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Office of Folklife Programs
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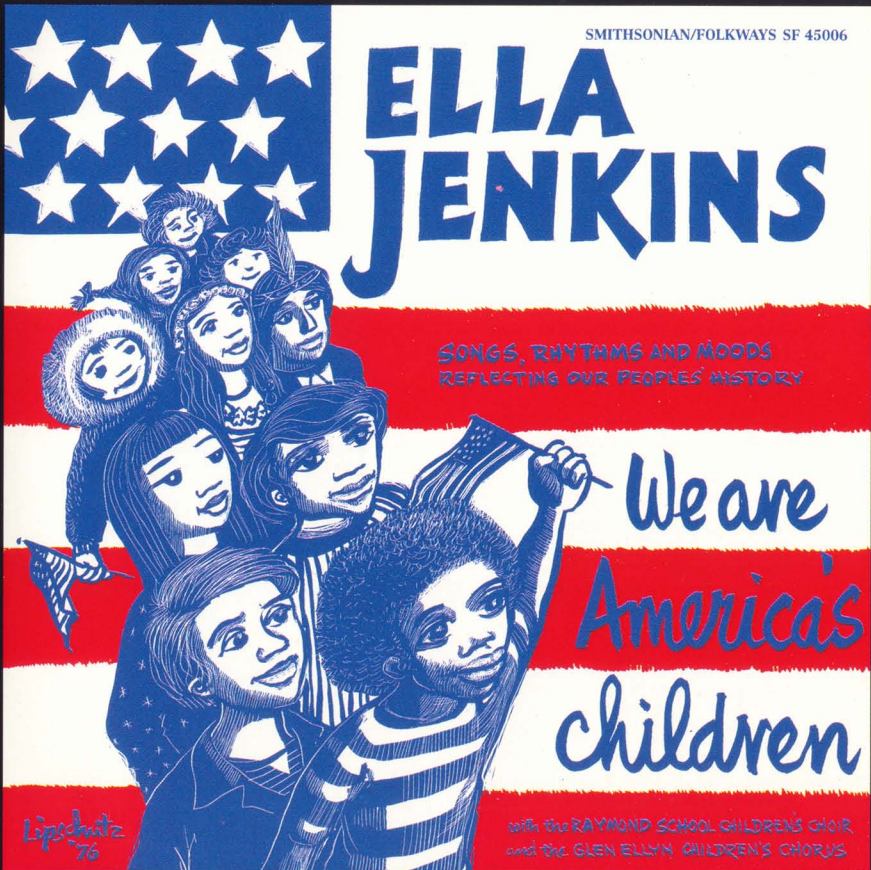
SMITHSONIAN/FOLKWAYS SF 45006

ELLA JENKINS

SONGS, RHYTHMS AND MOODS
REFLECTING OUR PEOPLE'S HISTORY

We are
America's
children

with the RAYMOND SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHOIR
and the GLEN ELLYN CHILDREN'S CHORUS



ELLA JENKINS We Are America's Children

Songs, Rhythms and Moods Reflecting Our People's History with the Raymond School Choir and the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus

1. **We Are America's Children**
(words & music by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Publishing Co., ASCAP) 1:40
2. **a) Happy Birthday Dear America**
(words & music traditional; adapted by Ella Jenkins)
b) In 1776
(words by Bernadelle Richter/Ellbern Publishing Co.) :52
3. **I Woke Up This Morning**
(words & music traditional; arr. by Joseph Brewer) 2:01
4. **a) We Are Native American Tribes**
(contrived by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Publishing Co.)
b) Sheenasha 2:28
5. **Black Children Was Born**
(traditional; adapted by Ella Jenkins) 2:42
6. **a) Steal Away**
(words & music traditional; narrated words written by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Publishing Co.)
b) I'm On My Way
(words & music traditional; adapted by Ella Jenkins; arrangement by Mildred Falls, designed for Mahalia Jackson) 4:05
7. **This Land Is Your Land**
(Woody Guthrie/Ludlow Music BMI) 2:56
8. **Ol' Texas**
(words & music traditional; arr. by Ella Jenkins) 1:31
9. **Down in New Orleans**
(words & music by Ella Jenkins; Ellbern Publishing Co.) :34
10. **Blues**
(words & music traditional; adaptation by Ella Jenkins) 1:55
11. **Come Here**
(words & music by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Publishing Co., ASCAP) 1:21
12. **We Are Jolly Sailors**
(words & music by Mary Ellis/Ellbern Publishing Co., ASCAP) 1:27
13. **Ezekiel Saw the Wheel**
(words & music traditional; arr. Joseph Brewer, piano) 1:43
14. **We Are America's Children**
(words & music by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Publishing Co., ASCAP) 1:40

