

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FCS 77064

# LOUIS F. SIMON: Two Children Stories

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## THE FOUR MUSICIANS (OF BREMEN)

Music & words by Louis F. Simon, based on a Grimm Fairy Tale  
Played by the N.Y. STATE SYMPHONIA,  
LOUIS F. SIMON, conductor

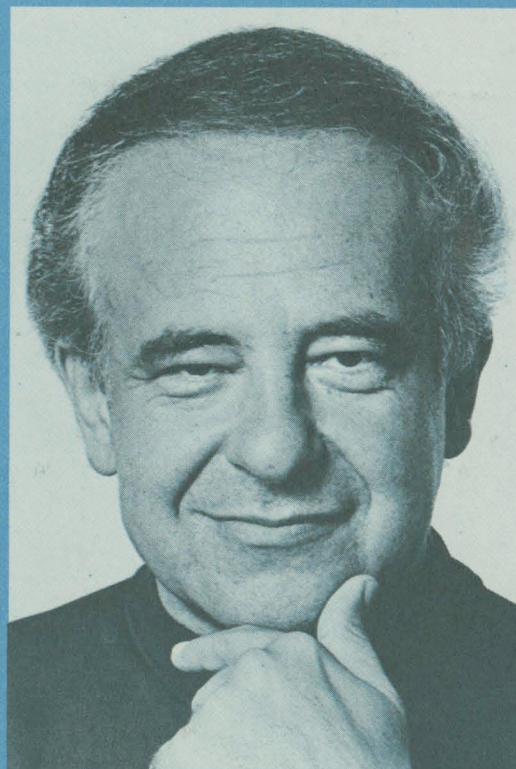
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## THE GOLDEN TREASURE

Music, story & words by Louis F. Simon  
Played by the SIMON STRING QUARTET

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Narrated by HARRY FLEETWOOD



Louis F. Simon

M  
1625  
S595  
F773  
1980

MUSIC LP

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## THE FOUR MUSICIANS (OF BREMEN)

Instrumentation:

1 flute, doubling on piccolo  
1 oboe  
1 clarinet  
1 bassoon  
1 French horn  
1 trumpet  
1 trombone  
tympany, snare drum, cymbal,  
woodblock, ratchet strings

## THE GOLDEN TREASURE

Instrumentation:

2 violins  
1 viola  
1 cello

**To Our Listeners:**

You will be entertained by the works on this recording in several ways. It will be fun to simply listen to these stories told through music and words. But the more closely you listen, the more humor you will find in the interplay between music and words. You will discover the wonderful ways in which musical instruments can color, create humor, and bring images to life.

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LOUIS F. SIMON:  
Two Children Stories

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THE FOUR MUSICIANS  
(OF BREMEN)

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THE  
GOLDEN TREASURE

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

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*Louis F. Simon: Two Children Stories*  
**The Four Musicians (of Bremen)**  
**The Golden Treasure**

Narrated by Harry Fleetwood

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The following will help you to fully enjoy your listening experience.

## The Four Musicians (of Bremen)

### Instrumentation:

1 flute, doubling on piccolo  
1 oboe  
1 clarinet  
1 bassoon  
1 French horn  
1 trumpet  
1 trombone  
tympany, snare drum  
cymbal, woodblock, ratchet  
strings

In the first section each animal is introduced and characterized by a word-sound, and instrument.

The rooster says "cock a doodle do", with the help of an oboe.

The dog barks "ruff ruff" through cellos and bass COL LENGNO (using the stick of the bow, rather than hair). He howls through the French horn.

The cat meows with the aid of the violins and violas, playing GLISSANDO (sliding).

The donkey's "hee" is the clarinet and "haw" is a bassoon.

As the four animals walk through the forest, we hear a melody alternating between trumpet and French horn, and a PIZZICATO (plucking) figure in the cellos and bass, suggesting steps. the HARMONY (a combination of tones) in the rest of the strings gives a feeling of mystery. During this section we are constantly reminded of the four main characters, by hearing snatches of their themes played by their appropriate instruments.

As the four animals stand on each other, we hear a FUGATO (a passage in which all the voices enter individually, imitating each other). The donkey is represented by the first single voice. When the dog stands on him, we hear two voices. Then three, and four simultaneously. As the load on the donkey gets heavier, so does the musical texture.

In the second section, when the robber sees two glowing coals which are in fact the cat's eyes, you hear two notes STACCATO (abruptly separated) in the oboe and trumpet. The cat's scratching is the violins' glissando. Each animal's theme is heard in the order that the robber encounters them.

As the robber recounts his imagined adventures to his friends, the four themes RECAPITULATE (return) alternating with a four-measure SCHERZO (light-humorous) tune, played in turn by oboe, clarinet, trumpet and trombone, with string accompaniment.

