



# RHYTHMS OF CHILDHOOD WITH ELLA JENKINS

Songs with guitar, banjo, baritone ukulele, harmonica and drum accompaniment

With Ginni Clemmens, Shirley Hersh and Harold Murray / Folkways Records FC 7653

## RHYTHMS IN NATURE

### SONGS ABOUT TREES:

PRETTY TREES AROUND THE WORLD

THE CEDAR TREES

### SONGS ABOUT BIRDS:

THE CUCKOO

WAKE UP, LITTLE SPARROW

### SONGS ABOUT WATER:

MAID OF JAPAN

ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT

MICHAEL ROW YOUR BOAT ASHORE

CANOE SONG

---

## RHYTHMS IN THE DANCE

SKIP TO MY LOU

RED RIVER VALLEY DANCING THEME

REEL

BANJO MEDLEY

ALL WILL BE DANCING

---

## RHYTHMS OF FAR AWAY

AFRICAN IMPRESSIONS

KUM-BA-YA

O REIGN O

EN-KOMO-ZEE-GAH-BA-BA

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FC 7653

# RHYTHMS OF CHILDHOOD WITH ELLA JENKINS

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE / PHOTOGRAPH BY RAY FLERLAGE

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

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FOLKWAYS RECORDS FC 7653

# FOLKWAYS Records

AND SERVICE CORP., 632 BROADWAY, N.Y.C. 10012  
Long Playing Non-Breakable Micro Groove 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  RPM

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## RHYTHMS OF CHILDHOOD

with ELLA JENKINS

Songs with guitar, banjo, baritone ukelele, harmonica  
and drum accompaniment, with Ginni Clemmens,  
Shirley Hersh, and Harold Murray

SIDE II

FC 7653 B

### RHYTHMS IN THE DANCE

- Band 7: a. Skip To My Lou  
b. Red River Valley Dancing Theme  
c. Reel (Ella Jenkins; Forster Music Inc. - ASCAP)  
Band 8: BANJO MEDLEY  
Band 9: ALL WILL BE DANCING (E. Kitch Childs;  
Forster Music Inc. - ASCAP)

### RHYTHMS OF FAR AWAY

- Band 10: AFRICAN IMPRESSIONS (Part 1)  
Band 11: AFRICAN IMPRESSIONS (Part 2)  
a. Kum-Ba-Ya  
b. O Reign O  
c. En-Komo-Zee-Gah-Ba-Ba

(Unless otherwise indicated, all songs adapted &  
arranged by Ella Jenkins, © Stormking Music Inc.)

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Songs with guitar, banjo, baritone ukelele, harmonica  
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Shirley Hersh, and Harold Murray

SIDE I

FC 7653 A

### RHYTHMS IN NATURE

#### Songs About Trees

Band 1: PRETTY TREES AROUND THE WORLD (Ella Jenkins)  
(Forster Music Inc. - ASCAP)

Band 2: THE CEDAR TREES (Ella Jenkins)  
(Forster Music Inc. - ASCAP)

#### Songs About Birds

Band 3: THE CUCKOO

Band 4: WAKE UP, LITTLE SPARROW (Ella Jenkins)  
(Forster Music Inc. - ASCAP)

#### Songs About Water

Band 5: MAID OF JAPAN

Band 6: a. Row, Row, Row Your Boat  
b. Michael Row Your Boat Ashore  
c. Canoe Song

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## RHYTHMS OF CHILDHOOD

There is not very much I want to say or explain about this album for the content of the album, I feel, speaks capably for itself. . . . The album is for children and it is for adults - for adults, of course, who love, enjoy and understand children. . . . The album is designed for people who like to sing, for people who like to play simple songs with their instruments and for people who simply like to sit back and participate in a quieter fashion.

The title of the album - RHYTHMS OF CHILDHOOD - was arrived at by my observing children's observations of the world around them and catching some of their colorful responses and reactions to it.