Originally issued in 1976 as Folkways FC 7666.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have made this album possible: Bernadelle Richter, photographs; Joseph Brewer, pianist, choral director, tenor; Doreen Rao, choral director, professor, soprano; both choral groups; Stu Black and the Sound Studio's staff; Moses Asch for his patience and interest in this album; Peggy Lipschutz for coming up with such a grand cover; Mrs. Huff for helping out at the studio; and to all of the parents for giving their permissions to the Folkways Recording Company—lending their voices to "We Are America's Children."

—Ella Jenkins

Also by Ella Jenkins on Smithsonian/Folkways:
 SF 45002 *This-a-way, That-a-way* (was 7546)
 SF 45003 *African-American Folk and Work Song Rhythms* (was 7654)
 SF 45004 *Rhythms and Chants* (was 7000)
 SF 45005 *My Street Begins at My House* (was 7543)
 SF 45007 *Adventures in Rhythm* (was 7682)
 SF 45008 *Rhythms of Childhood* (was 7653)
 SF 45009 *Traveling with Ella Jenkins* (was 7640)
 SF 45010 *You'll Sing A Song and I'll Sing A Song* (was 7664)

Many other Ella Jenkins albums are scheduled for re-release.

Please write to Smithsonian/Folkways for current information.

Smithsonian Folkways Records

Folkways Records was one of the largest independent record companies of the mid-twentieth century. Founded by Moses Asch in 1947 and run as an independent company until its sale in 1987, Folkways was dedicated to making the world of sound available to the public. Nearly 2,200 titles were issued, including a great variety of American folk and traditional music, children's songs, world music, literature, poetry, stories, documentaries, language instruction and science and nature sounds. The Smithsonian acquired Folkways in order to ensure that the sounds and the genius of the artists would continue to be available to future generations. Every title is being kept in print and new recordings are being issued. Administered by the Smithsonian's Office of Folklife Programs, Folkways Records is one of the ways the Office supports cultural conservation and continuity, integrity, and equity for traditional artists and cultures.

Several hundred Folkways recordings are distributed by Rounder Records. The rest are available on cassette by mail order from the Smithsonian Institution. For information and catalogs telephone 202/387-3262 or write Folkways, Office of Folklife Programs, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 2600, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.

Ella Jenkins "We Are America's Children"

Songs, Rhythms and Moods Reflecting Our People's History with the Raymond School Choir and the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus



We dedicate *We Are America's Children* to the memory of Karen Huff, eleven-year-old member of the Raymond School Children's Choir, whose voice lent so much joy to the singing in this album.

We Are America's Children came about out of a deep concern for the role children must play when celebrating the bicentennial of our country. Children are very important in the growth of our nation, and their voices should be heard, for it is they who symbolize the future development of our country. It is they who will carry on our musical traditions, share our heritage with people of the world, and see to it that the words "freedom," "justice," "integrity," "liberty," and "equality" be exercised daily in thought and action, projecting these principles to future generations of children, all the while expanding and strengthening these principles we say we believe in. If we adults care about children we must put them on our number one priority list of understanding, consideration and concern.

The song "We Are America's Children" was originally written for a conference meeting of the Chicago Association for the Education of Young Children. The title then was "We All Love Children." The conferences theme: "Children—America's Number One Priority."

"Happy Birthday, Dear America" and "1776" were chosen to establish a mood—a look at the past and present.

We're using songs like "I Woke Up This Morning" because it is a freedom song and because it has the quality of a "Negro spiritual." Many black people ran to their freedom as double-meaning spirituals were sung.

