

# CHILDREN'S SONGS

sung by

Johnny Richardson

Jimmy the Jolly Giraffe  
The Dolly with the Long Pony Tail  
Railroad Man      Katy the Kangaroo  
The Farmer      Three Small Sparrows  
Olga, the Contrary Girl  
Peter Pong      The Squirrel-  
Down Home      Miss Polly  
Roll Over      Six Little Mice  
Zulu Warrior  
Pick a Bale of Cotton  
Working on the Railroad



with guitar

Folkways Records / NY  
FC 7678



M  
1997  
R523  
C536  
1964



FOLKWAYS FC 7036

# CHILDREN'S SONGS

Library of Congress Catalogue Card No. R 59-98

©1959 FOLKWAYS RECORDS & SERVICE Corp.  
701 Seventh Ave., New York City

Distributed by Folkways/Scholastic Records,  
906 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632



FOLKWAYS FC 7036

FC 7678



# CHILDREN'S SONGS

sung by  
*Johnny Richardson*  
with guitar



CHILDREN'S SONGS BY JOHNNY RICHARDSON

Johnny Richardson, the folksinger in this album, is also a songwriter, having composed five of these songs himself.

He was born in Fort Motte, South Carolina, where at the age of eleven, he did a man's days work of picking cotton. Since a young child and especially while working on farms, he constantly had been singing to himself, but reluctant to be overheard. Although he had no opportunity for formal music education, he played the harmonica on the farm. As an adult, he took up the accordion, and later on, the guitar to accompany his singing. He has been singing and developing his accompaniment ever since. He is truly "self-taught."

He has sung at such varied places, ranging from huge audiences such as at Carnegie Hall to individual children's birthday parties. His singing has reached audiences in San Francisco, Chicago, and Canada, as well as all over New York City and Long Island.

At the annual U. N. Festival he has represented American folk singing many times. As a result of singing for the children's part of the festival and at so many children's birthday parties there, he is often called the "Pied Piper" at this U. N. project.

He has made several appearances on New York City's own folk song radio program.

Johnny has often entertained at various veteran's hospitals, and also gives an annual concert for the orthopedically handicapped children at the New York Philanthropic League.

His children's audiences have been varied, including many schools, children's camps, and nursery schools, such as The Little Red Schoolhouse as a guest of Charity Bailey. After having performed the role of Johnny Applesseed at one of the nursery schools, he

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

was called "Johnny Applesseed" for some time afterwards. At a boy scout dinner, where he performed, he was awarded a boy scout pin and honorary membership. The Child Service League has used his services in raising funds for sending children to camp.

Various professional groups in the teaching field, such as The Mills College of Education and Negro women's teacher's organizations, have called on him to perform for them.

He has performed for other varied groups including the National Council of Jewish Women, the American Jewish Congress, the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, the Queens Police Post of the American Legion, the N.A.A.C.P. and at the Fresh Meadows Inn.

He has accompanied various modern dance groups, one of which was for a closed circuit T. V. appearance.

In addition to singing, Johnny Richardson has been writing songs. After searching through dozens of songbooks at various children's libraries in preparation for this album, he found that it was easier to write some additional children's songs than to find sufficient songs to express his feelings of what would appeal to children. In many of the songs that he did choose, he made some changes.

He was not satisfied with any songs that he found about farm life, so he decided to write one himself, The Farmer. This song tells about the struggles and hard work a farmer has and also about his fun and enjoyment of life.

He wrote the Railroad Man as a worksong about a railroad worker, somewhat on the order of John Henry, but on a children's level. The song covers various phases of railroad work.

The Dolly with the Long Pony Tail is a sweet "little girl" song about a lost dolly. The final chorus of of this song was changed after one little girl asked him pitifully, "Wasn't she ever found?" Her appeal made him realize that this was necessary to complete the song.

He wrote Jimmy the Jolly Giraffe in response to many requests for animal songs. Children respond to this song especially because of its rhythm and their participation by clapping.

He also wrote Peter Pong, a song about a boy who was crazy about playing ping pong. This game is becoming so popular with children these days, that he was encouraged to write this song.

