JAM-JAM-JAMAIS
NAVIGUE.

SOLO: Il entreprit un long voyage,
CHORUS: (Bis)
SOLO: Sur la mer Me-Me-Méditerranée
CHORUS: (Bis)

Au bout de cinq ou six semaines,
(CHORUS)
Les vivres vin-vin-vinrent à manquer
(CHORUS)
On tira z'à la courte paille... (CHORUS)
(CHORUS)
Pour savoir qui, qui, qui serait mangé...
(CHORUS)



Alan Mills

Le sort tomba sur le plus jeune..
(CHORUS)
C'est donc lui qui, qui, qui fut désigné
(CHORUS)

Il fit au ciel une prière,
(CHORUS)
Interrogeant géant l'immensité.
(CHORUS)

O sainte Vierge, o ma patronne,
(CHORUS)
Cria le pau-pau-pauvre infortuné,
(CHORUS)

Si j'ai péché, vite pardonne,
(CHORUS)
Empêche-les-les-les de me manger,
(CHORUS)

Au même instant un grand miracle
(CHORUS)
Pour l'enfant fut, fut, fut réalisé.
(CHORUS)

Des p'tits poissons dans le navire,
(CHORUS)
Sauteront par, par, par des milliers,
(CHORUS)

On les prit, on les mit à frire,
(CHORUS)
Le jeune mou-mou-mousse fut sauvé,
(CHORUS)

Si cette histoire vous amuse
(CHORUS)
Je vais vous la-la-la recommencer,
(CHORUS)

IL ETAIT UNE BERGERE

This tells the story of a young shepherdess who was making some cheese when she noticed that her cat was eyeing the cheese with some interest. "Don't you go putting your paws in that cheese," the girl warns the cat, "or I'll take the stick to you." The cat, mindful of the warning, didn't touch the cheese with her paws; she just stuck her chin into it, whereupon the shepherdess killed the cat, and now she weeps because she has lost her pet.

SOLO: Il était une bergère,
CHORUS: ET RON-RON-RON, PETIT PATAPON,
SOLO: Il était une bergère,
CHORUS: QUI GARDAIT SES MOUTONS.

Elle fit un fromage
ET RON...etc.
Elle fit un fromage
Du lait de ses moutons, ron-ron,
DU LAIT, etc.

Le chat qui la regarde,
ET RON...etc.
Le chat qui la regarde,
D'un petit air fripon, ron-ron,
D'UN PETIT....etc.

"Si tu y mets la patte,"
ET RON...etc.
"Si tu y mets la patte
Tu auras du bâton, ron-ron,"
TU AURAS....etc.

Il n'y mit pas la patte,
ET RON...etc.
Il n'y mit pas la patte,
Il y mit le menton, ron-ron,
IL Y MIT....etc.

La bergere en colere,
ET RON...etc.
La bergere en colere
Tua son p'tit chaton, ron-ron,
TUA SON....etc.

Et maintenant, elle pluere,
ET RON...etc.
Et maintenant, elle pleure,
D'avoir tue chaton, ron-ron,
D'AVOIR....etc.

L'APPRENTI PASTOURIAU

A widely-known and extremely popular dance song which tells the tale of an "apprentice shepherd" who discovered, one day, that a wolf had devoured one of his three lambs, and had left only the skin and bones. For a while he was sad about this, but then he made a flute out of the bones and played it so well that all the people of his village, old and young alike, came to dance to his music.

Qua.. j'étais chez mon pere, apprenti pastouriau,
Il m'a mis dans la lande, pour garder les troupiaux.
CHORUS: TROUPLAUX, TROUPLAUX, JE N'EN AVAIS GUERE,
TROUPLAUX, TROUPLAUX, JE N'EN AVAIS BIAUX!

Mais je n'en avais guere, Je n'avais qu'trois agneaux,
Et le loup de la plaine m'a mange le plus biau.
(CHORUS)

Il etai si vorace, n'a laisse que la piau,
N'a laisse qu la queue pour mettee à mon a mon chapiau,
(CHORUS)

Mais des os de la bête me fis un chalumiau,
Pour jouer a la fete, a la fet' du hamiau.
(CHORUS)

Pour fair' danser l'village dessous le grand ormiau,
Et les jeans's et les vieilles, les pieds dans les sabots,
(CHORUS)

MARIANN' S'EN VA-T-AU MOULIN

The story of this song bases its climax on an old superstition that all donkeys change their skins on St. Michael's Day. It tells of young Marianne, whose father sends her to the mill on her donkey to get some grain ground. She ties up her donkey behind the mill and, while she is watching the miller at his work, a wolf comes along and devours the donkey. Marianne's tears over this development prompt the good miller to give her enough money to buy another donkey. When she returns home and her father questions her about the "new" animal, she reminds him that it's St. Michael's Day and explains that the "old" donkey has just changed his skin.

SOLO: Mariann' s'en va-t-au moulin,
CHORUS: (Bis)
SOLO: C'est pour y faire moudre son grain,
CHORUS: (Bis)
SOLO: A cheval sur son ane, ma p'tite mam'zell' Marianne,

A cheval sur son ane Catin, s'en allant au moulin
Le meunier, qui la voit venir,
(Bis)
S'empresse aussitot de lui dire:
(Bis)
"Attachez-donc votre ane, ma p'tite mam'zell' Marianne,
Attachez-donc votre ane Catin par derrier' le moulin."