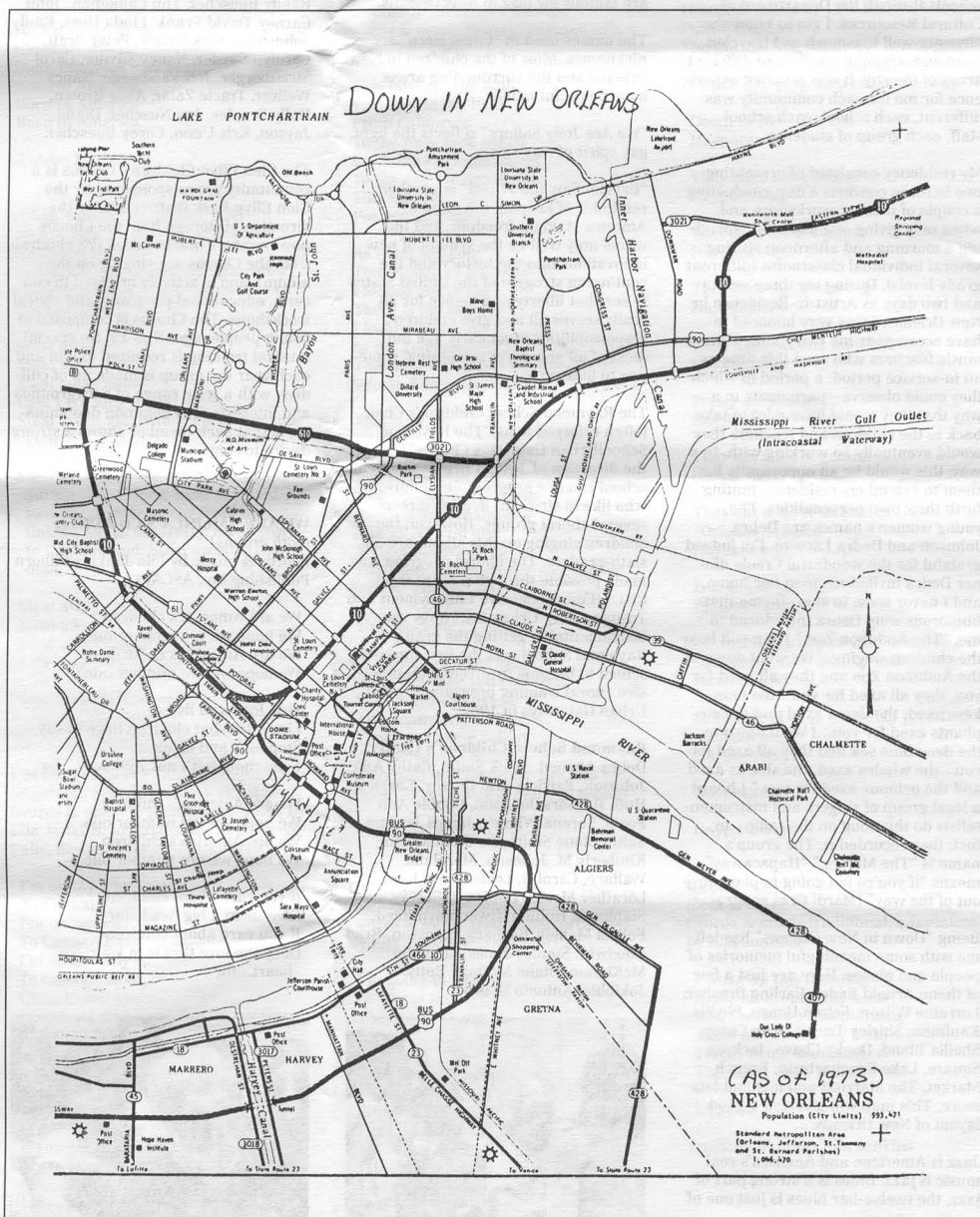
"We Are Native American Tribes" may be used imaginatively by the teacher and student to get better acquainted with Native American culture. It might be an interesting project to list numerous tribes and find out what area of the United States they originated from. Getting acquainted with Sacajawea's role in the Lewis and Clark expedition (Sacajawea was a Native American woman; a school is named after her in Great Falls, Montana)....

I've recorded "Sheenasha" ("she walks" in the Navajo language) before but it was in tune with this album's theme. This, too, as told to me by Native Americans in Chinle, Arizona, talks about freedom.