Katie the Kangaroo is a humorous song about a kangaroo by the name of Katie who wanted to run away from the zoo and live in a private house.

Roll Over is a cute version of the number songs children are so fond of. This one, not only has the repetition that children like in this type of song, but has a special punch line which makes it more effective. He got this song from a friend's six-year old boy.

M  
1997  
R523  
C536  
1964

MUSIC LP

Pick a Bale of Cotton is a Negro work song about being able to pick a bale of cotton a day (an exaggeration). Children, as well as adults, love to join in especially because of its rhythm and catchy words.

Six Little Mice is a cute little song that was taken from his daughter's school music book. It is about six little mice who couldn't be tricked by the cat. Several changes were made in this song.

Working on the Railroad pictures the life of the Negro railroad worker in the South. This song has been very popular with community singing groups.

Down Home is an old Pennsylvania Dutch song with imaginative and humorous lyrics about life on the farm.

Miss Polly is a song that Johnny learned from his daughter while she was in nursery school. It is about a dolly that was sick and about the doctor who came to treat her.

Olga, the Contrary Girl, is another song from one of the library books. Johnny changed the style of this song by adding his narration.

The Zulu Warrior is a South African Veldt song. This is Johnny's own arrangement of this song, with additional stanzas that he added.

SIDE 1, Band 1: KATIE THE KANGAROO  
(words & Music by Marian Rosette)  
(Copyright © 1949 by Marian Rosette, ASCAP)

CHORUS:

Katie, Katie, Katie, the Kangaroo,  
She wanted to live in a private house and ran away  
from the zoo.

So she looked for a job in the neighborhood,  
A mother said, "What can you do?"  
"I'll sit with your baby when you go out,  
And take good care of him too."  
"Oh, a sitter is just what I'm looking for,  
But, tell me, who are you?"  
"I'm Katie, I'm Katie, And I'm an animal lady,  
I'm Katie, the Kangaroo." Oh---

Well, the mother had so many things to do,  
And Katie was willing to shop.  
It took just a minute and Katie was back,  
She made the whole trip in one hop.  
She served at the table when father came home,  
"Good evening, my dear, who are you?"  
"I'm Katie, I'm Katie, And I'm an animal lady,  
I'm Katie, the Kangaroo." Oh---

So, they went to the movies, and when they came home,  
Found Katie at rest on the couch.  
Their dear little baby was not in his crib,  
She rocked him to sleep in her pouch.  
"My own baby used to be cozy in here,  
And I thought that yours would be too,  
I'm Katie, I'm Katie, And I'm an animal lady,  
I'm Katie, the Kangaroo." Oh---

SIDE 1, Band 2: THE DOLLY WITH THE LONG PONY TAIL

CHORUS:

Has anyone seen little Patty,  
A dolly with a long pony tail?  
Has anyone seen little Patty,  
With a shovel and a little red pail?  
Oh, I'll be so glad if you'll find little Patty,  
A dolly with a long pony tail.

She left out this morning quite early,  
Oh, where, oh where can she be?  
If she can't be found, I'll be lonely,  
Oh my, Oh gosh, oh gee.  
Please bring her to me, if ever you see,  
A dolly with a long pony tail.

Maybe she's gone avisting,  
or down to the candystore,  
Maybe she'll come back to me again,

And won't run away any more.  
Please bring her to me, if ever you see,  
A dolly with a long pony tail.

Maybe she's waiting for me somewhere,  
To come and bring her back home,  
So I'll take a stroll down the avenue,  
And around the whole town I will roam.  
Please bring her to me, if ever you see,  
A dolly with a long pony tail.

FINAL CHORUS:

I found her, I found her, I found her,  
My dolly with a long pony tail.  
I found her, I found her, I found her,  
With a shovel and a little red pail.  
Oh, now I'm so glad, I found little Patty,  
My dolly with a long pony tail!



