

Folkways Records
Stereo FC7545
Electronically reprocessed for stereo

14 Numbers, Letters and Animal Songs

sung by Alan Mills, guitarist: Bram Morrison



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1972

MUSIC LP

Folkways Records
Stereo FC1545

SIDE I

- Band 1. Numbers & Letters (2:00)
- Band 2. By'm By (Trad.) (1:45)
- Band 3. One Man Went To Mow (Trad.) (1:15)
- Band 4. One Man Shall Mow My Meadow (Trad.) (1:25)
- Band 5. Mother, May I Go Out To Swim (Trad.) (1:00)
- Band 6. The Animal Alphabet
(Words & Music by A. Mills) (2:15)
- Band 7. Little Bingo (Trad.) (2:45)
- Band 8. This Old Man (Trad.) (2:35)
(Nick-Nack-Paddywhack)

SIDE II

- Band 1. Old John Braddelum - (Words by A. Mills) (3:05)
(Trad. English folktune)
- Band 2. Ten Green Apples - (A. Mills) (1:20)
- Band 3. Six Little Ducks (American) (2:00)
- Band 4. The Farmer's Three Pigs (Adap. by A. Mills) (2:20)
- Band 5. Old King Cole (Trad.) (2:20)
- Band 6. A Long Time Ago - (Trad. tune with
new words by A. Mills) (4:05)

Library of Congress Catalogue Card No. 72-750541

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

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

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14 Numbers, Letters
and Animal Songs

sung by Alan Mills
guitarist: Bram Morrison

cover by Henry Post
drawing by Chris Davis

14 Numbers, Letters,
and
Animal Songssung by Alan Mills
acc. by Bram Morrison

All the songs in this album, as its title indicates, have to do with numbers and letters in one form or another, and are aimed at encouraging the very young to familiarize themselves with counting and the alphabet.

Beginning with very simple counting and alphabet songs, it proceeds to number-rhyming and letter-rhyming songs, plus a spelling song and a few story songs, all of which were selected to entertain young listeners (and the not-so-young) through participation in the singing.

Because it has been our experience that many young children, from pre-schoolers to those attending elementary grades, find difficulty in learning and singing songs which are "too fast" or "too high" for them, all the songs have been recorded at a slower pace than usual, and in keys which do not extend the lower and middle registers of most youngsters.

It is suggested that teachers of the young, who hopefully will make use of this album as an educational aid, will try teaching the songs in the approximate tempi and registers in which they have been recorded to begin with, so that children may not have any difficulty singing them. Once they become familiar with the songs, children will soon find their own pace and register.

(A very simple counting and alphabet song, sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.")

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
Stars are twinkling up in heaven,
Eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve,
You can sing it now yourself,
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven,
Stars are twinkling up in heaven.

A, B, C, D, E, F, G,
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P,
Q, R, S, T, U, and V,
W and X, Y, Z,
Now you've heard my A-B-C,
You can sing along with me.

(Repeat the second verse, changing the last two lines as follows: - Now you've sung my A-B-C,
It's as easy as can be.)

Side 1. Band 2. -- By'm By

(A favorite American counting song)

By'm by, by'm by, stars shinin',
Number one, number two, number three,
Good Lord, by'm by, by'm by,
Good Lord, by'm by.

By'm by, by'm by, stars shinin',
Number four, number five, number six,
Good Lord, by'm by, by'm by,
Good Lord, by'm by.

By'm by...(etc.)
Number seven, number eight, number nine...(etc.)

By'm by...(etc.)
Number ten, number eleven, number twelve...(etc.)

(Could be continued up to number twenty)

Side 1. Band 3. -- One Man Went to Mow

(Another favorite counting song, in which the trick is to count backwards as well as forwards)

One man went to mow,
Went to mow a meadow,
One man and his dog went to mow a meadow.

Two men went to mow,
Went to mow a meadow,
Two men, one man, and his dog,
Went to mow a meadow.

Three men went to mow,
Went to mow a meadow,
Three men, two men, one man and his dog,
Went to mow a meadow.

(And so on up to 10 or 12)

Side 1. Band 4. -- One Man Shall Mow My Meadow

(A somewhat lesser-known and melodically superior version of the foregoing, if slightly more complicated)

One man shall mow my meadow,
Two men shall gather it together,
Two men, one man, and one more,
Shall shear my lambs, and ewes and rams,
And gather my wool together.

Three men shall mow my meadow,
Four men shall gather it together,
Four men, three men, two men,
One man, and one more,
Shall shear my lambs, and ewes and rams,
And gather my wool together.