I collected "Black Children Was Born" down in New Orleans, Louisiana (I'll share more about New Orleans later)

at the Convent School. I hope no one becomes terribly concerned about "proper" English because of my recording the song just as it was shared with. The six names of famous black personalities in American history were added to stimulate children to get better acquainted with some of them. They can keep adding to the list.

"Steal Away" continues the search for freedom of black people. All children will have to know that "freedom ain't freedom when a man ain't free" (Langston Hughes). And freedom ain't freedom when a woman ain't free, when a child ain't free, when thoughts ain't free. So we who lead our children should pull toward having our country's freedoms exercised over and over again...



"This Land" gives children a beautiful journey of the America Woody Guthrie experienced long ago. Woody was a famous singer of folk songs and a writer of songs. "This Land" offers the children a grand opportunity to get to know a little of the geography of this land.

"Ol' Texas" keeps us travelin' on.

During October-November, 1975, I was "Down in New Orleans" as Artist-in-Residence for the New Orleans public schools through the Department of Cultural Resources. I got to know the city very well inasmuch as I traveled from one school to another, to different areas of the city. It was a varied experience for me for each community was different, each school, each school staff, each group of students.

My residency consisted of presenting two to three concerts a day, conducting a couple of teacher workshops and, when only giving one assembly, spending a morning and afternoon visiting several individual classrooms (different grade levels). During my three weeks and two days as Artist-in-Residence in New Orleans, I was very honored to have accompany me two young women music teachers who used this time as an in-service period, a period in which they could observe—participate in a way that they would have a lot to take back to the children and teachers they would eventually be working with. In a way, this would be an opportunity for them to extend my residency, putting forth their own personalities. The young women's names are Debra Johnson and Dedra Lacoste. I'm indeed grateful for the wonderful Creole dinner Dedra invited me to at her home, and I never seem to stop singing that humorous song Debra introduced to me, "The Audubon Zoo." I can still hear the children singing. "We went down to the Audubon Zoo and they all axed for you, they all axed for you...the monkeys axed, the tigers axed and the elephants axed for you...I went down to the deep blue sea and they all axed for you...the whales axed, the sharks axed and the octopus axed for you." I heard a local group of singers and instrumentalists do this song on the radio—in fact, they recorded it. The group's name is "The Meters." "Hapacaway" means "if you're not going to play move out of the way" (Mardi Gras song) . . .

Being "Down in New Orleans" has left me with some meaningful memories of people and places. Here are just a few of them: Arnold Radel, Earline Brasher, Lorraine Wilson, Felton House, Phyllis Kaufman, Shirley Trusty, Orlin Corey, Sheila Bland, Dooky Chase, Jackson Square, Lake Ponchartrain, French Market, The Marriott and lots and lots more. This map will give you a good layout of New Orleans....

Jazz is American and America's real music is jazz. Blues is a strong part of jazz; the twelve-bar blues is just one of



the blues forms. It was a delight to visit a schoolroom, especially a kindergarten class with the children all echoing "We are famous for jazz in New Orleans."

The names used in "Come Here" are nicknames. Most of the children in New Orleans and the surrounding areas have beautiful names....

"We Are Jolly Sailors" reflects the light, gay spirit of America....

"Ezekiel Saw the Wheel" is another reminder of keeping the mind of America staid on freedom, and the wheel may well be the symbol of new innovations into the history and the continuing struggle of the United States to see that liberty and justice for all really serves all and give children responsibilities at an early age but most of all give them something, something to look up to.

The Raymond School Children's Choir (often referred to as "The Raymond School Urban Gateways Chorus"), under the direction of Joseph Brewer, is an in-school elective program for children who like to sing. Mr. Brewer directs several choral groups. However, the children singing on this album are all sixth-graders. The choral program was made possible through a grant from CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act). Urban Gateways was instrumental in getting the grant. Raymond School was the first inner-city school to become involved in an intensive choral training program through Urban Gateways in 1962.