SIDE 1, Band 3: JIMMY THE JOLLY GIRAFFE

Good evening, my friends, tell me how do you do,  
I came from a long ways to see you and you,  
From Africa I came, and I'll tell you my name,  
I'm Jimmy, the jolly giraffe. (Clap, clap)

CHORUS:

Jimmy the jolly giraffe, (Clap, clap)  
Jimmy the jolly giraffe, (Clap, clap)  
He's long and he's tall, he's not harmful at all -  
He's Jimmy the jolly giraffe. (Clap, clap)

We gathered around him and stood by his side,  
Thinking, and thinking, and trying to decide,  
Now here's what we'll do, we'll go to the zoo,  
With Jimmy the jolly giraffe. (Clap, clap)

So we went to the zoo one bright Sunday morn,  
And all of the children were eating popcorn -  
The animals danced, they sang and they laughed,  
Here comes Jimmy, the jolly giraffe. (Clap, clap)

Many hours he spent with his friends at the zoo,  
With a handshake, and a hello, and a how do you do -  
But his time is drawing high, we'll soon say goodbye -  
To Jimmy, the jolly giraffe. (Clap, clap)

It's now very late as you see by the clock,  
And Jimmy must be on the ship before dark -  
He bid fare-thee-well to you and to you -  
What a wonderful time at the zoo! (Clap, clap)

SIDE 1, Band 4: ROLL OVER

There were ten in the bed, and the little one said,  
"Roll over, roll over."  
So they all rolled over, and one fell out...

There were nine in the bed, and the little one said,  
"Roll over, roll over,"  
So they all rolled over, and one fell out...

There were eight in the bed, and the little one said,  
"Roll over, roll over,"  
So they all rolled over, and one fell out...

(Likewise with seven, six, five, four, three, and two.)

Now, there's one in the bed, and the little one said,  
"Good night."



SIDE I, Band 5: PICK A BALE OF COTTON

I'm gonna jump down, turn around,  
pick a bale of cotton,  
Jump down, turn around, pick a bale a day.  
Jump down, turn around, pick a bale of cotton,  
Jump down, turn around, pick a bale a day.

CHORUS:

Oh, Lordy - pick a bale of cotton-  
Oh, Lordy - pick a bale a day.  
Oh, Lordy - pick a bale of cotton-  
Oh, Lordy - pick a bale a day.

Me and my buddy gonna pick a bale of cotton,  
Me and my buddy gonna pick a bale a day.  
Me and my buddy gonna pick a bale of cotton,  
Me and my buddy gonna pick a bale a day.

Looka, looka yonder, pick a bale of cotton,  
Looka, looka yonder, pick a bale a day.  
Looka, looka yonder, pick a bale of cotton,  
Looka, looka yonder, pick a bale a day.

Picka, picka, picka, picka, picka bale of cotton,  
Picka, picka, picka, picka, picka bale a day.  
Picka, picka, picka, picka, picka bale of cotton,  
Picka, picka, picka, picka, picka bale a day.

Jump down, turn around, pick a bale of cotton,  
Jump down, turn around, pick a bale a day.  
Jump down, turn around, pick a bale of cotton,  
Jump down, turn around, pick a bale a day.

SIDE I, Band 6: SIX LITTLE MICE

Six little mice sat down to spin, sat down to spin,  
Six little mice sat down to spin.  
Pussy passed by and she peeked in, and she peeked in--  
Pussy passed by and she peeked in.  
"What are you at my little men, my little men?"  
"What are you at, my little men?"  
"We're making clothes for gentlemen, for gentlemen."  
"We're making clothes for gentlemen."  
"May I come in and bite off your threads,  
and bite off your threads?"  
"May I come in and bite off your threads?"  
"Oh, no, Miss pussy, you'll snip off our heads,  
you'll snip off our heads."  
"Oh, no, Miss pussy, you'll snip off our heads."  
"Oh, no, I won't, I'll help you to spin,  
I'll help you to spin."  
"Oh, no, I won't, I'll help you to spin."  
"That may be so, but you don't come in,  
you don't come in."  
"That may be so, but you don't come in."

SIDE I, Band 7: THREE LITTLE SPARROWS  
(THREE SMALL SPARROWS)

Three little sparrows on a stone,  
Baby sparrows all alone--  
There they sat, quiet and still,  
High upon a sunny hill.