The findings were combined with reflections of my own childhood - that children - during these formative years respond to a variety of rhythms:

THEY RESPOND more to gladnesses than to sorrows . . . . THEY RESPOND to more todays than they do the tomorrows. . . . THEY RESPOND to the trees and the swift blowing breeze that changes autumn to winter. . . . THEY RESPOND to the birds and often hear words that birds reserve for the bended ears of little people. . . . THEY RESPOND, by all means to ripples in streams. . . . They take time to listen to each bull frog's mission. . . . THEY RESPOND to ducks quacking. . . . THEY RESPOND to swords whacking in tales of long ago. . . . THEY RESPOND to a finger-snap. . . . THEY RESPOND to a hand-clap. . . . They romp and they stomp. . . . They merrily prance and oftentimes dance for no reason at all. . . . except that the WORLD and its RHYTHMS is one BIG ROLLING, TWISTING, TURNING, CHANGING BALL.

I shall consider "RHYTHMS OF CHILDHOOD" a success if it can prompt a hand to clap, a foot to pat - a voice to sing - a heart to ring with natural merriment or if it simply brings forth a silent, soulful spirit of content.

With Conviction,

Ella Jenkins



Ella Jenkins

Ella Jenkins is nationally known as a "Rhythm Specialist" and singer of folk songs. She uses "primitive" gongs, rattles, drums, handclapping, finger-snapping, foot-stamping, chest-beating, thigh-slapping and other effective and interesting approaches to learning folk songs and chants of different countries and for exploring simple and complex rhythms. Her techniques have been highly successful in stimulating more children and adults to sing and want to sing for pure enjoyment.

Throughout the year she conducts teacher-training workshops around the country. The picture below was taken at a recent Education Conference held in Denver, Colorado (October 25-26, 1962) where Miss Jenkins was responsible for a three-hour session, "Teaching Music Values Through Rhythmic Response." Her program was designed for the class-room teacher as well as the music specialist.



photo by Elmer A. Cronquist

Here are a few reactions to Miss Jenkins' workshops and performances:

Miss Ella Jenkins

October 6, 1959

Dear Ella:

Yours is a wonderful talent, which assumes tremendous stature under your personality. You know how you were received by the members of the National Recreation Congress. You know, too, the warmth of the attention and appreciation.

May I add my thanks to you for the fine impact you made and for the impetus and new approach (to many who saw and heard you) to the age old question of rhythm. Though there will be many failures, I'm sure everyone stirred by your personality and enthusiasm, will attempt to recreate in their home groups the spell which you cast. It was a wonderful experience for everyone.

May the giver of every good and perfect gift continue to smile upon you, and bless you.

Sincerely

Dr. Wm. Francis Bergmann,  
Supervisor of Music  
Chicago Park District

February 18, 1960

Dear Miss Jenkins:

We want to thank you on behalf of the patients and American Red Cross staff of the U.S. Naval Hospital for sharing your talents with us.

The patients enjoyed your "Adventures In Rhythm" and are looking forward to your next visit. It was a sincere pleasure to escort you on the wards. You have a wonderful manner with the patients, so at ease and sensitive to their feelings. The patients who made up the rhythm section, as well as the other patients, have mentioned your program several times and are eager to try their talent with the "sticks" again.

You have a great deal to give to your audience and we are grateful to you for giving your time to the patients. We do hope that you can return in the near future.

Very truly yours,

Miss Bernadette A. Michie,  
Hospital Field Director

Miss Mildred B. Powell  
Recreation Supervisor

February 20, 1960

Dear Ella Jenkins:

I have been asked to thank you for the very inspiring program that you presented to the Craft and Recreational Aide Association on Monday, February 8, 1960, sponsored by the Senior Centers of Metropolitan Chicago.

I'm sure you are aware that you held your audience spell-bound, not an easy task with a group of gregarious women. Many in the group now have a new perspective of the BEAT.