Raymond School Children's Choir: Debra Atwood, Erick Smith, Cathy Ann Johnson, Patricia Ann Dorsey, Karen D. Huff, Barbara Johnson, Bobbie Ann Fouts, Serena Whaley, James Jerome Salter, Rene Smith, De-Juan Martin, Kimberly M. Johnson, Moreland Wallace, Carol B. Lester, Lora Love, Lorather Meeks, Denise Holloway, Stephanie Hullum, Gwendolyn Reed, Felicia Mobley, Barbara Eggerson, Brad Goodwin, Stanley Jones, Lamonte McKinnon, Diane McDale, Betty Jokibble, Antonio Holsey.



Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus:

Marq Bresman, Marjorie Broyles, Randy Buescher, Tim Callaghan, John Carney, David Frank, Linda Hess, Emily Johnstone, Kirk Moore, Peter Pratt, Carolyn Snyder, Nancy Snyder, Carol Streiberger, Jeff Vandwege, Nancy Weliver, Tracie Zalar, Alice Brown, Holly Broyles, Jon Nuscher, Diane Jayson, Kris Ursin, Corey Buescher.

The Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus is a community group sponsored by the Glen Ellyn Park District. Under the direction of Doreen Rao, the Chorus now numbers one hundred (22 children from the Chorus are singing on the album), and is actively involved in concerts, educational programs and choral workshops. The Chorus is composed of young people, ages 9 to 15. No special musical training is required to join and each year the group is made up of children with a wide range of backgrounds and interests. The common denominator is that each member shows a strong desire to sing.

WE ARE AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(both groups)
(words & music by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Publishing Co., ASCAP)

We are America's children
We hope we are number one
We are America's children
We hope we are number one

Stop look and listen
Listen to what children have to say
Stop look and listen
Even though it's not your way...for

We are America's children
We hope we are number one
We are America's children
We hope we are number one

If you care about children
Give them a big head start
If you care about children
Obey the love that is in your heart...for



We are America's children
We hope we are number one
We are America's children
We hope we are number one
We hope we are number one
We hope we are number one

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR AMERICA/ IN 1776

Happy Birthday, Dear America (both groups)
(words & music traditional; adapted by Ella Jenkins)

Happy birthday to you
Happy birthday to you
Happy birthday, dear America
Happy birthday to you

IN 1776

(the Glen Ellyn Children's chorus)
(words by Bernadelle Richter/Ellbern Publishing Co.)

In 1776
In 1776
We won our freedom
We founded a country
In 1776

In 1776
In 1776
We won our freedom
We founded a country
In 1776

We won our freedom
We won our freedom
In 1776

Drum beats: E. Jenkins

I WOKE UP THIS MORNING

(Raymond School Children's Choir)
(words & music traditional, created by "freedom riders"; arr. by Joseph Brewer)

I woke up this morning with my mind
staid on freedom
I woke up this morning with my mind
staid on freedom
I woke up this morning with my mind
staid on freedom
Hallelu hallelu hallelujah

I woke up this morning with my eyes
staid on freedom
I woke up this morning with my eyes
staid on freedom
I woke up this morning with my eyes
staid on freedom
Hallelu hallelu hallelujah

I woke up this morning with my heart
staid on freedom
I woke up this morning with my heart
staid on freedom

I woke up this morning with my heart
staid on freedom
Hallelu hallelu Hallelujah

Piano: Joseph Brewer

WE ARE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES/SHEENASHA

We Are Native American Tribes (both groups)

(contrived by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern
Publishing Co.)

We are Native American tribes
We are Native American tribes
Zuni
We are Native American tribes
Hopi
We are Native American tribes
Apache
We are Native American tribes
Ute
We are Native American tribes
Cheyenne
We are Native American tribes
Blackfoot
We are Native American tribes
Nez Percé
We are Native American tribes
Cree
We are Native American tribes
Choctaw
We are Native American tribes
Chippewa
We are Native American tribes
Winnebago
We are Native American tribes
Cherokee
We are Native American tribes
Seminole
We are Native American tribes
Sioux
We are Native American tribes
Navajo

Narrator: Kirk Moore
Drum: Ella

SHEENASHA (both groups)

Meaning: "she walks" in the Navajo
language

Sheenasha...sheenasha
Sheenasha...sheenasha
Sheenasha...sheenasha
Hey yah hey yah hey yah hey yah...
... hey yah hey yah hey yah hey yah

BLACK CHILDREN WAS BORN (both groups)

(traditional; adapted by Ella Jenkins)

Black children was born
Black children was born
Black children was born
Born in America

Black children was born
Black children was born
Black children was born
Born in America

Children, go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee one by one
One for the little bitty baby

Born from the African lady
Born, born—born in America

Mahalia Jackson was born
Louis Armstrong was born
Bessie Smith was born
Born in America

Children, go where I send thee
How shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee one by one
One for the little bitty baby
Born from the African lady
Born born born born
Born in America

Dr. King was born
Harriet Tubman was born
Duke Ellington was born
Born in America
Born in America
Born in America....