(And so on, by two's up to 10)

Side 1. Band 5. -- Mother, May I Go Out To Swim?
(American Alphabet Song)

Mother, may I go out to swim?
Yes, my darlin' daughter.
Hang your clothes on a hickory limb,
But don't go near the water.
A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M,
N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, and that's the way to spell 'em.
Then comes U, and then comes V, let the chorus ring 'em.
W, X, and Y and Z, and that's the way to sing 'em!

Side 1. Band 6. -- The Animal Alphabet

(Words & Music by Alan Mills ©)

A is for Ant, that's plain to see,
B is for Bear and Bumble-Bee,
C is for Cat and Chicken and Cow,
D is for Dog that barks "bow-wow!"

E is for Elephant, big and strong,
F for the Fishes in a pond,
G is for Goose and Gander, of course,
H is for Hen and Hog and Horse.

I is for Ibis, a lovely fowl,
J is for Jackal, who likes to howl,
K for the Kicking Kangaroo,
L is for Lamb and Lion, too.

M is for Monkey, you will note,
N for the Nibbling Nanny-goat,
O for the Owl that sleeps all day,
P for the Peacock, proud and gay.

Q is for Quail, and R for Rat,
S for the Skunk, 'nough said of that!
T is for Tadpole, Toad and Tiger,
U for the Unicorn, V for Viper.

W is for Walrus and for Whale,
X is a cross and Y has a tail,
Z is for Zebra, it can't be wrong,
And that is the end of this Alphabet song.

(It shouldn't be too difficult to find drawings and/or pictures to illustrate the above in classrooms, and teachers might ask pupils to match the letters with other animals.)

Side 1. Band 7.-- Little Bingo

(A traditional English spelling song, to which several verses have been added.)

There was a farmer had a young dog,
His name was Little Bingo.
B with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
B-I-N-G-O, His name was Little Bingo.

The farmer had a very good voice,
And he did like to sing-o.
S with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
S-I-N-G-O, And he did like to sing-o.

The farmer loved a pretty young maid,
He bought her a wedding ring-o.
R with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
R-I-N-G-O, He bought her a wedding ring-o.

The wedding bells soon merrily rang,
A-ting, a-ting, a-ting-o.
T with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
T-I-N-G-O, A-ting, a-ting, a-ting-o.

Then off they went to London town,
To see the Queen and King-o.
K with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
K-I-N-G-O, To see the Queen and King-o.

Now, isn't this a jolly good song,
I think it is, by Jingo!
J with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G, with an O,
J-I-N-G-O, I think it is, by Jingo!

Side 1. Band 8. -- This Old Man (Nick-Nack-Paddywhack)

(This English folksong is probably the most popular of all number-rhyming songs.)

This old man, he played One,
He played nick-nack on my drum,
Nick-nack-paddywhack, give a dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played Two,
He played nick-nack on my shoe...(etc.)

This old man, he played Three,
He played nick-nack on my knee...(etc.)

This old man, he played Four,
He played nick-nack on my door (or floor)...

This old man, he played Five,
He played nick-nack on my hive...

This old man, he played Six,
He played nick-nack on my sticks (or chicks)...

This old man, he played Seven,
He played nick-nack up to heaven...

This old man, he played Eight,
He played nick-nack on my gate (or plate)...

This old man, he played Nine,
He played nick-nack on my spine...

This old man, he played Ten,
He played nick-nack on my hen...
(or -- now let's sing this song again)...

Side 2. Band 1. -- Old John Braddelum

(Words & music adapted by Alan Mills from an old English folksong)

(A lesser-known number-rhyming song than This Old Man, but just as much fun to sing.)

Number one, number one, now my song has just begun,
With a rum-tum-taddelum, Old John Braddelum,
Hey, what country folk we be.

Number two, number two, roosters crow cockadoodl-doo,
With a rum-tum-taddelum...(etc.)

Number three, -- Three little monkeys up a tree...(etc.)
Number four, -- Two plus one, then add one more...
Number five, -- Bees make honey in a hive...
Number six, -- Three little ducks and three little chicks...

Number seven, -- Add four more to make eleven...
Number eight, -- Four through the window and four through the gate...

Number nine, -- Nine little ants march in a line...
Number ten, -- Five were women and five were men...
Number eleven, -- Always rhymes with number seven...
Number twelve, -- If you want any more you can sing it yourself...

Side 2. Band 2. -- Ten Green Apples

(Words & music by Alan Mills, adapted from a popular drinking song)

Farmer Brown had ten green apples hanging on a tree (2)
Then he plucked one apple and he ate it greedily,
Leaving nine green apples a-hanging on a tree.

Farmer Brown had nine green apples hanging on a tree (2)
Then he plucked one apple and he ate it greedily,
Leaving eight green apples a-hanging on a tree.

Farmer Brown had eight green apples...(etc.)