Leading to the final pronouncement of "Bring the Crook Here, Do!", we hear a return of the fugato, SUBJECT (theme) with a POLONAISE (Polish dance) accompaniment.

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In the CODA (ending section) the "cock a doodle" theme is built into a reverse PYRAMID (gradually increasing number of voices) from high (piccolo) to low trombone.

The more often you listen to The Four Musicians (of Bremen) the more you will discover how the music reflects the humor of the story, giving you greater and greater pleasure.

LOUIS F. SIMON

#### THE FOUR MUSICIANS (OF BREMEN)

The story that you are about to hear has four main characters. One of them is a rooster. And as you all know, roosters like to "cock-a-doodle-do".

Next we have a dog. Now just about all of us have met at least one dog in our life. And as we all know, dogs sometimes like to say "ruff, ruff, ruff-ruff, ruff", while at other times they just howl.

Now what would you say is the opposite of a dog? Why of course, a cat. And since our dog in in 4/4 time, we'd better put our cat in 3/4 time, like this: "meow, meow".

Finally there is a donkey in our tale. And, of course a tail on our donkey. As do all his relatives, he sounds something like this: "hee-haw, hee-haw".

At the beginning of our story, the donkey was very sad. For many years he had carried sacks of grain to the mill. But now he was growing old and feeble, and could no longer work so hard. His master wanted to get rid of him, to save money on his food. So sad was our poor donkey, that we have to play him in a minor key.

"But what is the point of staying sad, he thought. A donkey could always become a musician. If worse comes to worse, I'll play the clarinet or bassoon." He immediately changed his key from minor---to major, and hurried away to find work as a musician.

He had not gone far, when he heard a French horn, howling pitifully. Actually, what I meant to say is that he heard a dog howling pitifully. "Now that I'm old and weak, I can hunt no more. And so my master has ordered me destroyed. So I ran away. But how will I earn a living?"

"Come with me, suggested the donkey. Anyone can become a musician. You could certainly play the French horn."

The dog was overjoyed, and they walked on together, hand in hand.

There, on the road, a sad cat sat sadly, with a very dismal face.

"How can one be merry without teeth?" asked the cat. "Since I am old, and can no longer catch mice, they want to drown me. Why can't I just sit behind a nice stove and purr?"

The donkey immediately came to the rescue. "You are certainly accustomed to performing music. Come with us. Why, you already sound as good as most violinists!"

"How wonderful, said the cat, and he walked on with the other two.

They had not gone far, when they noticed a rooster, sitting on the fence of a farmyard and screaming with all his might. "The cook wants me for soup on Sunday, and I don't want to run around like a chicken without a head! Help, help, help, help!"

"What a voice!" said the donkey. "What a voice! Come with us by all means, and become a musician."

The rooster was almost speechless with joy. "Of course I will come with you.

The four musicians bravely walked on, to seek their fortune. They walked and walked until they came to a forest. There, in the distance, they saw a house among the trees with a light burning in the window. They were very, very tired and hungry. The window looked inviting and they walked closer and closer to the light. The closer they came, the larger and brighter that light grew. At last they arrived at the house with the inviting window.

The donkey peeked in, and reported what he saw to the rest of the musicians. "I see a group of robbers sitting around a table, eating and drinking."

"That ought to be our supper" said the rooster. "Fine musicians like us deserve the best."

Putting their heads together, they thought of a wonderful plan. The opportunity for a performance had arrived.

The donkey stood on his hind legs, with his front feet on the window sill. Dog stood on donkey's back. Cat on top of dog. And rooster on top of cat.

Excitement was tremendous. Their first, their debut performance was about to begin.

The robbers were so frightened, they ran away as far as they could. And if there were more notes on the piccolo, they would have run even further. Triumphantly our four friends entered the empty house. They ate a very large meal, and got ready for bed. The donkey lay down in the yard. The dog behind the front door. The cat by the fireplace --- and the rooster on the roof.

Soon they were fast asleep. In fact you can hear them snoring.

At last they have stopped. My story may now continue.

It was midnight. One of the robbers who was watching the house from a distance thought to himself "everything looks very peaceful. Perhaps there is nothing to fear after all." He decided to investigate.

All was still, when he arrived. Tiptoeing into the house he saw two glowing pieces of coal in the fireplace. Not knowing they were the cat's eyes, he poked at them. The cat jumped in terror, and scratched the robber's nose.

The robber was so frightened, that he ran to the door. But there, he woke up the dog, who bit his foot. The robber ran to the yard, and right into the donkey, who quickly kicked him in the pants.

Aroused by the noise, the rooster woke up and cried: "Cock a doodle doo, cock a doodle doo."

The robber ran away as fast as he could. And if there were more notes on the bassoon, he would have run even further.

