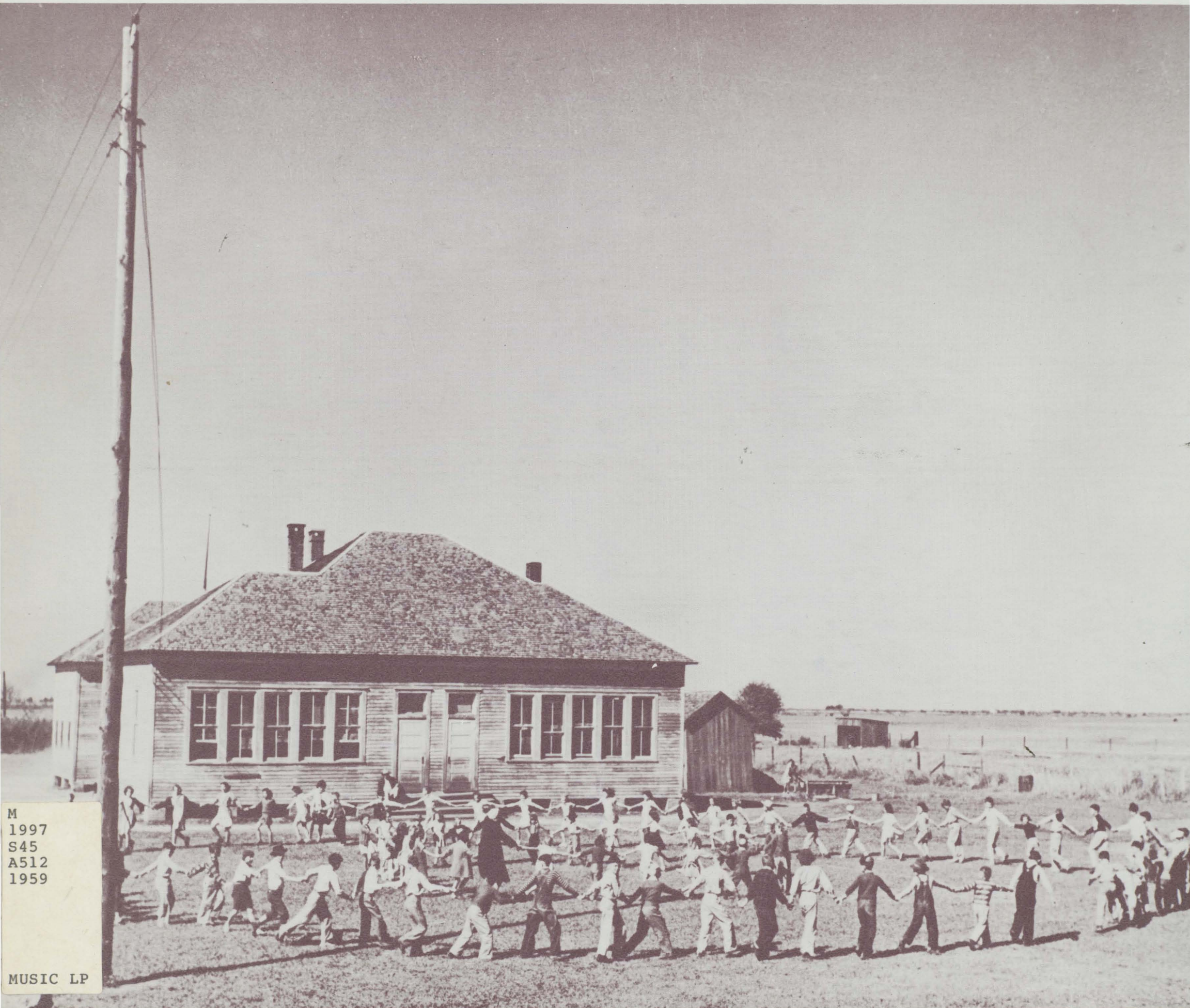


AMERICAN PLAYPARTIES

WITH PETE SEEGER, MIKA SEEGER, AND REV. LARRY EISENBERG



M
1997
S45
A512
1959

MUSIC LP

AMERICAN PLAYPARTIES

WITH PETE SEEGER, MIKA SEEGER, AND REV. LARRY EISENBERG

SIDE I

- Band 1: MAZOO, MAZOO
- Band 2: SKIP TO MY LOU
- Band 3: SHAKE THEM 'SIMMONS DOWN
- Band 4: ALABAMA BOUND
- Band 5: SALLY DOWN THE ALLEY
- Band 6: TURN THE GLASSES OVER
- Band 7: GOODBYE LIZA JANE