(Continue the song to last verse: --)

LAST LINE: -- Leaving no green apples a-hanging on a tree. (2)

Side 2. Band 3. -- Six Little Ducks

There were six little ducks that I once knew,
Thin ones, fat ones, funny ones, too,
One little duck with a feather on his back,
He led the others with a quack-quack-quack,
Quack, quack, quack, quack, quack, quack,
He led the others with a quack, quack, quack.

Down to the river they all did go,
With a wibble-wobble, wibble-wobble to and fro,
One little duck with a feather on his back,
He led the others...(etc.)

Up and down the river they swam all day,
And their tails wiggle-waggled as they did play,
One little duck with a feather...(etc.)

Home from the river they all did come,
With a wibble-wobble, wibble-wobble, Hi-ho-hum,
Still one little duck with a feather...(etc.)

Side 2. Band 4. -- The Farmer's Three Pigs

(Words & music by Alan Mills, adapted from an English folksong.)

Oh, the farmer had one, and the farmer had two,
And the farmer had three little pigs in a stew,
Tra-la-la, la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

Oh, he wrapped them in batter, and he wrapped them in dough,
And he spiced them and stewed them and baked them, ho-ho,
Tra-la-la...(etc.)

While the piglets were cooking, the farmer grew sad,
To think that he'd treated his piggies so bad,
Tra-la-la...(etc.)

While the piglets were roasting, the farmer looked in,
But he just couldn't eat them for fear 'twas a sin,
Tra-la-la...(etc.)

So he opened the oven, and took them all three,
And onto the table he placed them, did he,
Tra-la-la...(etc.)

Then, much to the farmer's delight and surprise,
The piglets jumped up before his very eyes,
Tra-la-la,...

Then all round the table, they danced merrily,
While the farmer looked on with wonder and glee,
Tra-la-la,...

Then the pigs started singing and the farmer joined in
And the meal was forgotten amidst all the din,
Tra-la-la,...

Now that you've heard the story, there's no more to tell,
If you want any more, you can sing it yourself,
Tra-la-la...

Side 2. Band 5. -- Old King Cole

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he,
He called for his pipe and he called for his bowl,
And he called for his fiddlers three.
Every fiddler had a fine fiddle, and a very fine
fiddle had he,
There's none so rare as can compare
With King Cole and his fiddlers three.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he,
He called for his pipe and he called for his bowl,
And he called for his trumpeters three.
Every trumpeter had a fine trumpet, and a very fine
trumpet had he,
There's none so rare as can compare
With King Cole and his trumpeters three.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he,
He called for his pipe and he called for his bowl,
And he called for his harpers three,
Every harper had a fine harp, and a very fine harp
had he,
There's none so rare as can compare
With King Cole and his harpers three.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he,
He called for his pipe and he called for his bowl,
And he called for his drummers three,
Every drummer had a fine drum, and a very fine
drum had he,
There's none so rare as can compare
With King Cole and his drummer's three.

Side 2. Band 6. -- A Long Time Ago

(Adapted from a popular sea-shanty, with
new verses by Alan Mills.)

(This is one of the many songs telling the story of
Noah's ark. Like its better-known counterpart, One
More River, it is a number-rhyming song, and it has
an easy chorus for everyone to sing.)

A long time, and a very long time, TO ME WAY, HEY,
HEE, HO,
A long time and a very long time, A LONG TIME AGO.

In 'Frisko Bay there lay three ships, TO ME WAY....
In 'Frisko Bay there lay three ships, A LONG TIME AGO.

And one of those ships was Noah's old ark,....
'Twas covered all over with hickory bark,....

Out came the animals one by one....
The first was an elephant chewing a bun....

Out came the animals, two by two....
A donkey and a kangaroo....

Out came the animals, three by three....
Two monkeys and a chimpanzee....

Out came the animals, four by four....
The hippopotamus stuck in the door....

Out came the animals, five by five....
Two ants, two birds, and a bee in a hive....

Out came the animals, six by six....
Two hares, two bears, and two tiny ticks....

Out came the animals, seven by seven....
While seven angels looked down from heaven....

Out came the animals, eight by eight....
A cow and a bull jumped over the gate....

Out came the animals, nine by nine....
Three owls, three eagles, and three doves a-flyin'....

Out came the animals, ten by ten....
Then Noah sailed off to sea again....

ABOUT ALAN MILLS

While Canadian folk-singer Alan Mills prepared
this album of "educational" songs for pre-school
children and elementary graders, Folkways Records
feel sure that most of the 14 songs he has recorded
will appeal to people of all ages, and all of them
will be particularly useful to teachers of the young.