"There are terrible witches in that house!" the robber told his friends. "One of them scratched my nose with her long fingernails. Another witch, near the door, stabbed me in the foot. And in the yard, a giant monster kicked my pants. And on the roof of the house sat the judge who cried "Bring the crook here, do; Bring the crook here, do!"

When the robbers thought that the rooster was a judge who said "bring the crook here, do," instead of "cock a doodle doo", they ran as far from the house as they could go. Nor did they ever return.

With great pride, our successful musicians settled down in their house. They planned a long series of concerts, including many for children. Every donkey and rooster knows that hard work and talent are always rewarded. They called themselves the "Animals", and received a very large recording contract, so that their music will always be remembered. Let us see how well we can remember their themes.

Our friends never stopped making music. They hope you will never stop either.

And now we say good bye!

## The Golden Treasure

Instrumentation:

2 violins            1 viola            1 cello

The opening section of this work is for SOLO (single) violin. Here we become acquainted with various parts of the instrument.

BRIDGE - (a thin arched piece of wood on the belly of the instrument on which the 4 strings rest)

STRINGS - (tone-producing cords usually made of gut and metal)

TAIL PIECE - (a triangular piece of wood to which the strings are fastened)

SOUND POST - (a small wooden dowel, set inside the instrument)

When the second violin appears, the two instruments play a CANON or ROUND - (a form of musical imitation in which voices echo each other in succession). Thus we see that the two violins of a string quartet are similar in every way.

To stretch the G string the second violin lowers his PEG - (there are four pegs to which the four strings are fastened. Each can be tightened and loosened, changing the pitches of the strings. Violins are normally tuned to E, A, D and G, from high to low.)

The viola enters and the 3 instruments become a trio.

Listen to the syncopated rhythms as they play together.

SYNCOPATION - (accents on normally unaccented beats)  
The viola lowers his C peg. Strings of the viola are tuned to A, D, G, C, from high to low.

When the cello joins the others, together they play a WALTZ (a dance in 3/4 time).

The strings of a cello are tuned to A, D, G, C, but sound an octave lower than the viola.

The swimming of the goldfish is suggested by an ARPEGGIO (the notes of a chord played in rapid succession), played first by solo cello, then with viola.

Sparkling is suggested by PIZZICATO (plucking the strings).

Together the quartet plays DOUBLE STOPS (two simultaneous notes on one instrument), PIZZICATO (plucking), SPICCATO (dropping the bow on the string, so that it rebounds), TREMOLO (drawing the bow up and down very rapidly), PONTICELLO (putting the bow very close to the bridge) and HARMONICS (overtones, played by lightly touching the strings).

Louis F. Simon

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THE GOLDEN TREASURE

In a little house, in a big garden, a violin played sadly.

"Why is my song so sad?" he thought.

He tested his strings. E, A, D, G.

"Fine".

His bridge seemed in order, and so did his tailpiece.

But still, he sounded sad. And inside his soundpost, he knew why. He was alone.

"It's sad to be alone", he thought.

Knock knock knock knock.

He ran to the door. And there on the doorstep, stood another violin just like him.

"Hello."

"Oh, hello. I'm so glad to see you. Please come in and make yourself at home.

"Thank you, thank you very much. I'm so glad I've found you. Now that I am here, let's play a little round.

"Once more."

After they had played their little canon twice, the second violin became very mysterious.

"I've come to tell you", he said, "that at the bottom of your well lies a wonderful golden treasure."

"A golden treasure? Let's run and see!"

The violins stretched to see into the well. They stretched and stretched. The second violin even lowered his G peg. But they couldn't reach the bottom.

"We need someone who can go lower", said the second violin. "Let's send for my cousin, the viola."

"Hello".

"Oh, hello. I'm the viola. I'm a little bigger and so I can go lower.

They talked and talked. At last they ran to the well to find the golden treasure.

They stretched, and they stretched. The viola even lowered his C peg. But, they couldn't reach the bottom.

"We need someone who can go lower", said the viola. "Let's send for my cousin, the cello."

"Hello, I am the cello. I am bigger than the viola, and so I can go lower."

They were so happy with each other, that they started to waltz.

At last they stopped waltzing, and ran to the well to seek the golden treasure.

They stretched and stretched, and they saw a sparkle. Something was swimming round and round in the bottom of the well----swimming and sparkling.

It was a goldfish.

"Are you the golden treasure we are seeking?" asked the four string instruments.

"You have already found the greatest treasure of all", said the goldfish, "you have found each other. Four instruments, with different qualities, playing as one, creating beauty and harmony."

They played double-stops---pizzicato---spiccato---tremolo---ponticello---harmonics.

And so, they stayed together for ever and ever, making beautiful music. They were a string quartet.

LITHO IN U.S.A. 