SIDE II

- Band 1: GIT ALONG HOME
- Band 2: PAW PAW PATCH
- Band 3: BETTY LARKIN
- Band 4: JOLLY IS THE MILLER
- Band 5: PIG IN THE PARLOR
- Band 6: GREAT BIG HOUSE IN
NEW ORLEANS
- Band 7: SENT MY BROWN JUG
DOWNTOWN

Library of Congress Card
Catalogue No. R 64-606

© 1959 FOLKWAYS RECORDS & SERVICE CORP.
632 Broadway, NYC, USA 10012

Descriptive Notes are inside pocket

American Play Parties

pete seeger
mika seeger

rev. larry eisenberg

The American Play Party is a unique form of recreation that arose in the 19th Century as a result of a religious prohibition against dancing. In many communities, especially in the midwest and the south, a preacher would thunder from the pulpit that Fiddler's Green was 'two miles the other side of Hell' and truly the fiddle was the Devil's own instrument. A young girl who had been seen attending a dance could be expelled from the church. 'She danced herself right out of the church' the saying went.

The ingenuity of youth devised the play party as a substitute. There was no prohibition against children's games, London Bridge, and the like. These games were gradually developed into exciting and complicated affairs which to the casual stranger might appear to be regular American square dances or running sets, with changing partners, grand right and lefts, and other well-known figures. The only obvious difference was that there was no instrumental accompaniment. Instead all the participants sang a song which indicated, often by very poetic similes, the figures everyone was to follow.

Occasionally the stricter parents might insist that their daughters sit out the dances - oops, play parties, which involved actually swinging a partner with arms about the other's waist. And if someone tried calling well-known square dance calls, that might be stopped. As usual, it was a see-saw contest between the generations.

In the 20th Century, the prohibitions against dancing have been gradually relaxed in most of the country. Square dancing with instruments became itself old-fashioned, and young people danced new dances to accompaniment of recorded music. Nevertheless, in the revival of square dancing which has taken place during the past twenty years, play parties have been revived, too, and for several very good reasons:

- 1) They are some of the best 'mixers' in the world. A group of complete novices can be enjoying themselves with a minimum of belabored instruction.
- 2) Any number can participate, without having to be rigidly groups in set of eight, or any other number.
- 3) No accompaniment, mechanical recordings nor live instrumentalists, is needed. On the spur of the moment, anywhere there are feet that want to dance, and a flat surface, be it a living room floor, barn, classroom or gym, meadow or beach, is sufficient for a play party.

- 4) The play parties themselves are fun to sing. They are full of fine folk poetry, delightful imagery and symbolism which stimulates the imagination.

This LP has been made under considerable apprehension that it will be used too much. It is hoped that recreation leaders will only use records to teach the songs - since it is true that it is easier to learn a song by hearing it than from the printed page. Then put the records away, and do the play parties as they should be, with the strong and rhythmic unison singing for only accompaniment.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to Lynn and Katherine Rohrbough, from whose collections most of the words and melodies on this record were taken. A number of the songs have been copyrighted by them in the name of the good folks who taught them the play parties, in order to prevent commercial misuse. These collections, which are quite inexpensive, and contain dozens of other fine play parties, are listed here along with other worthwhile books of play parties.

Handy Play Parties, Edited by the Rohrboughs, published by the Cooperative Recreation Service, Dadrnor Road, Delaware, Ohio. \$1.00

The above collection is a collation of several smaller ones, which can be ordered individually for 25¢ each: Midwestern Play Parties, Ohio Play Parties ... AND PROMENADE ALL, by Helen and Larry Eisenberg, (2403 Branch St., Nashville, Tennessee) \$1.00

THE AMERICAN PLAY PARTY, by Benjamin Botkin, U. of Okla. Press, 192 . This collection, long out of print, may be reissued, but meanwhile it is worth a trip to the library to find. A detailed and scholarly study, with hundreds of delightful variant verses and melodies.

