

Songs for All Year Long

as Recorded by Children from New York City, P.S. 24 Brooklyn

Words and Music by Gil Sote

SCHOLASTIC RECORDS SC7626



Rosenhouse

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1956

MUSIC LP

Songs for All Year Long

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School Is A Useful Tool

They Laughed At Columbus

What Would Hallowe'en Be?

My Mom's Thanksgiving Dinner

Old Man Winter's On His Way

I Believe In Santa Claus

Why Not Make It All The Time?

Send A Valentine

We Remember You, George Washington

Eastertime Is A Happy Time For Me

There's No Time Like The Springtime

On My Graduation Day

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SCHOLASTIC RECORDS SC7626

SCHOLASTIC RECORDS Album No. SC 7626

Produced by Folkways Records, New York, © 1956

TWELVE SONGS FOR ALL YEAR LONG

Words and Music by Gil Slote

Recorded by Children from
New York P.S. 24

In "SONGS FOR ALL YEAR LONG", I have tried to express the present day spirit of the various holidays and seasons of the year at the elementary school child's level of appreciation.

The idea for these songs emerged from 1) the realization that children in elementary schools are singing many seasonal and holiday songs which have adult themes and express concepts which have since changed, and 2) the awareness that new holiday and season songs would be welcomed.

To achieve the aim of gearing the songs to the elementary school child's level of appreciation, as an elementary school teacher, I utilized the very best source -- the children themselves; that is to say, the ideas for the songs came from children. The songs were tested for enjoyment, understanding, and general appreciation by use in actual classroom and assembly situations.

ABOUT THE CHILDREN

The children who sing the songs on the record are the same children who have sung them on radio and television. They were all members of Gil Slote's classes. They are of mixed national origins, non-professional, and range in age from eleven to thirteen.

ABOUT GIL SLOTE

Gil Slote is a sixth grade teacher in the New York City School System. He received his B.A. and M.A. (in education) at Brooklyn College, and studied music at the Julliard School of Music and the New School for Social Research. He plays the ukelele, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, and piano. He played the bassoon in the Brooklyn College Symphony Orchestra and the Brooklyn Community Orchestra.

SUCCESS OF "SONGS FOR ALL YEAR LONG"

"Songs For All Year Long" were sung by members of his classes on Radio Station WNYC as part of the EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF THE AIR and on CBS TV's ON THE CAROUSEL.

Old Man Winter's On His Way was published in THE INSTRUCTOR, (National teacher's magazine).

Songs For All Year Long has been published in book form by Educational Music Service, Inc.

USING "TWELVE SONGS FOR ALL YEAR LONG" IN THE CLASSROOM

LANGUAGE ARTS

A) READING

- 1- Have the lyrics read and discussed to determine the main ideas, moods, and morals of the songs. See discussion questions.
- 2- Use the songs to build and enlarge sight vocabulary.
- 3- The songs should serve as a motivation for reading stories, books, and verse about the holidays and seasons of the year.

B) WRITING

- 1- TWELVE SONGS FOR ALL YEAR LONG should aid in the achievement of creative writing of all kinds: poetry, compositions, songs, etc.
- 2- Through the songs writing techniques may be introduced and clarified. Some examples are:

Use of
Similie- from Old Man Winter's On His Way "Now old man winter is rough and tough and can roar like a lion in the zoo."

from What Would Halloween Be? "What would Halloween be without that orange pumpkin? Like the earth without the sea, like Christmas without a tree."

Use of
Metaphor- from Eastertime Is A Happy Time For Me "I like to catch the breath of spring."

Use of
Rhyme- throughout all the songs.

C) SPELLING

Some of the weekly spelling words should be selected from the lyrics of the songs. That is, whenever a new season or holiday rolls around, spelling words should be selected from the appropriate song.

D) PENMANSHIP

Good penmanship can be developed functionally by having the children copy the lyrics of the songs neatly into a song book.

E) SPEECH

- 1- Speech defects may be corrected by using lines from the songs as exercises.

- 2- The meanings, morals, and moods of the songs provide an excellent basis for group discussion. See discussion questions

SAFETY

As each holiday and season of the year rolls around the hazards of each should be clarified and then the children should be made aware of how these hazards are to be avoided. Some examples are:

Christmas - Christmas tree fires
Winter - snowball throwing
Halloween - property damage

HEALTH

- 1- The song They Laughed At Columbus may serve as a motivation for doing research on the food problems aboard ships in those times.