A native Montrealer and a former newspaper re-
porter, Alan Mills began collecting and singing folk-
songs as a hobby back in the early thirties, and
started singing them professionally shortly thereafter,
as a sideline to his newspaperwork, along with acting
in little theatre groups and radio dramas for Canada's
government-owned CBS (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation).
Increasing demands for his talents as an actor and folk-
singer led him to quit newspaperwork entirely in the
early forties, since when he has been heard in thousands
of radio and television programs on both English and
French networks of the CBS, as well as in short-wave
broadcasts to Europe and Latin-American countries.

Through these programs, as well as his many re-
cordings and concert appearances, he soon became
recognized as one of the foremost interpreters of both
English and French folksongs of his officially bilingual
native land.

His concerts have taken him on more than a dozen
tours across North America, from Newfoundland to the
west coast, and from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of
Mexico, and twice to Britain -- first at the invitation
of the English Folk Music & Dance Society, and again
by the Joint Commonwealth Societies.

Although he has a wide knowledge of the general
literature of folk balladry, he has concentrated most
of his efforts in trying to make others aware of Canada's
vast heritage of traditional songs, and showing how
they reflect the history and dual culture of his country.
He has also specialized in educational concerts for
students of all ages, and in demonstrating how folk-
songs may be used as educational aids in many forms.

Besides his concerts and radio and television
appearances, Mills has recorded more than a score of
LP's, most of which reflect his own interests in
Canadiana and young people, and he has compiled and
edited some half-dozen songbooks. He has also composed
a number of songs in the folk idiom, the best known of
which is the widely-popular "nonsense" song called "I
Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly."

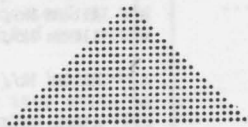
His Folkways Recordings alone include the following:

- Album No. 7009 - MORE SONGS TO GROW ON
Album No. 7021 - FOLK SONGS FOR YOUNG FOLK (1)
ANIMALS
Album No. 7022 - FOLK SONGS FOR YOUNG FOLK (2)
ANIMALS
Album No. 7208 - FRENCH FOLKSONGS FOR CHILDREN
Album No. 7719-20-21-22 - CHANTONS EN FRANCAIS
(A four-record set of 74 songs,
sung with Hélène Baillargeon)
Album No. 3001 - O CANADA (A History in Song)
Album No. 6929 - FRENCH CANADIAN SONGS
Album No. 6831 - FOLKSONGS OF NEWFOUNDLAND
Album No. 8771 - FAVORITE SONGS OF NEWFOUNDLAND
Album No. 6923 - CHANSONS D'ACADIE (Songs of Acadia)
(Twenty folksongs & traditional
ballads of the early French
settlers of a section of eastern
Canada now incorporated in the
Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia,
New Brunswick and Prince Edward
Island. Sung with Helene
Baillargeon)
Album No. 8744 - SONGS OF THE MARITIMES
(Sixteen traditional English
ballads & folksongs of the
three aforementioned provinces.)
Album No. 2312 - SONGS OF THE SEA
(32 favorite sea-shanties and ballads
sung with a small chorus.)
Album No. 3532 - SONGS & FIDDLE TUNES OF CANADA
(With traditional fiddler Jean
Carignan)
Album No. 7750 - CHRISTMAS SONGS OF MANY LANDS
(Includes 25 well-known and lesser-
known traditional songs of 15
countries, sung in English.)
Album No. 6918 - SONGS OF FRENCH CANADA
(With Hélène Baillargeon)
Album No. 8711 - JEWISH SONGS
(With Raasche)

For Additional Information About

FOLKWAYS RELEASES

of Interest
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Folkways Records and Service Corp.

His published books include the following:

CANADA'S STORY IN SONG - Co-edited with Edith Fulton Fowke, with piano & guitar accompaniments, published by W.J. Gage Ltd., Toronto, Canada.

FOLK SONGS FOR YOUNG FOLK - With piano & guitar accompaniments, published by Canadian Music Sales Limited, Toronto.

FAVORITE SONGS OF NEW FOUNDLAND - With piano & guitar accompaniments, published by BMI-Canada Ltd., Toronto.

CHANTONS UN PEU (Sing a Little) - French songs for children, with French & English texts, and piano & guitar accompaniments, published by BMI-Canada Ltd., Toronto.

FAVORITE FRENCH FOLKSONGS - Sixty five traditional songs of France and Canada, with English & French texts, vocal line only with guitar accompaniments, published by Oak Publications, New York.

HOLIDAY SONGS - Co-edited with Carroll Rhinehart, containing traditional and original songs for holidays and festivals through the year, with piano & guitar accompaniments, published by Bowmar Records, Glendale, Calif.

I KNOW AN OLD LADY (Who Swallowed A Fly) - Picture book of nonsense song, in collaboration with Rose Bonne and illustrator Abner Graboff, published by Rand McNally & Company (Library paperback).

THE HUNGRY GOAT - Picture book of nonsense song, illustrated by Abner Graboff and published by Rand McNally & Company.