Very sincerely yours,

Yolanda Zamis  
Member of The Craft and  
Recreational Aide Assn.

October 15, 1959

Dear Ella:

I wish to express my appreciation and admiration for the fine performance you gave at Washington State University. I think many in your audiences were unprepared for the type of participation program you offer, and I was particularly impressed with your skill in getting them to respond. This may not be so difficult with children, but I have never seen adults so beautifully handled. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy taking part.

Your original numbers were fascinating as were also your utilization of old favorites. From children to those advanced in age your program had appeal. I hope we may have the pleasure of having you on the campus again.

Sincerely,

Helen G. Smith, Chairman  
Department of Physical  
Education for Women

October 14, 1959

Dear Ella:

While you are about half way through another busy week I wanted to let you know that we are still

glowing here at WSU from our rich experience with you last week. Everyone involved has expressed great satisfaction in this truly different type of recreational singing and entertainment. I cannot say it better than Dr. T.H. Kennedy when he said last Saturday night in his talk "you have just seen real leadership" or in the words of Ruth Slonim "you are a fine teacher and the real joy is that we not only sing songs, but learn the cultural background that goes with it."

Ella, I hope you will include more and more the cultural background as you continue. People love it and that is what makes the thing you do so different from all the singers and song leaders I have known.

We appreciate so much the hard work you put in and the genuine friendliness and warmth you offered to all people.

As ever,

Jane A. Harris  
Assistant Professor  
Washington State University  
Pullman, Washington

#### COLLABORATORS

##### - GINNI CLEMMENS -

Ginni Clemens is both teacher and student of the guitar (six-string and twelve string) and five-string banjo.

Her teaching experience includes having taught at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago as well as having accumulated a good number of private students outside the school.

She returns to being a student of these instruments whenever the opportunity arises for her to learn new approaches; new techniques, etc.

In addition to being an excellent teacher, Ginni does a fine job as performer - appearing regularly in programs, concerts and clubs in the Chicago area as well as other cities.

She has an extensive and varied repertoire of songs a pleasant personality and her audiences warm up to her immediately.

Presently, Ginni is hostess on a weekly folk music radio show in Chicago - the program is called "The Meetin' House."

##### - SHIRLEY HERSH -

Shirley Hersh is a housewife and mother of three wonderful children. She and her family reside in a beautiful home in a fine suburban community adjacent to Chicago, however, Shirley spends a great deal of time in Chicago and other nearby suburbs where she teaches the guitar.

She is on the regular teaching staff of the Old Town School of Folk Music and also does numerous performances during the year for many different club groups. Oftentimes Shirley teams up with one or two other persons - enjoys harmonizing.

##### - HAROLD MURRAY -

Harold Murray is an experienced Flautist and a specialist in Latin American drums as well as other percussion instruments. Harold began his musical training at the Chicago Conservatory of Music, starting with the piano - prior to that time he studied all of the reed instruments and became a music major in Wilson Junior College where he studied the string bass and cello. He has played professionally for several years in musicals, concerts, clubs and theaters.

## RHYTHMS OF CHILDHOOD OUTLINE

### A. Rhythms In Nature

1. Songs About Trees
  - (a) Pretty Trees Around The World
  - (b) The Cedar Trees
2. (a) The Cuckoo  
(b) Wake Up, Little Sparrow
3. Songs About Water
  - (a) Maid Of Japan
  - (b) Row Row Row Your Boat
  - (c) Michael Row Your Boat Ashore
  - (d) Canoe Song

### B. Rhythms In The Dance

1. Skip To My Lou
2. Red River Valley
3. Reel
4. Goodbye, Betsy Brown
5. All Will Be Dancing

### C. Rhythms Of Far Away

1. African Impressions Part I
  - (a) Ah-hee-lango
  - (b) Uhuru
  - (c) Eli-ay-monoquay
  - (d) Elah Elah
  - (e) Ceremonial Chant
2. African Impressions Part II
  - (a) Kum-Ba-Ya
  - (b) O Reign O
  - (c) En-Komo-Zee-Gah-Ba-Ba

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs adapted and arranged by Ella Jenkins, © Sugarloaf Music Inc.

