

The X Seamens Institute
SINGS AT
**THE SOUTH STREET
SEAPORT**

WITH BERNIE KLAY, FRANK WOERNER, JOHN TOWNLEY, DAN AGUIAR.

STEREO
FOLKWAYS RECORDS
FTS-32418

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X Seamens Institute
South Street Seaport, The



A hundred years ago seamen sang at their work, and on the fore-castle head in the dog watches, and in sailors pubs ashore. Chanties were sung and ships serenaded each other as late as 1907 as told in our on the WAVERTREE, one of the old ships in South Street. It was a good tradition. It died slowly as sailing ships vanished from the scene. It is here revived by the X Seamens Institute, people with jobs in New York City, who sing songs of the sea as a living and lively part of the South Street Restoration. Singing with them we honor a vanished breed, and maybe get a little joy and learning for the voyages of our own lives.

PETER STANFORD
President, South Street Seaport Museum

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The "X" Seamens Institute Sings at THE SOUTH STREET SEAPORT

Side One

1. Where Am I To Go, traditional shanty. Lead — Dan Aguiar. Mandolin — John Townley, Guitar — Dan Aguiar
2. On a Monday Morning, composed by Cyril Tawney. Solo Frank Woerner
3. John Kanakanaka, traditional chanty. Lead — Bernie Klay, Mandolin — John Townley
4. The Alabama, traditional chanty. Lead — Frank Woerner
5. The Coast of Peru, traditional ballad. Solo — Bernie Klay.
6. Sams Gone Away, traditional chanty. Lead shared by all

Side Two

1. All For Me Grog, another drinking song. Lead — Frank Woerner.
2. Lady Franklin's Lament, traditional ballad. Solo — Bernie Klay.
3. MacIntyre, a drinking song. Lead — Frank Woerner.
4. Three White Gulls. Solo — Bernie Klay, Guitar — Bernie Klay.
5. Cape Anne. Composed by Gordon Bok. Lead — Dan Aguiar, Mandolin — John Townley, Guitar — Dan Aguiar.
6. Pleasant & Delightful, traditional song. Lead — Bernie Klay

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

Since 1969 every summer Tuesday evening at 7 P.M., whenever skies are clear, the sounds of sea chanties have been rising from the South Street Seaport pier in New York City. The singers are four lovers of the salty songs sung by sailormen when square riggers sailed out of South Street. They are Bernie Klay, Frank Woerner, John Townley and Dan Aguiar, known collectively as the X Seamens Institute. They are assisted by 300 to 500 people who gather to listen and join in on the chanty choruses.

The chanty singing scene is surrounded by South Street Museum ships left over from a bygone era. Behind the singers are the tall towers of business and before them the ageless tide of the East River which called so many generations of ships and men to sea.

On February 7, 1973 the X Seamens Institute stepped into a recording studio. They spliced the mainbrace, launched into their most requested numbers and this album is the result.

Most of the songs are traditional ones whose authors are unknown. A few are the work of men steeped in the old ways of the sea who surely would have been singing seamen had they been born a century sooner.

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