CHORUS:

One, two, three- three little sparrows will try,  
Four, five, six- six little wings will fly.

Mother sparrow left them there,  
Hunting food from far and near--  
Cold were they- hungry too,  
What could three little sparrows do?

Six little wings against the sky,  
Mothers coming by and by-  
Hungry mouths open wide,  
They were fed with joy and pride.

When the sun had gone to rest,  
Safely in their little nest--  
Three little birds, warm and fed,  
Soon were neatly put to bed.

The tune is a Finnish Folk tune. The words are by  
Cecil Cowdrey, and are copyrighted by the American  
Book Company.

SIDE I, Band 8: WORKING ON THE RAILROAD

I been working on the railroad--  
All the live-long day,  
I been working on the railroad--  
Just to pass the time away.

Can't you hear the whistle blowing?  
Rise up so early in the morn--  
Can't you hear the captain shouting?  
"Dinah, blow your horn."

Dinah, won't you blow,  
Dinah, won't you blow,  
Dinah, won't you blow your horn?  
Dinah, won't you blow,  
Dinah, won't you blow,  
Dinah, won't you blow your horn?

Now, someone's in the kitchen with Dinah,  
Someone's in the kitchen I know--  
Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah,  
Strumming on the old banjo...

And singing, "Fee fi fiddle-E-I-O,  
Fee fi fiddle-E-I-O..."  
Fee fi fiddle-E-I-O..."  
Strumming on the old banjo.

SIDE II, Band 1: DOWN HOME

Down home- we had an old shack-  
Way down on the farm,  
The bats fly out and they fly right back,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old car-  
Way down on the farm,  
It eats up the gas, but it don't get far,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old horse-  
Way down on the farm,  
Feeding him hay is a total loss,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old mule-  
Way down on the farm,  
He may look dumb, but he ain't no fool,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old bull-  
Way down on the farm,  
He eats and eats and never gets full,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old ox-  
Way down on the farm,  
When he's hungry, he actually talks,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old goat-  
Way down on the farm,  
All the tin cans go down his throat,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old pig-  
Way down on the farm,  
His tail is little, but his belly is big,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old hen-  
Way down on the farm,  
She lays an egg every now and then,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old hound-  
Way down on the farm,  
He weighs 450 pounds,  
Way down on the farm.

Down home- we had an old cat-  
Way down on the farm,  
He plays with the mice but afraid of the rat,  
Way down on the farm.

Oh, down home, down home,  
Way down on the farm,  
Down home, down home,  
Way down on the farm.

SIDE II, Band 2: MISS POLLY

Miss Polly had a dolly who was sick, sick, sick,  
So she sent for the doctor to come quick, quick, quick.  
The doctor came with his bag and his hat,  
And he came with a rat-a-tat-a-tat-tat-tat.  
He looked at the dolly and he shook his head,  
And he said, "Miss Polly, put her right to bed."  
I'll give her some powder and some pills, pills, pills,  
And tomorrow I'll call with the bills, bills, bills.

SIDE II, Band 3: THE FARMER

Have you ever seen a farmer in your life, life, life?  
Have you ever seen a farmer in your life, life, life?  
Yes, I saw him on a farm  
With my daddy and my mom,  
And I even saw his children and his wife, wife, wife.

CHORUS:

Oh- the farmer, the farmer- the farmer is the one  
That works out in the rain and in the sun, sun, sun  
And when he's finished planting seed-  
All his cattle he must feed-  
So you see the farmer's work is never done, done, done.

Ever seen him cutting wheat in your life, life, life?  
Ever seen him cutting wheat in your life, life, life?  
Yes, I saw him cutting wheat-  
And his work is very neat-  
And he cut it with a long and crooked knife, knife,  
knife.

(CHORUS)

Ever seen the farmer dancing in your life, life, life?  
Ever seen the farmer dancing in your life, life, life?  
Yes I saw the farmer dancing-  
And his little children prancing  
While the little old woman played the fife, fife, fife.