Ukulele: E. Jenkins

STEAL AWAY/I'M ON MY WAY

*Steal Away (The Raymond School
Children's Choir)*

(words & music traditional; narrated
words written by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern
Publishing Co.)

Steal away
Steal away
Steal away home
I ain't got long to stay here....
Steal away, etc. (while words are spo-
ken)

Steal away was the cry of the slaves
during the Underground Railroad
movement. Steal away from the
unkind hands of slavery. Steal away
to Canaan land. Steal away to free-
dom.

Steal away
Steal away
Steal away home
I ain't got long to stay here....

Piano: Joseph Brewer
Narrator: Ella Jenkins

I'M ON MY WAY

(Raymond School Children's Choir)

(words & music traditional; adapted by
Ella Jenkins; arrangement by Mildred
Falls, designed for Mahalia Jackson)

I'm on my way
To Canaan land
I'm on my way
To Canaan land
I'm on my way
To Canaan land
Glory hallelujah
I'm on my way...yes, I'm on my way,
etc.

If you can't go
Don't you hinder me
If you can't go
Don't you hinder me
If you can't go
Don't you hinder me
Glory hallelujah
I'm on my way...I'm on my way, etc.

I've got a mother up there
So I must go
I've got a mother up there
So I must go
I've got a mother up there
So I must go
Glory hallelujah
I'm on my way...yes, I'm on my way,
etc.

Piano: Joseph Brewer
Tambourine: Stephanie Hullum

THIS LAND

(Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus)

(words & music Woody Guthrie/Ludlow
Music, Inc. BMI)

This land is your land
This land is my land
From California
To the New York island
From the redwood forest
To the gulf stream waters
This land was made
For you and me

As I was walking
That ribbon of highway
I looked above me
There is the skyway
I looked below me
In the golden valley
This land was made for you and me
(Soloist: Randy Buescher)

This land, etc....

I roamed and I rambled
And followed my footsteps
O'er the sparkling sands
Of her diamond deserts
And all around me
A voice came saying
This land was made for you and me
(Soloist: Tracie Zalar)

This land, etc....

I followed you low hills
And I followed you cliff rims
Your marble canyons
And sunny bright waters
This voice came calling
As the fog was lifting
This land was made for you and me
(Duet: John Carney & Marq Bresnan)

This land, etc....

OL' TEXAS

(both groups)

(words & music traditional; arranged
by Ella Jenkins)

I'm going to leave
Ol' Texas now
They've got no use
For the long horn cow

They've plowed and fenced
My cattle range
And the people there
Are all so strange

I'll take my horse
I'll take my rope
And hit the trail
Upon a lope

I'll say adios
To the Alamo
And turn my head
Towards Mexico

(Clip clops done by clucking tongues)

La la la la
La la la la
La la la la
La la la la la, etc....

DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS

(both groups)

(words & music by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern
Publishing Co.)

The phrase "haypaway" is a Creole
term, so I was told, meaning "if you're
not going to play, step out of the way."

Down in New Orleans
Haypaway

They have a big Mardi Gras
Haypaway

They do a lot of singing
Haypaway

They do a lot of dancing
Haypaway

They have second line dancers
Haypaway

Pretty umbrellas
Haypaway

They eat a lot of gumbo
Haypaway

They eat a lot of militon (a New
Orleans squash)
Haypaway

Red beans and rice now
Haypaway

Jambalaya (a Creole dish consisting of
tomatoes, rice, shrimp and herbs)
Haypaway

Crawfish, et tu fe (crawfish prepared a
certain way)
Haypaway

Haypaway

Haypaway

BLUES

(both groups)

(words & music traditional; adaptation
by Ella Jenkins)

I woke up this morning
Blues all around my head
Yes, I woke up this morning
Blues all around my head
I went to my breakfast
The blues were in my bread

La la....