What foods could they take on such long voyages?
What foods did they lack?
What diseases did they contract?
How is the food problem aboard ship solved now?
What constitutes a balanced diet?

- 2- The song My Mom's Thanksgiving Dinner should lead to a discussion concerning eating to excess.

What foods especially should children avoid in excess? Why?
How does too much sweets affect the teeth?

- 3- The teacher and children together should raise and discuss further health questions based on the above 2 songs.

- 4- The songs will provide a desirable and satisfying emotional outlet for the children.

WHY NOT MAKE IT ALL THE TIME?

- 1- What is this song trying to say?
- 2- Do you agree with it? Why?

SOCIAL STUDIES

- 1- TWELVE SONGS FOR ALL YEAR LONG will prove to be of invaluable aid in observing and acquiring the spirit and true meaning of the holidays and seasons of the year. See discussion questions.

- 2- One or some of the songs may be used as a motivation, part of a committee presentation, or part of

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the culmination of a unit of work.

- 3- The songs may be used as motivating factors in reading up on and doing research in the backgrounds and significance of our holidays and seasons of the year. The teacher would then, of course, at this time aid the children in acquiring some of the basic social studies skills and knowledges. Some of the basic social studies skills are as follows:

- a) Learning to seek information from various sources.
- b) Learning to use reference materials such as the dictionary, atlas, card catalogue, encyclopedia, etc.
- c) Learning to organize, write, and present short reports.
- d) Learning to participate in and make to-the-point contributions to group discussion as well as listening attentively while others are reporting. See discussion questions.

- 4- The use of TWELVE SONGS FOR ALL YEAR LONG should aid in the development of wholesome attitudes, desirable social relationships, and an appreciation of our American Heritage and way of life. See discussion questions.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematical skills may be developed by having the children answer questions based on the songs such as

- 1) Name the months of the year.
- 2) How many days has each month?
- 3) Name the seasons of the year.
- 4) In what months do they fall?
- 5) When was George Washington born?
- 6) How old would he be if he were alive today?

The difficulty of the questions asked would, of course, depend upon the grade level of the children. It is desirable to have the children make up questions and problems based on the holidays and seasons of the year in addition to those posed by the teacher.

SCIENCE

Scientific concepts may be developed by having the children answer questions based on the songs such as

- 1) What causes the seasons of the year?
- 2) When do they fall and why?
- 3) Do the seasons of the year fall at the same time everywhere in the world? Why not?
- 4) What causes snow and rain?

These are just a few of the many questions which may be motivated or introduced through the use of the songs. Again, their use and difficulty of course depend upon the grade level of the children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS based on TWELVE SONGS FOR ALL YEAR LONG

SCHOOL IS A USEFUL TOOL

- 1- Whether you like school or not what should you realize about it?

- 2- Why is school a useful tool?
- 3- According to this song what are some of the things you can become by going to school?
- 4- What other things can you become by going to school?
- 5- What would you like to become when you grow up? Will school help you? How?
- 6- How does school teach you respect for each other "no matter what race or color of face"?

THEY LAUGHED AT COLUMBUS

- 1- Why did they laugh at Columbus?
- 2- What kind of man was Columbus? What lines tell you so?
- 3- According to this song what lesson did Columbus show us?
- 4- Have any other great people been laughed at for coming up with new ideas? Who were they and what were their ideas?

WHAT WOULD HALLOWEEN BE?

- 1- What, according to this song, would Halloween be like if we didn't have "that orange pumpkin"?
- 2- What does "dismal scene" mean?
- 3- What do you like to do best at Halloween?
- 4- What are some of the things children should not do on Halloween?

MY MOM'S THANKSGIVING DINNER

- 1- What part of the Thanksgiving dinner do you like best?
- 2- What must you be careful of when you eat Thanksgiving dinner?
- 3- What time of day do you think might be suitable for singing this song? Why?

OLD MAN WINTER'S ON HIS WAY

- 1- How can you be ready so that Old Man Winter will be fun for you?
- 2- What do you like to do best in the winter?
- 3- What is dangerous about throwing snowballs?
- 4- Which do you like better, winter or summer? Why?

I BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS

- 1- Does the person in this song believe in fairy tales?
- 2- Does this person believe in Santa Claus? Why?
- 3- Do you believe in Santa Claus? Why or why not?
- 4- What does Santa Claus stand for?
- 5- Do other countries have a Santa Claus? Is he called by the same name?