### Many Pretty Trees Around The World

The inspiration for this song came about after my having spent a beautiful two summer weeks in Bridgton, Maine at the Maine Folk Dance Camp (1962) which was surrounded by a host of pretty trees.

#### CHORUS:

There are many pretty trees all around the world  
There are many pretty trees all around the world  
There are many pretty trees all around the world  
Here's a pretty tree now.....

Call: It's an oak tree  
Resp: It's an oak tree  
Call: It's an oak tree  
Resp: It's an oak tree  
Call: It's an oak  
Resp: It's an oak

### Other Trees:

An elm tree  
A birch tree  
A pine tree  
A palm tree  
A eucalyptus tree  
A cedar tree

Vocals: Ella, Ginni, Shirley - Guitars: Ginni, Shirley

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Words and music by Ella Jenkins

### The Cedar Trees

Once I heard an Israeli tune called Im Barazim (the cedar trees). I forgot the melody completely but remembered the hebrew words meaning the cedar trees and decided to write a short story in song about these beautiful trees.

The cedar trees - they grow in numbers  
The cedar trees - they grow so high  
The cedar trees - they are such wonders  
The cedar trees - they touch the sky

Im Barazim - they grow in numbers  
Im Barazim - they grow so high  
Im Barazim - they are such wonders  
Im Barazim - they touch the sky

Vocals: Ella (solo), Ginni, Shirley

Guitars: Ginni, Shirley

Copyright: Forster Music Publishers, Inc. (ASCP)  
Words and music by Ella Jenkins

### The Cuckoo

I heard this song for the first time on a radio show hosted by me - my guest was a spirited young man with a guitar and kind of raw-sounding voice - Jim Kveskin. He had heard Rev. Gary Davis, the blind street singer sing it. The next time I heard it, was in concert by a banjo-playing man - Flemming Brown. Then I saw it on the pages of an Alan Lomax book - in fact I've been hearing it and seeing it for quite a spell and decided on singing the song myself altering it to suit my needs.

Cuckoo, cuckoo  
You're a funny bird  
Cuckoo,  
When can you be heard?

O the cuckoo, she's a pretty bird  
She sings as she flies  
But she never hollers cuckoo  
Til the fourth day of July

Gonna build me a castle  
In the mountains so high  
So I can see the cuckoo  
As she goes flying by....etc.

Vocal: Ella Harmonica: Ella Guitar: Ginni

### Wake Up, Little Sparrow

This is another one of my compositions - I wrote it for a dear friend - Bernadelle Richter - who is as gentle as a sparrow.

Wake up, wake up, little sparrow  
Don't make your home out in the snow  
Don't make your home out in the snow

Little bird, O don't you know  
Your friends flew South, many months ago  
Your friends flew South, many months ago

You're just a babe, you cannot fly  
Your wings won't spread against the sky  
Your wings won't spread against the sky

Hum chorus

Repeat first verse

Vocal: Ella Baritone Uke: Ella Guitar: Shirley

Copyright: Forster Music Publishers, Inc. (ASCP)

Words and music by Ella Jenkins

### Maid of Japan

This song grew out of my childhood. I heard it sung many times while in the elementary grades, but never heard it since. I liked it so much that I just held on to it and now share it with another generation of children and adults. I took the liberty of making a few minor adaptations.

