

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FTS 31043

PAT WIEBB



GUITAR

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W368
P294
1977

MUSIC LP

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

PAT WEBB

GUITAR

FOLKWAYS RECORDS STEREO FTS 31043

SIDE 1

- Band 1 WILD STALLION 3:34
- Band 2 BLUES IN A 3:56
- Band 3 FORTY-FOUR-ELEVEN 3:09
- Band 4 SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD 3:05
(Lonnie Carter & Walter Jacobs)
- Band 5 DULCIMER SONGS 2:56
- Band 6 GAS LIGHT 2:46

All Songs except Band 4 by Pat Webb

SIDE 2

- Band 1 GREEN COUNTY JUMP 3:07
- Band 2 SAND DANCE 2:29
- Band 3 BLUES IN B 3:42
- Band 4 VARIATION IN C 2:07
- Band 5 PAT'S BLUES 2:20
- Band 6 SAINTS (traditional) 2:45

All songs except Band 6 by Pat Webb

It's 9:43 p.m. in the studio lobby.

We have just finished the last tune of Pat Webb's album.

The engineers are editing the tapes while we sit around with a few friends and tell stories. Every musician has road stories, and I have heard a lot of them, but Pat's are the funniest I have ever heard. He's been collecting and telling them for more than 25 years, and tonight the session has left him in good form. There are good vibes and laughter as our friends' tennis shoes and boots tap in a two-beat to the music. We have had a brief debate about whether to leave some of Pat's comments in between the tunes; Pat tells a story about how a friend was acting in a "B" western movie, when the hero made a running jump for his horse and fell off the other side. Pat said the director left the scene in. After some more talk though, we decide to go for just music on this album. And it is music that can indeed stand on its own. Six of these tunes were recorded on the first take; a rarity in the recording business, attesting to Pat's thorough knowledge of his instrument and his material.

Pat Webb was born and grew up in Springfield, Missouri. His family belonged to a folk society called "The Hillcrofters," which met weekly to sing, dance, tell stories and read poetry. He often heard classical music on radio and loved listening to the Spanish language radio stations out of South Texas. "The first guitar I remember," he says, "was played by Fannie Belle Nichols in the square dance group. I was heavily influenced by that—in fact stood and listened to the guitar instead of dancing." Pat heard a mandolin duet on radio and bought a mandolin in his teens and taught himself to play it. He went into the U.S. Marine Corps in 1949 and played in small string bands playing for troops while in the service. After his discharge, he played on radio and for dances and shows in South Carolina. Later, he took up guitar and went back to Springfield and played Kansas City type jazz and blues with a black piano player named Blind Tommy Hunt. He also worked with several bands of older black men. You can plainly hear this influence in his music. During this same period Pat played white country music and traveled around the country doing duets and western swing.

In 1954, he played on a 50,000 watt radio station in Nebraska as a member of "The Westernaires," a large traveling group which performed for shows and dances in a four state area. After that, he started playing folk and blues solos and gradually added improvisation, which led to writing his own tunes and developing his highly individual style.

He considers the guitar the ideal instrument for composing his kind of music. He plays festivals, concerts, does recordings, radio and television, clubs, artist-in-school programs, workshops, and art museums. He plays for elementary schools, schools for the mentally retarded and those who have learning disabilities. He does many college concerts and has composed and performed background music for films.

Pat plays a concert size pre-war Martin guitar. The effects you hear are entirely produced by Pat and his guitar; there are no electronic effects used.

In listening to this performance you are tapping into a lot of years' experience and a lot of miles of travel; and most important, the impressions of a very clear minded artist.

Pat Webb is an open book, and now that you've read the table of contents, we invite you to experience and enjoy a few chapters of a most interesting life—
Steve Lester

Album Title: PAT WEBB GUITAR
Recorded at: TAPEMASTERS; INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
Engineer: MIKE FARROW
Assistant Engineer: MARK COPENHAVER
Produced by: STEVE LESTER
Photo by: DAVE THOMPSON

*All material original except: "Sittin' On Top Of The World" Lonnie Carter, Walter Jacobs • "When The Saints Go Marching In" (Traditional)