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MONITOR PRESENTS THE

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Songs & Dances of Tahiti

ROYAL TAHITIAN DANCE COMPANY



A MONITOR INTERNATIONAL COMPACT DISC



Perhaps no other country is more closely linked with dancing and romance than Tahiti, but true Tahitian dancing is far more than a frantically twisting vahine. It is a living art handed down from generation to generation. The dances presented by the Royal Tahitian Dancers are all authentic, whether ancient or adapted to modern style. Basically they have remained unchanged for hundreds of years although now many reflect the changing culture of modern life.

The Royal Tahitian Dance Company began as the "Tahiti Nui" and under that name toured the U.S.A. and Canada. In 1973 the "Tahiti Nui" was joined by the young Rarotongians of Turepu Turepu from the Cook Islands and the new ensemble was renamed the Royal Tahitian Dance Company. The dancers in this Ensemble are representative of the great new awakening of Polynesians to their immense heritage of dancing, singing and native crafts. From the Hawaiians in the northwest to the Maoris in the southwest, the peoples of Polynesian blood in the Pacific are recognizing the true values of the life of their forefathers.

1. **UTE** (2:30)

Vocal solo by David

This comical song has as its theme the flirting of young people in the legendary Valley of Fautaua where they gather green ferns and, of all things — pumpkins.

2. **MIRI ITI** (4:00)

Vocal solo by Turia

This song was composed by Augi Goupil, a Tahitian who emigrated to California and often thought with nostalgia of his dear homeland and, especially, of Miri, the beautiful young Tahitian whom he loved so much.

3. **APAI PAI** (2:33)

Chorus

Not very long ago, a great event took place. Tahiti called to their distant cousins in Rarotonga to join with them in presenting their ancient culture of dance and song to the outside world. Rarotonga joyfully accepted and sent their best dancers and singers to Tahiti to join the Tahiti Nui Dance Group. In this song, Turepu, the Chief of the Rarotongians tells people of the welcome they will receive in Tahiti.

4. **TIARE AUTE** (2:08)

Instrumental

The title of this selection refers to the Hibiscus flower which grows abundantly and is lovingly cultivated in almost every part of the garden island of Tahiti. This instrumental number is played on guitars and ukelele.

5. **BORA BORA** (2:45)

Chorus

The lovely volcanic island of Bora Bora has become synonymous with the gentle lotus-living of Polynesian life. It is the land of the legend and song that inspired the famous "Bali-Hai" and called "the most beautiful island in the world" by its author — James Michener. Sung by the entire cast, the song evokes nostalgia for their distant homeland.

6. **TAMARII TAHITI** (:50)

Instrumental

This brief instrumental number is performed on the Pahu (a large drum covered with sharkskin) and the Toere (a hollow log beaten with sticks to produce rapid staccato sounds). The title means "Children of Tahiti" and these rhythms come from Papeete on the island of Tahiti.

7. **PARAHI MARITE** (3:10)

This is a song of grateful thanks by the Tahitians to America and its peoples for the welcome, friendship and hospitality shown to them.

8. **HEI POROHITI** (2:15)

Vocal solo by Turia

This song tells of the flower leis that are an integral part of Polynesian life and used for adornment and pleasure. The sweet perfume of the flowers adds to the charm of all outings and leis are worn at all occasions of amusement.

9. **E MARU RAHI** (4:55)

Vocal solo by David

This is the story of three brothers, one of whom has accidentally died while diving for mother-of-pearl in the lagoon of Takaroa in the Tuamotu Islands. The two brothers sing a song in memory of their beloved lost one who will never again gaze upon his country and family.

10. **UA HITI TE MARAMA** (2:15)

Chorus

At sunrise, when the first rays touch the mountains and valleys, a young lover sees his sweetheart, at last. He tells her with joy that her presence brightens his life like the sunrise and they leave together walking hand in hand.

11. **PAPIO** (1:30)

Instrumental

This instrumental, played on guitars and ukelele, depicts the carousel of wooden horses which whirls around giving intense joy and thrills to countless Tahitian boys and girls (and grown-ups, too). It is played on July 14th in celebration of Bastille Day.

12. **AUE UE** (2:35)

Chorus with vocal solo

A young man sings of his love for his mother, his admiration for her many virtues, and compares her to a rare pearl.

13. **TWO INSTRUMENTALS**

a) Winds of Joy/b) Takoto (:48)

Two short instrumentals played on the drum and toere (see description of Number 6). The first part conveys the feeling of the Mao Ae, the name given to the wind which blows from the south-east and is thought to announce the imminent arrival of sunshine and festivities. The second part portrays the anger of the Gods in a mighty storm on the island of Takoto.

14. **RAIATEA** (3:30)

Chorus

At dawn the schooner Temehani, softly cradled by the tradewinds, approaches the island of Raiatea. Turepu, the Chief of the Rarotongians, is struck by the magnificence of the lagoon and mountains which remind him of his homeland. This inspires him to compose a song in homage to the island, comparing its beauty to the lovely flower Apai Pai that grows only here on the high mountain slopes.

The ROYAL TAHITIAN DANCE COMPANY

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. UTE2:30
<i>Vocal solo by David</i> | 8. HEI POROHITI2:15
<i>Vocal solo by Turia</i> |
| 2. MIRI ITI4:00
<i>Vocal solo by Turia</i> | 9. E MARU RAHI4:55
<i>Vocal solo by David</i> |
| 3. APAI PAI2:33
<i>Chorus</i> | 10. UA HITI TE MARAMA2:15
<i>Chorus</i> |
| 4. TIARE AUTE2:08
<i>Instrumental</i> | 11. PAPIO1:30
<i>Instrumental</i> |
| 5. BORA BORA2:45
<i>Chorus</i> | 12. AUE UE2:35
<i>Chorus with vocal solo</i> |
| 6. TAMARII TAHITI:50
<i>Instrumental</i> | 13. TWO INSTRUMENTALS:48
<i>a) Winds of Joy/b) Takoto</i> |
| 7. PARAHU MARITE3:10
<i>Chorus</i> | 14. RAIATEA3:30
<i>Chorus</i> |

PAULETTE VIENOT

Artistic Director and General Manager

TUREPU TUREPU
Choreographer

JEAN CAVALLO
Co-Artistic Director

MUNANUI TUKAU
Tahitian Chief

TETUANUI TUKAU
Daughter of Chief



THE ROYAL TAHITIAN DANCE COMPANY

1. UTE (2:30)
2. MIRI ITI (4:00)
3. APAI PAI (2:33)
4. TIARE AUTI (2:08)
5. BORA BORA (2:45)
6. TAMARII TAHITI (:50)
7. PARAHU MARITE (3:10)
8. HEI POROHITI (2:15)
9. E MARU RAHI (4:55)
10. UA HITI TE MARAMA
(2:15)
11. PAPIO (1:30)
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13. TWO INSTRUMENTALS
 - a) Winds of Joy) :48
 - b) Takoto)
14. RAIATEA (3:30)

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