WE REMEMBER YOU, GEORGE WASHINGTON

- 1- What are some of the ideals George Washington stood for?
- 2- How many wars have we since been in to protect those ideals? Can you name them?
- 3- What do the following lines mean?
Everytime our flag is hoisted
We know you're around us yet.

EASTERTIME IS A HAPPY TIME FOR ME

- 1- Why does the person in this song say "Eastertime Is A Happy Time"?

- 2- Is Eastertime a happy time for you? Why?
- 3- What do you like to do best at Eastertime?

THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE SPRINGTIME

- 1- What are some of the things that happen in the spring?
- 2- What do you like best about the spring?
- 3- Which is your favorite baseball team?
- 4- Who's your favorite baseball player?
- 5- What part of the circus do you like best? Why?

ON MY GRADUATION DAY

- 1- According to this song why is it so strange to be feeling sad on Graduation Day?
- 2- What are some of the things the person in this song is going to miss?
- 3- What are some of the things you will miss when you graduate?
- 4- What will you miss most? Why?
- 5- What won't you miss when you graduate?

MUSIC

TWELVE SONGS FOR ALL YEAR LONG will provide many satisfying and enjoyable musical experiences in addition to developing many desirable musical skills.

- 1- The children will learn to sing new and appealing songs of the holidays and seasons of the year.
- 2- They will learn to sing with proper tone, phrasing, interpretation, and diction.
- 3- They will learn to be aware of and respond to fundamental rhythms:

There's No Time Like the Springtime is a waltz.
We Remember You, George Washington is a march.
What are the rhythms of the other songs?
- 4- They will learn to play instruments of the rhythm band by providing rhythmical accompaniment to the record Songs For All Year Long.
- 5- They will learn to develop sensitivity to musical performances by discussing the performances on the record and then, perhaps, comparing them to their own performances.
- 6- They will learn to develop interpretation by singing the songs in their own way.
- 7- They will discover and develop special talents among themselves.
- 8- They may try to write their own original songs.

ART

Personal interpretation of scenes, moods, and ideas, suggested in the songs may be made by

- a) drawing
- b) craft activities, clay models, puppets, copper work, wood work, and so on.
- c) painting

School Is A Useful Tool

Some kids will always like school,
And some kids will never like school;
But whoever you may be, you'll have to agree
That school is a useful tool.

In learning about the stars,
The sun and planets like Mars,
The flowers and trees, what makes a breeze,
School is a useful tool.

In learning to think for yourself,
And not run away like an elf
From something new puzzling you,
School is a useful tool.

Do you want to become a nurse, a ball player
Or a cop?
Do you want to become famous and climb right
to the top?
Do you want to become a doctor
And cure people when they are sick?

Well, whatever it is, remember this,
That you can have your pick
If you just follow this rule:
Use school as your tool.

In learning respect for each other,
To treat everyone like a brother,
No matter what race, color of face,
School is a useful tool.

THEY LAUGHED AT COLUMBUS

They laughed at Columbus, berated Columbus,
For saying the world was round.
So then he set sail, through strong wind and gale,
To prove what he said was sound.

The journey was tough and the food not enough;
All the crew talked of mutiny.
But then at long last, their fears were all past,
When prove what he said was sound.

The land everyone did see.

Well, Columbus was right, the others were wrong;
That, by now we all know.
But more than the fact that the whole world is round,
This lesson he did show:

That, if anyone ever starts to make fun
Of whatever you say or do,
You can point to this day and then simply say,
"They laughed at Columbus too!"

I Believe In Santa Claus

I don't believe any fairy tales,
But every Christmas it never fails
That I believe in Santa Claus.

On Christmas Eve I can watch the sky
And see some reindeer go riding by,
For I believe in Santa Claus.

There's no secret to know,
It's something inside that you feel,
Right from your head down to your toe,
That Santa Claus is real.

I don't believe there could be much fun
If that "old man" would never come,
So I believe in Santa Claus.

My Mom's Thanksgiving Dinner

My lips start to smack,
My nose starts to sniff,
My mouth starts to water
When I get a whiff
Of my Mom's Thanksgiving dinner.

My eyes start to pop,
My heart skips a beat,
My stomach starts to tingle
When I start to eat
My Mom's Thanksgiving dinner.

Mm! That cranberry sauce! Ah! The turkey, too!
Oh! What pumpkin pie! Just the smell of it makes me sigh.
Oh, I feel like I'm on a cloud up above,
And it's just because I am so in love
With my Mom's Thanksgiving dinner.