Far over the sea  
In the land of tea  
Where the cherry blossoms grow  
Lives the quaintest child I know  
There lives Jo San, maid of Japan  
There lives Jo San, maid of Japan

I wish I could float  
In a fairy boat  
There in dreams I'd sometimes be  
In that land beyond the sea  
There with Jo San, Maid of Japan  
There with Jo San, Maid of Japan

Vocals: Ella (solo), Ginni, Shirley

Guitars: Ginni (special Japanese affect), Shirley

Adaptations: arrangements: Ella, Ginni, Shirley

### Row Row Row Your Boat

Vocals: Ella, Ginni, Shirley

Arrangements: Ella, Ginni, Shirley

### Michael Row Your Boat Ashore

Michael row your boat ashore, hallelujah (chorus)  
Michael row your boat ashore, hallelujah

Michael take your golden oar, hallelujah  
Row us through the pearly door, hallelujah

(CHORUS)

Jordan River deep and wide, hallelujah  
Sugar and honey on the other side, hallelujah

(CHORUS)

Jordan River chilly and cold, hallelujah  
Chills the body but warms my soul, hallelujah

(CHORUS)

Vocals: Ginni (solo), Shirley, Ella Banjo:  
Ginni Guitar: Shirley

Harmonica: Ella Arrangements: Ginni, Shirley

### Canoe Song

I learned this song from a group of girl scouts at Camp Wind Mountain in Washington State. I added just a bit more rhythm to it. You can run across the song in almost any of the "Cooperative Song Service" community singing books.

My paddle's keen and bright  
Flashing with silver  
Follow the wild goose flight  
Dip, dip and swing

Dip, dip and swing her back  
Flashing with silver  
Swift as the wild goose flies  
Dip, dip and swing  
Dip, dip and swing  
Dip, dip and swing

Vocal: Ella Guitar: Shirley

### Skip To My Lou

Skip skip skip to my Lou  
Skip skip skip to my Lou  
Skip skip skip to my Lou  
Skip to my Lou, my darling

Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
Lost my partner, what'll I do?  
Skip to my Lou, my darling

(CHORUS)

I'll find another one, prettier than you  
I'll find another one, prettier than you  
I'll find another one, prettier than you  
Skip to my Lou, my darling

(CHORUS)

Red wagon, painted blue  
Red wagon, painted blue  
Red wagon, painted blue  
Skip to my Lou, my darling

(CHORUS)

Had one dollar, wish I had two  
Had one dollar, wish I had two  
Had one dollar, wish I had two  
Skip to my Lou, my darling

(CHORUS)

Vocals: Ella (lead), Ginni, Shirley

Banjo: Ginni, Guitar: Shirley, Harmonica: Ella

Red River Valley

Vocals and instrumentals: same as above.

Reel

Just an impression of the Virginia Reel...

Everybody up and bow  
Back in place and you know how  
Right hand round and back across  
Left hand round and don't get los'  
Both hands round and I'm the boss  
Doce si doce out to your right  
The other way round with all your might  
Back in place and now you stand  
Stamp your feet and clap your hands....  
Now let's start all over....  
Once more....

Vocal chant: Ella Banjo: Ella

Banjo arrangements: Ginni Clemmens

Rhythmic Reel Family Style: Ella Jenkins

Goodbye, Betsy Brown

Most of us know this song as Ol' Joe Clark -  
we've taken the liberty of giving it a new name.

Well, I went down to Joe Clark's house  
Invited me for supper  
I stubbed my toe on the table leg  
And stuck my nose in the butter

Fare thee well old Joe Clark  
Fare thee well I'm gone  
Fare thee well old Joe Clark  
Goodbye Betsy Brown

Old Joe had a yellow calf  
Would not sing or pray  
So I stuck her head in a butter milk jar  
And washed her sins away

Fare thee well old Joe Clark  
Fare thee well I'm gone  
Fare thee well Old Joe Clark  
Goodbye Betsy Brown

Fare thee well Old Joe Clark  
Fare thee well I'm gone  
Fare thee well Old Joe Clark  
Goodbye Betsy Brown

GOODBYE BETSY BROWN!

