

HOWARD DA SILVA

POLITICS & POKER

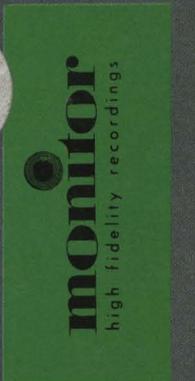
SONGS TO GET ELECTED BY, SUNG BY HOWARD DA SILVA AND THE WARD HEELERS

Tippecanoe and Tyler Too
Keep Cool and Keep Coolidge
Get On the Raft With Taft
Row, Row, Row With Roosevelt
Lincoln and Liberty
Wilson, That's All
Little Tin Box
and others

**DEL
HORSTMANN**

**MICHAEL
QUINN**

**JULIAN
PATRICK**



DESIGN: DAVID CHASMAN, PHOTO: CARL FISCHER

HOWARD DA SILVA POLITICS & POKER

SONGS TO GET ELECTED BY, SUNG BY HOWARD DA SILVA AND THE WARD HEELERS

I would readily sit through the second half of FIORELLO again, in order to hear Mr. Da Silva and his buddies at work on a number called LITTLE TIN BOX a sort of child's guide to the wonderful world of graft. — Kenneth Tynan, New Yorker.

Howard da Silva and his henchmen singing POLITICS AND POKER and LITTLE TIN BOX are the high points of the evening. — Richard Watts, New York Post



THE OUTSTANDING SUCCESS of the musical *Fiorello* and particularly of the songs *Politics and Poker* and *Little Tin Box* sent one of the "politicians", Michael Quinn, scurrying to the libraries. His purpose — to unearth songs of political significance dealing with past presidential campaigns. To his amazement and delight the research yielded gems of Americana which run the gamut from unctuous adulation of a candidate to scurrilous denunciation of the opposition. Armed with this material, "Boss" Da Silva and his Ward Heelers recorded these *Songs to Get Elected By* using the delightful if somewhat cynical songs from *Fiorello* as a launching pad plus the original contemporary calypso by Del Horstmann, *Vote for Me*.

The first of the campaign songs brought to light was the brooding *Jefferson and Liberty* for the election of 1800, composed as a protest to the Alien and Sedition Acts which threatened the new-found freedoms of speech and press.

In 1840 the Whigs successfully promoted William Henry "Tippecanoe" Harrison to the White House with *Tippecanoe* and *Tyler Too*. "Old Tip" was presented as a man of the people who fought bravely in the War of 1812, and as a hard cider (true) and log cabin man (untrue) in contrast to the champagne-drinking Van Buren. "Tippecanoe" Harrison died after one month as president and was succeeded by Tyler.

Unlike Harrison, self-educated Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky and brought up in log cabins in Indiana and Illinois. This background made him a genuine man of the people and served as the inspiration for the stirring *Lincoln and Liberty*.

For the 1868 election, Grant's declaration at the Battle of Spottsylvania in May of 1864 "to fight it out upon this line if it takes all summer" was the rallying cry his campaign songwriter used in order to have the White House aspiration *GRANT-ED*.

The grandiose aria in praise of his virtues notwithstanding, Democrat Samuel Tilden, reform governor of New York, lost to Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876. He was defeated by the disheartening margin of one electoral vote after having received a quarter million more popular votes.

In 1900 "four years more of the full dinner pail" was the hopeful slogan of the GOP and William McKinley was re-elected. He was assassinated less than a year later and Teddy Roosevelt was in the White House. Teddy picked William Howard Taft to succeed him in 1908 and the entire nation was persuaded to *Get on the Raft with Taft* who tipped the scales upwards of three hundred pounds. Faced with such a weighty problem the Democrats took refuge in drink in 1912. They used a whiskey slogan to advantage and educator-idealist Woodrow Wilson went to the White House. He was the first Democrat to do so since 1892.

Silent Cal Coolidge prided himself on being a man of few words so the Republicans convinced the voters in 1924 to *Keep Cool and Keep Coolidge* in the White House four years more.

Since then political songsters have dealt out the *President Hoover March* (1928), *Row, Row, Row with Roosevelt* (1932), and *Let's Do, Do, Do With Dewey* (in vain!) (1944).

So we give you political Americana! Enjoy!

Side One

1. POLITICS AND POKER
Solo: Howard Da Silva
2. WILSON, THAT'S ALL
Solo: Howard Da Silva
3. JEFFERSON AND LIBERTY
Solo: Julian Patrick
4. ROW, ROW, ROW WITH ROOSEVELT
Solo: Julian Patrick
5. TILDEN AND REFORM
Solo: Julian Patrick
6. WHITE HOUSE BLUES
Solo: Del Horstmann
7. PRESIDENT HOOVER MARCH
Solo: Julian Patrick

Side Two

1. LITTLE TIN BOX
Solo: Howard Da Silva
2. GET ON THE RAFT WITH TAFT
Solo: Howard Da Silva
3. LINCOLN AND LIBERTY
Solo: Michael Quinn
4. DO, DO, DO WITH DEWEY
Solo: Howard Da Silva
5. TIPPECANOE AND TYLER TOO
Solo: Howard Da Silva
6. KEEP COOL AND KEEP COOLIDGE
Solo: Howard Da Silva
7. GRANT-ED
Solo: Michael Quinn
8. VOTE FOR ME
Solo: Del Horstmann
9. POLITICS AND POKER (Reprise)
Solo: Howard Da Silva

HOWARD DA SILVA AND THE WARD HEELERS:

Del Horstmann, Julian Patrick, Michael Quinn

Accompanied by Abba Bogin, Piano; Henry Freeman, Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone; James F. Burke, Trumpet/Cornet; Arthur Renzulli, Bass/Tuba; Del Horstmann, Guitar; Nathan Foodman, Percussion

Orchestrations by Del Horstmann
Additional Instrumentation and Musical Direction by Abba Bogin



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HOWARD DA SILVA first appeared on a NEW YORK stage in 1929 with the Civic Repertory Theater. The years between have been full and rich in creativity as an actor, director and teacher in New York and Hollywood. In Hollywood, he performed in more than forty films and was twice honored by Academy Award nominations for his performances in "The Lost Weekend" and "Two Years Before the Mast". In 1953 he directed, co-produced and played a leading role in the memorable production of "The World of Sholom Aleichem". He has recorded for Monitor his English readings of *An Evening With Sholom Aleichem* comprising some of the best-loved stories of the great Yiddish author.

Currently Mr. Da Silva appears as Ben Marino, the chief ward heeler, in the Pulitzer prize play "Fiorello" and his present renditions of the two songs from the show have been recorded with the kind permission of Capitol Records.

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Research by Michael Quinn at the New York Public Library, The Bella C. Landauer Collection and The New York Historical Society.
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