Baritone ukulele: Ella Jenkins

COME HERE

(both groups)

(words & music by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Publishing Co., ASCAP)

The names are children's nicknames.

There were some children playing in
Algiers, Louisiana, and they were
having a lot of fun but soon it was
time for dinner and their father
called to them:

Come here Galu

Come here Manu

Come here Tralee

And come here Cashee too

Drum: Ella Jenkins

WE ARE JOLLY SAILORS

(Glen Ellyn Children's chorus)

(words & music by Mary Ellis/Ellbern Publishing Co., ASCAP)

We are jolly sailors
And we sail on anything
We talk a lot and laugh a lot
And then we always sing
Yo ho yo ho yo ho yo ho yo ho

And when the sun comes up
The captain says rise and shine
We hurry up to eat because
He might just change his mind
Yo ho...

The look-out in the crow's nest
Says a wave is coming fast
We duck our heads
And hold on tight
And then we feel the splash
Yo ho...

A ship is coming towards us
Is it friendly or a foe?
We get up close
To look at the flag
A pirate's ship ho ho
Yo ho...

EZEKIEL SAW THE WHEEL

(Raymond School Children's Choir)

(words & music traditional; arranged by Joseph Brewer)

Ezekiel saw the wheel
Way up in the middle of the air
Way in the middle of the air

And the big wheel runs by faith
And the little wheel runs
By the grace of God

Wheel and a wheel
Way in the middle of the air

Some folks go to church
For to sing and shout
Before six months
They're all turned out
Before six months
They're back again
Now what are the good church folks
Going to do then
Way in the middle of the air...etc.

Piano: Joseph Brewer

WE ARE AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(both groups)

(words & music by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Publishing Co., ASCAP)

We are America's children
We hope we are number one
We are America's children
We hope we are number one

(sung twice)

Stop look and listen
Listen to what children have to say
Stop look and listen
Even though it's not your way...for

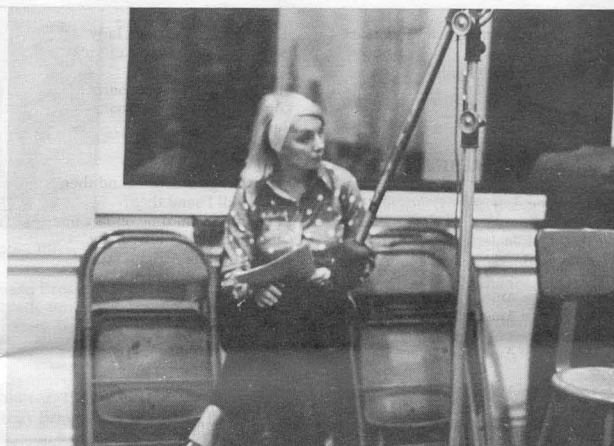
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We hope we are number one
We are America's children
We hope we are number one

If you care about children
Give them a big head start
If you care about children
Obey the love that is in your
heart...for

We are America's children
We hope we are number one
We are America's children
We hope we are number one
We hope we are number one
We hope we are number one



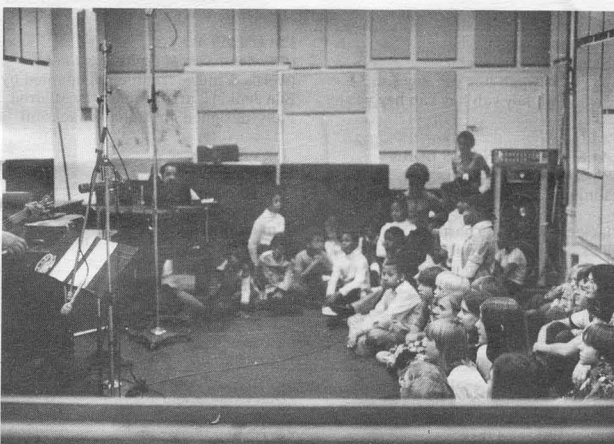
Ella Jenkins



Doreen Rao



Joseph Brewer



Ella, Joe and Children

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We Are America's Children



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