Peter Seeger
Beacon, N.Y.
February, 1959

M
1997
S45
A512
1959

MUSIC LP



Photos by David Gahr



AMERICAN PLAY-PARTIES

Pete Seeger, Mika Seeger,
Larry Eisenberg

Side 1

Band 1: Mazoo, Mazoo
Pete Seeger, Mika Seeger, Larry
Eisenberg

Go wash your tiny windows
Mazoo, Mazoo
Go wash your tiny windows
My Suzy-Anna-Sue

Go face your tiny partner
Mazoo, Mazoo
Go face your tiny partner
My Suzy-Anna-Sue

Now, let me see you hustle
Mazoo, Mazoo
Now, let me see you hustle
My Suzy-Anna-Sue

Band 2: Skip To My Lou
Pete Seeger, Mika Seeger, Larry
Eisenberg

I've lost my girl, now what'll I do,
I've lost my girl, now what'll I do,
I've lost my girl, now what'll I do,
Skip to my Lou, my darling.

Skip, skip, skip to my Lou;
Skip, skip, skip to my Lou;
Skip, skip, skip to my Lou;
Skip to my Lou, my darling.

I'll get another, a better one too; etc.
Cat's in the buttermilk, skip to my Lou, etc.
Flies in the sugarbowl, shoo, fly, shoo, etc.
Pickles are sour, and so are you, etc.
Pa's got a shotgun, Number 32, etc.
My girl wears a number nine shoe, etc.
Sugar is sweet and so are you, etc.
Stand there big foot, don't know what t' do, etc.

Band 3: Shake Them 'Simmons Down
Pete Seeger, Larry Eisenberg

Circle right, do-ho do-ho
Circle right, do-ho do-ho
Circle right, do-ho do-ho
Shake them 'Simmons down

Circle left, do-ho do-ho
Circle left, do-ho do-ho
Circle left, do-ho do-ho
Shake them 'Simmons down

Balance all, do-ho do-ho
Balance all, do-ho do-ho
Balance all, do-ho do-ho
Shake them 'Simmons down

'Round your partner, do-ho do-ho
'Round your partner, do-ho do-ho
'Round your partner, do-ho do-ho
Shake them 'Simmons down

'Round your corner, do-ho do-ho
'Round your corner, do-ho do-ho
'Round your corner, do-ho do-ho
Shake them 'Simmons down

Promenade your corner, do-ho do-ho
Promenade your corner, do-ho do-ho
Promenade your corner, do-ho do-ho
Shake them 'Simmons down

Band 4: Alabama Gal
Pete Seeger, Mika Seeger, Larry
Eisenberg

Come through in a hurry
Come through in a hurry
Come through in a hurry
Alabama Gal

I don't know how, how
I don't know how, how
I don't know how, how
Alabama Gal

I showed you how, how
I showed you how, how
I showed you how, how
Alabama gal

Ain't I rock candy?
Ain't I rock candy?
Ain't I rock candy?
Alabama gal

Band 5: Sally Down the Alley
Pete Seeger, Mika Seeger, Larry
Eisenberg

Here comes Sally down the alley
Here comes Sally down the alley
Here comes Sally down the alley
Down in Alabama

Hand on the shoulder and promenade
Hand on the shoulder and promenade
Hand on the shoulder and promenade
Down in Alabama

Swing that lady at your back
Swing that lady at your back
Swing that lady at your back
Down in Alabama

Band 6: Turn The Glasses Over
Pete Seeger, Larry Eisenberg

I've been to Haarlem
I've been to Dover
I've traveled this wide world all over
Over, over, three times over
Drink all the ginger ale and turn the glasses over

Sailing east, sailing west
Sailing over the ocean
You better watch out when the boat begins to rock
Or you'll lose your girl in the ocean

Band 7: Goodbye Liza Jane
Pete Seeger, Larry Eisenberg

Side 2

Band 1: Git Along Home
Pete Seeger, Larry Eisenberg

O, the rabbit stole a punkin
And started into town
He saw the Yankees coming
He throwed that punkin down

CHORUS
Git along home
Git along home
Git along home I say
Git along home little black eyes
Don't forget the way