Pendant que le moulin marchait
(Bis)
Le Loup tout à l'entour rôdait
(Bis)
Le loup a mangé l'ane, ma p'tite mam'zell' Marianne,
Le loup a mangé l'ane Catin par derrier' la moulin.

Mariann' se mit à pleurer
(Bis)
Cent écus d'or lui a donné
(Bis)
Pour acheter un ane, ma p'tite mam'zell' Marianne,
Pour acheter un ane Catin en r'venant du moulin.

Son père qui la voit venir
(Bis)
Ne put s'empêcher de lui dire
(Bis)
"Qu'avez-vous fait d'votre ane,
ma p'tite mam'zell' Marianne?
Qu'avez-vous fait d'votre ane Catin en allant au moulin?"

"C'est aumourd'hui la Saint-Michel
(Bis)
Que tous les an's changent de poil.
(Bis)
J'veus ramén' le même ane, ma p'tite mam'zell' Marianne,
J'veus ramén' le même ane Catin, qui m'porta au moulin.

A LA VOLETTE

A charming French-Canadian song, despite its rather sad story. It tells of some very young birds who, disregarding their mother's warning not to stray from their nests, fly off into the forest, where they are caught and devoured by a fox. The song ends with a moral: "That's what always happens to rebels."

The phrase "A la volette" might be translated as "on the wing."

SOLO: Pres de la fontaine, un oiseau chantait,
CHORUS: (Bis)
SOLO: Un oiseau,
CHORUS: A LA VOLETTE,
SOLO: Un oiseau,
CHORUS: A LA VOLETTE,
SOLO: Un oiseau chantait.*

(* This line may be repeated by the chorus; in this case, it is played by the guitar.)

Ses petits, rebelles, voulaient le quitter,
(Bis)
Voulaient le, à la volette,
(Bis)
Voulaient le quitter.

Et la pauvre bête leur disait: "Restez!"
(Bis)
Leur disait, à la volette,
(Bis)
Leur disait: "Restez!"
Mais les p'tites partirent, ils savaient voler,
(Bis)
Ils savaient, à la volette,
(Bis)
Ils savaient voler.

Au bois ils allèrent, riant des dangers,
(Bis)
Riant des, à la volette,
(Bis)
Riant des dangers.

Le renard avide les a tous mangés,
(Bis)
Les a tous, à la volette,
(Bis)
Les a tous mangés.

Et leur pauvre mère les a bien pleurés,
(Bis)
Les a tous, à la volette,
(Bis)
Les a tous pleurés.

Ainsi les rebelles sont toujours traités,
(Bis)
Sont toujours, à la volette,
(Bis)
Sont toujours' traités.

MARLBROUGH S'EN VA-T-EN GUERRE

This well-known marching song from which we get the tunes of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" and "The Bear Went Over the Mountain" is about a famous British soldier, the first Duke of Marlborough, who served in the French army for five years and was decorated for his services by Louis XIV. The song tells of a courier who brings news to Lady Marlborough of her husband's death on the battlefield. (Actually, history records that the Duke died a rather normal death, following a lengthy illness brought on by an attack of apoplexy).

Marlborough s'en va-t-en guerre,
CHORUS: MIRONTON, MIRONTON, MIRONTAINE,
Marlborough s'en va-t-en guerre, ne sait quand reviendra!
CHORUS: NE SAIS QUAND REVIENDRA, NE SAIT QUAND REVIENDRA.

Il reviendra-z-a Paques,
MIRONTON...etc
Il reviendra-z-a Paques, ou à la Trinité,
OU A LA TRINITE, OU A LA TRINITE.

La Trinité se passe,
MIRONTON...etc.
La Trinité se passe, Marlborough ne revient pas.

MARLBROUGH NE REVIENT PAS, MARLBROUGH NE REVIENT PAS.

Madame, a sa tour monte,
MIRONTON...etc
Madame a sa tour monte, si haut qu'elle peut monter.
SI HAUT QU'ELLE PEUT MONTE, SI HAUT QU'ELLE PEUT MONTE..

Elli! aperçoit son page,
MIRONTON...etc
Elli! aperçoit son page, tout de noir habillé.
TOU DE NOIR HABILLE, TOUT DE NOIR HABILLE.

"Beau page, ah! mon beau page,
MIRONTON...etc
"Beau page, ah! mon beau page, quell'
nouvelle apportez?"
QUELL' NOUVELLE APPORETEZ? QUELL' NOUVELLE APPORETEZ?

"Aux nouvell's que j'apporte,
MIRONTON...etc
Aux nouvell's que j'apporte, vos beaux yeux vont pleurer,"
VOS BEAUX YEUX VONT PLEURER, VOS BEAUX YEUX VONT PLEURER.

"Marlborough est mort en guerre,
MIRONTON...etc
Marlborough est mort en guerre, est mort et enterré."*

(* - The last phrase, "est mort et enterré" may be repeated once by a chorus, to the same melody as sung here, to bring the song to a less abrupt climax. Some versions of this song have a dozen more verses which go into the details of the "hero's funeral" given the Duke).