Vocal: Ginni Banjo: Ginni

All Will Be Dancing

A friend - Kitch Childs - wrote these lovely  
little lyrics as well as the music. She said  
she created the song when she was about seven  
or eight years old. Kitch was delighted over  
my wanting to record her song.

Come to my party  
Today, if you please  
Roses and lillies  
Will dance in the breeze  
Bright yellow candles  
Will bow to the blue  
All will be dancing  
And I'll dance with you (repeat last two lines)

Winter for dancing  
With nice shiny floors  
Summer is better  
To dance out of doors  
Birds will make music  
In every green tree  
All will be dancing  
And you'll dance with me (repeat last two lines)

Vocals: Ella (solo), Ginni, Shirley Guitars: Ginni,  
Shirley

Words and Music by Kitch Childs

Guitar arrangements: Ginni, Shirley

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African Impressions Part I

These chants are more correctly titled Afro-  
Caribbean, rather than African as they are a  
combination of Spanish and English and some  
one of the dialects of Africa - according to  
the performer - Harold Murray.

Whether or not these chants are authentic is  
not important, as we have used them here solely  
to interpret the rhythmic aspect of African music.

Narration.... The music of Africa is rhythmic  
and melodic. Let's listen to some impressions  
of both types....

First we hear a chant, calling the people together:

Ah-hee-lango

Next, a freedom chant:

Uhuru

Then, a work chant:

Eli ay monoquay

Also, a play chant with an English translation:

Elah, elah

And the slower paced, ceremonial chant, etc....

Chanter - Drummer: Harold Murray

Narration: Ella Jenkins

### African Impressions Part II

Kum Ba Ya - Ginni learned the Liberian dialect from a Liberian art student, at the time, studying at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Kum ba ya my Lord kum ba ya  
Kum ba ya my Lord kum ba ya  
Kum ba ya my Lord kum ba ya  
O Lord kum ba ya

2. Someone's crying Lord

3. Someone's singing Lord

4. Someone's praying Lord

5. Come by here my Lord

O Reign O - I collected this song while attending a recreation leadership conference in Michigan. The person who shared the song with me had heard it from an American missionary who had brought it with her from Sierre Leone.

O reign O reign O reign O  
Reign, Master Jesus reign  
Reign salvation, in my soul  
Reign, Master Jesus reign

I looked at my hands  
And my hands looked new  
Reign, Master Jesus reign  
I looked at my feet  
And my feet looked new  
Reign, Master Jesus reign (repeat first verse)

Vocals: Ella (solo), Ginni, Shirley Guitars: Ginni,  
Shirley

En ko mo zee gah ba ba - This little chant caught my fancy at a party in Lombard, Illinois where a few international students were present. A young man from South Africa - a Northwestern University student - led us in this simple chant and it has stayed with me.

En komo zee gah ba ba

En komo zee gah ba ba, etc. inflections vary

Vocals: Ginni, Shirley, Harold, Ella

Guitars: Ginni, Shirley

### Additional Credits:

Cover Photo..... RAEBURN FLERLAGE  
Booklet Photo ..... MAURICE SEYMOUR  
Recording Engineer..... STEWART BLACK of  
Hall Recordings of  
Chicago.

FINIS

### Post Script:

It was really a grand musical experience working with Ginni, Shirley and Harold and we all enjoyed and heeded the enthusiasm and advice of our expert engineer, Stewart Black.

Ella Jenkins

### Other Recordings By Ella Jenkins:

FC7056 Counting Games & Rhythm  
FC7057 Rhythm & Game Songs  
FC7308 Rhythms For Children  
FC7652 This Is Rhythm  
FC7653 Rhythms Of Childhood  
FC7654 Negro Folk Rhythms  
FC7655 Songs And Rhythm From Near And Far  
FI 8273 Adventures In Rhythm

For information on sheet music, write to:

Forster Music Publishers, Inc.  
216 South Wabash Avenue  
Chicago 4, Illinois

For information on Music Books  
of Ella Jenkins

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