Great big house in Louisville, 16 stories high
Every story in that house, filled with punkin pie

(CHORUS)

If I had a needle and thread, fine as I could sew
I'd sew my gal to my coat tail, and down the road
I'd go

(CHORUS)

Somebody stole my old coon dog; wish they'd bring
him back
To chase the old hogs over the fence; little ones
thru the crack

(CHORUS)

Went to see Miss Liza Jane; she met me at the door
Shoes and stockings in her hand, her feet all over
the floor

(CHORUS)

If I had a scalding wife, tell you what I'd do
I'd build a boat and set her afloat, and paddle
my own canoe

Band 2: Paw Paw Patch
Pete Seeger, Mika Seeger, Larry
Eisenberg

Where oh where is sweet little Nellie
Where oh where is sweet little Nellie
Where oh where is sweet little Nellie
Way down yonder in the paw paw patch

Come on boys, lets go find her
Come on boys, lets go find her
Come on boys, lets go find her
Way down yonder in the paw paw patch

Picking up paw-paws, put 'em in your pocket
Picking up paw-paws, put 'em in your pocket
Picking up paw-paws, put 'em in your pocket
Way down yonder in the paw-paw patch

Band 3: Betty Larkin
Pete Seeger

Hop around, skip around, old Betty Larkin;
Hop around, skip around, old Betty Larkin;
Hop around, skip around, old Betty Larkin;

Needles in a haystack, old Betty Larkin (3)
Also my dear darling.

Steal, steal, old Betty Larkin, (3)
Also my dear darling.

You take nine and I'll take another (3)
Also my dear darling.

Side 2, Band 4: JOLLY IS THE MILLER
(Pete Seeger, Larry Eisenberg)

Jolly is the miller that lives by the mill,
The wheel turns around of its own free will,
With one hand in the hopper and the other in the
sack,
The wheel turns 'round and we all turn back.

Jolly is the miller that lives by the mill,
The wheel turns around of its own free will,
With one hand in the hopper and the other in the
sack,
The ladies go forward and the men turn back.

Raining, hailing, cold, stormy weather,
In comes the farmer drinking up his cider.
In comes the reaper, out goes the binder,
I have a true love, where shall I find her?

O, we've got a pig in the parlor
We've got a pig in the parlor
We've got a pig in the parlor
And he is Irish too

O, a right hand to your partner
And left hand to your neighbor
Your right hand to your partner
And all promenade

And all promenade
And all promenade
Syng the lady behind you
And all promenade

O, we got a new pig in the parlor
We got a new pig in the parlor
We got a new pig in the parlor
And he is Irish too

O, the same old pig in the parlor
The same old pig in the parlor
The same old pig in the parlor
And he is Irish too

Band 6: Great Big House In New Orleans
Pete Seeger, Mika Seeger, Larry
Eisenberg

Great big house in New Orleans
Forty stories high
Every room that I been in
Filled with pumpkin pie

Went down to the old mill stream
To fetch a pail of water
Put one arm around my wife
Th' other 'round my daughter

Fare thee well my darling girl
Fare thee well my daughter
Fare thee well my darling girl
With the golden slippers on her

Band 7: Sent My Brown Jug Downtown
Pete Seeger, Mika Seeger, Larry
Eisenberg

Sent my brown jug downtown
Sent my brown jug downtown
Sent my brown jug downtown
So early in the morning

It came back with a waltz around
It came back with a waltz around
It came back with a waltz around
So early in the morning

Railroad, steamboat, river and canoe
Lost my true love, don't know what to do

O, she's gone, gone, gone
O, she's gone, gone, gone
O, she's gone, on that raging canoe

Let her go, go, go
Let her go, go, go
Let her go, on that raging canoe



Smithsonian Folkways

It is the policy of Smithsonian Folkways to consider graphics and texts from our collections as historical artifacts and therefore to reproduce album jacket covers, notes and booklets as originally published. However, over the years new scholarship generates additional knowledge and sometimes corrections to the original publications are called for. We publish such items as errata.

ERRATA

SOURCE	CATALOG NO.	CORRECTION
Track Title	FW07604_104	Alabama Gal

The cover art displays "Alabama Bound" but the correct title as written in the track notes is "Alabama Gal".