SIDE II, Band 4: OLGA, THE CONTRARY GIRL

A little girl by the name of Olga had promised to help  
her mother around the house, but every time her mother  
called her- she would always have something else that  
she would rather do,

Early one morning, her mother called,  
"Olga, Olga!" "Yes, Mother."  
"Come to the barnyard, Olga,  
Chickens are there to be fed."  
"Do I have to go there, Mother?"  
"I'd rather lie here in bed."

Then around noon time, her mother called again,  
"Olga, Olga!" "Yes, Mother."  
"Come to the kitchen, Olga.  
Baking is there to be done."  
"Do I have to go there, Mother?"  
"I'd rather lie here in the sun!"

And in the afternoon, she called again,  
"Olga, Olga!" "Yes, Mother."  
"Come to the garden, Olga.  
Hoe, for the weeds have grown tall."  
"Do I have to go there, Mother?"  
"I think I am rather too small."

Oh, but that night when her mother called,  
"Olga, Olga!" "Yes, mother."  
"Come to the village, Olga.  
Dancing has started I know."  
"Oh, yes, I am ready, mother."  
Yes, I am all ready to go!"

SIDE II, Band 5: PETER PONG

There was a boy named Peter-  
His name was Peter Pong-  
They always called him Peter Ping-  
But his name was Peter Pong.  
He went to play ping pong,  
With his friends who live so near,  
And every time his mother called-  
This is what you'd hear:

CHORUS:

Ping Pong Ping- ping pong ping  
With a ping pong paddle and ball  
And he couldn't hear his mother call

Cause he's so dizzy from being so busy-  
With a ping pong paddle and ball.  
Ping pong ping- ping pong ping.

One morning he played hockey-  
And he didn't go to school  
And he knew very, very well-  
That it was against the rule.  
So his mother went to find him-  
She called, but not a word  
She just kept walking up and down-  
And suddenly she heard:

(CHORUS)

So she caught him by the hand-  
And led him on to school  
And the teacher sat him in a corner-  
High upon a stool  
And when the school was over-  
He flew out like a bird  
And over to his friend's he went-  
And what do you think we heard?

(CHORUS)

So his mother bought him a table-  
And a paddle and ball besides  
And when he came from school one day-  
He had a big surprise.  
And now they come to his house-  
They come from far and hear-  
And anytime you pass his house-  
This is what you'd hear:

(CHORUS)

SIDE II, Band 6: ZULU WARRIOR

The Zulu Warrior... (South African Veldt)

Here he comes, the Zulu warrior,  
Here he comes, the Zulu chief, chief, chief.  
Here he comes, the Zulu warrior,  
Here he comes, the Zulu chief, chief, chief.

CHORUS:

Hy come-a zumba, zumba zuyu  
Hy come-a zumba, zumba zee.  
Hy come-a zumba, zumba zuyja  
Hy come-a zumba, zumba zei.

Step aside for the Zulu warrior,  
Step aside for the Zulu chief, chief, chief.  
Step aside for the Zulu warrior,  
Step aside for the Zulu chief, chief, chief.

There he goes, the Zulu warrior,  
There he goes the Zulu chief, chief, chief.  
There he goes, the Zulu warrior,  
There he goes the Zulu chief, chief, chief.

SIDE II, Band 7: RAILROAD MAN

I am a railroad man--  
I lay the tracks from town to town,  
And with my nine-pound hammer--  
I'm going to whack that steel on down.

CHORUS:

Lordy, I'm a railroad man-  
Lordy, I'm a-driving steel.  
Lordy, I'm a railroad man-  
Lordy, I'm a-driving steel.  
All day long.

I once was an engineer--  
On the fastest train, one of the best,  
From Carolina...  
And then away out to the west.

I once was a fireman--  
On the biggest train that ever run,  
Her engine big and strong--  
And she weighs a thousand ton.

I once was a train conductor--  
I'd punch your ticket and collect your fare,  
And then I'd pull that cord,  
And send the signal to the engineer.

I am a railroad man--  
I lay the tracks from town to town,  
And with my nine-pound hammer--  
I'm going to whack that steel on down.

LYRICO BY U.S.A.