Old Man Winter's On His Way

Get out that winter over-coat,
And heavy rubbers, too,
'Cause old man winter's on his way
And he has cold news for you.

Get out that heavy woolen scarf
To protect you from the breeze,
'Cause old man winter's on his way
And he's out to make you freeze.

Now old man winter is a rough and tough
And can roar like a lion in the zoo.
But if you're ready when ever he comes,
He'll just be fun for you.

So, get out your sled and shiny skates,
Now hurry, don't be slow,
'Cause old man winter's on his way
With lots of soft white snow.

What Would Hallowe'en Be?

Ooh! ooh! ooh!
What would Hallowe'en be
Without that orange pumpkin?

Like the earth without the sea,
Like Christmas without a tree.
It would lose its mystic sparkle
And would leave a dismal scene,
Because of fun there would be none
Anymore on Hallowe'en!

Like a chair without a leg,
Like Easter without an egg.
But we've got that orange pumpkin
To provide a happy scene,
So fun there'll be with mystery
Evermore on Hallowe'en!

Eastertime Is A Happy Time For Me

I like to walk right down the street,
Just feeling fine and dressed up neat.
Oh Easter time is a happy time for me!

And gosh, the ladies look so fair
In Easter bonnets that they wear
Yes, Easter time is a happy time for me!

Fa la la la la la
I'm so happy, so gay.
Fa la la la la la
I wish it were Easter each day.

To color Easter eggs is fun,
Especially when they're for someone.
Yes, Easter time is a happy time for me!

I like to catch the breath of spring,
It makes me want to dance and sing.
Oh Easter time is a happy time for me!

And when the flowers start to bloom,
They make the air smell like perfume.
Yes Easter time is a happy time for me!

Fa la la la la la
I'm so happy, so gay.
Fa la la la la la
I wish it were Easter each day.

I'm glad that winter time is past,
And Easter time is here at last.
For Easter time is a happy time for me!

There's No Time Like The Springtime

There's no time like the springtime,
Not winter, summer or fall.
There's no time like the springtime,
No time at all.

It's the time when the umpire shouts, "Play Ball",
And the Dodgers and Giants do play.
Then Jack Robinson swings,
And that ball just grows wings
And flies far, far, far away.

There's no time like the springtime,
Not winter, summer or fall.
There's no time like the springtime,
No time at all.

It's the time when the circus comes rolling to town,
To the tune of the animals' roar.
When those clowns make you laugh,
You split right in half,
But you still ask for more, more, more.

It's the time when you feel you're on top of the world,
And are floating along on a cloud.
Gosh, the weather's so fair,
You just haven't a care,
For you're part of the spring happy crowd.

Send A Valentine

Once I had a little friend
Who did not ever care to send
A Valentine to anyone;
To him it could never be fun.

And then, one Valentine's Day,
How this fellow did grieve,
For when ev'ryone got pretty cards,
Not a single one did he receive.

So, please be sure, for goodness' sake,
Do not make that same mistake,
For when you send a Valentine,
You get a feeling so fine.

When he saw some people try
To find a card to please their eye
With pretty color and nice rhyme,
He thought it a waste of good time.

But then, one Valentine's Day, etc.

On My Graduation Day

It is strange to be feeling so sad
On my Graduation Day.
I planned on feeling so glad,
And not at all this way.

Why, I thought I would be all a-glow,
With a smile throughout the day.
But it's not easy you know,
When you aren't feeling gay.

I will miss all the friends that I've made,
And most of the things that I've done.
School wasn't always hard work,
More often it was fun!

So if I have a tear in my eye
On my Graduation Day,
It's because I'm saying goodbye,
And going on my way on my Graduation Day.

We Remember You, George Washington

We remember you, George Washington,
Still see your face ev'ry day.
All the greatness that you're known for
Mere time will not erase away.

We still follow you, George Washington,
Follow ideals you stood for.
And for these we've had to struggle,
For these we've had to go to war.

But we're proud to announce
That we've kept the liberty
Given to us by men like you
For Our history.

Yes, we remember you, George Washington,
You we will never forget.
Ev'ry time our flag is hoisted,
We know you're around us yet.

Why Not Make It All The Time?

Christmas comes but once a year,
And to all it brings good cheer.
December twenty-fifth is fine,
But why not make it all the time?

Christmas is a jolly day,
But on this day we all should say:
December twenty-fifth is fine,
But why not make it all the time?

On each Christmas we love all,
And with goodness we grow tall.
December twenty-fifth is fine,
But why not make it all the time?