

Monitor presents

COMPAGNIE NATIONALE de DANSES FRANÇAISES

with Jacques Douai



Songs & Dances of France



COMPAGNIE NATIONALE de DANSES FRANÇAISES: SONGS & DANCES OF FRANCE

with **JACQUES DOUAI**

Chorus conducted by **JACQUES DOUAI**

Orchestra conducted by **YVES PRIN**

For fifteen years, Jacques Douai and Tèrese Palau dreamed of forming a National Ballet; at the beginning they formed a group composed of only four couples of dancers. However, with this group they spent ten years during which time they gave thousands of performances, aided by Mr. Douai's talent as a singer, both in France and abroad. Encouraged by the Minister of Cultural Affairs and the High Commission for Youth and Sports, as well as by other high officials, they finally founded the National Ballet of French Dance and after several months of recruitment and of rehearsals, they formed the present ensemble with its 75 singers and dancers. The French National Ballet has an extensive repertoire of regional songs and dances which it presents to the public, region by region, every two or three years. On this recording we present the songs and dances which are found in three major regions:

The Vendée
Brittany and Normandy
Provence

These songs and dances are taken from the Company's actual performances.

SIDE ONE

1. LOU BOUYÉ: Auvergne

When the Cowherd came from his labors
He hung up his stick
He found his wife by the fire
All undressed—sick.
When I die, bury me
Near the lake.
The Pilgrims passing by
Will take note of my grave
They will say a Hail Mary
For poor Bernardine.

"This Song of Labor which seems to have been preserved as a souvenir of the Crusades against the Albigenses, is probably a song of remembrance of the time of the persecutions. The melody is full of power, of grandeur and of dramatic feeling." (J. Canteloube)

2. LA PIE: Dance from the Vendée

3. (a) PARA LOU LOUP: Basse-Auvergne; bourrée montagnarde.

Beware of the wolf, little one,
Who carries off the sheep.

(b) AIO DE ROTSO

The water in the spring will kill you
Do not drink the water from the spring
Drink, instead from this "water of life."

4. LES SABLAISES: Dance from the Vendée

I do not want to go digging for mussels, Mama;
The people of the village took my basket from me.

5. LES GRELOTS: Dance from Provence

(Sheep Bells)
The sheep bells can neutralize and exorcize the evil spirits.

6. LES GENS QUI SONT JEUNES: Berry

(People Who Are Young)
Vocal solo: Jacques Douai; Guitar: Antonio Serra

7. LES SOUFFLETS: Dance from Provence, performed on Ash Wednesday (The Bellows)

The dancers armed with bellows filled with sugar and flour sprinkle the audience at the end of the dance.

8. LE PAS DE ROI RENÉ: Dance from Provence

9. (a) LES FILEUSES: A Carnival dance with singing from Provence (The Spinners)

Come hear the song
Composed by gay fellows
Pulling at the spindle and the distaff.

(b) AII! QUOURO TOURNARA LOU TEMP

This is an 18th Century version of a Provençal carol collected by Julien Tiersot. In its lively, joking, leaping style, it is a cute description of the crèche between shepherds and shepherdesses.

Ah, when shall that time return again
When one evening full of so pure a mystery
An Angel of Light descended
Over the hills, the woods, the fields,
Toward the thatched cottage in Bethlehem.

10. LA GAVOTTE: Dance from Provence

11. PEH TROUZ ZOU AR EN DOAR

A carol, composed, it is said, by the Abbé Nourry, during the First Empire.

What is this sound on the ground?
What is the song that I hear?
How beautiful are the voices coming from heaven!
What miracle has occurred on earth?
Sing with us, also, sing, peoples of this earth.
We are about to announce some startling news.
A blessed child, King of Jerusalem,
Is born to you in the town of Bethlehem.
The appointed time of Prophets has arrived.
Oh, night, a thousand time blessed that breaks our bonds.
Sing glory and honor to Jesus and Mary
God has appeared as a man. The Messiah is here!

12. LES GUERRES D'OUTRE MER—LES GARS DE SENNEVILLE—BRANLE BACCHANALE:

Suite of Normandy Dances.

SIDE TWO

1. JABADAO: One of the best known Breton dances.

2. (a) GWERZ PENN-MARC'H: Brittany

It is now one year since Saint Catherine's Day that the fleet has left Bordeaux.

Upon arriving near Penn-Marc'h they found enough wind. Why then did the people of Penn-Marc'h that night place their torches in the church? Thus misled, the ships ran aground on the coast and were destroyed.

Cruel is the heart that does not weep near Penn-Marc'h on seeing the ocean red with the blood of the Christians.

(b) SONNEN JULIAN KADOUDAL: Brittany

Song of the Revolution. Julien was the young brother of Georges Cadoudal (who was beheaded for

refusing to put his services at the disposal of Napoleon). Julien wrote this song in prison and passed it through the bars of his cells to his mates who quickly spread it around.

"In the bedroom at my Father's I was lying down, thinking of nothing at all.

I have had honors and pleasures, Alas, now I have them no longer. I have lost my happiness.

I have had honors and pleasures. Alas, now I have When I was taken to prison, I was thrown into a deep ditch. Where has my brother Louis gone, whom I shall never see again?"

3. LES MOUCHOIRS: Dance from the Vendée (The Handkerchiefs)

4. LOU COUCUT: Haute-Auvergne

"The cuckoo is a pretty bird
There is nothing as beautiful
The cuckoo is blue and grey
There is nothing that is so pretty
Down there at the bottom of the meadow
There is a tree in full bloom
Ah! if all the cuckoos carried little bells
It would sound like five hundred trumpets."

5. (a) DANSE D'ÉTÉ: Dance from Berry (Dance of Summer)

5. (b) O LO COMPOGNO: Haute Auvergne

"In the country, we are good children
And we go to the mountains
As much as we can
As long as we go on that way
We will not buy a house.
We do not ask for white napkins
We take our meals sitting at some rough table
Seated on the bench, as well as we can.
There is the life of the poor country folk
They say that the city people make fun of us
But we shall carry on
As long as we can."

6. BAL: Breton Dance (The Ball)

7. PELO DE BETTON: Brittany (Song of Conscription)

8. GAVOTTE DE L'AVEN ET PASSE-PIED: Breton Dances

9. DÉJÀ MAL MARIÉE: Brittany (One of the innumerable songs of "Bad Marriage.")

10. SUITE DE GAVOTTES: Dances from Breton

11. LA GAMBO ME FAI MAOU: Provence (A Carol from Saboly.)

12. LES CHIVAU FRUS: Dance from Provence (Animal Dance. These enigmatic horses figure in all the dances from Provence.)

Note: The titles of many songs and dances are given in old French, retaining the archaic and/or regional spellings.

Recorded by BAM, Paris.

Photo: PIC