

AMERICAN FOLK SONGS FOR CHILDREN



SUNG BY PETE SEEGER ACC. BY 5 STRING BANJO

**BOUGHT ME A CAT · JIM CRACK CORN · TRAIN IS A-COMING · THIS OLD MAN
FROG WENT A-COURTING · JIM ALONG JOSIE · THERE WAS A MAN AND HE WAS MAD
CLAP YOUR HANDS · SHE'LL BE COMING 'ROUND THE MOUNTAIN · BILLY BARLOW
ALL AROUND THE KITCHEN**

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Selections from AMERICAN FOLK SONGS FOR CHILDREN, a book of musical notations and notated guides, for home and school, by Ruth Crawford Seeger. Published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., New York.

From Preface by Lilla Belle Pitts
AMERICAN FOLK SONGS FOR CHILDREN is as truly a child's book as it is a book for parents and teachers. For it is made up of songs that have been shaped by folk wisdom. That is, by children and grown-ups who have been, and continue to be, moved to give voice to what has been felt, heard, seen, and lived through.

How the Book grew, by Mrs. Seeger
These songs were sung around home with our own children, and at schools with other children of varying ages. The songs are folk (traditional) songs - tunes and words - current in many parts of North America where the English language is predominant. The state in which each song was collected is indicated. Most of the songs are known in other states as well, either in this or in other versions.

Why Folk Music for Children
"This kind of traditional or folk music is thoroughly identified with the kind of people who made America as we know it. They made it and are still making it. If it is one of the aims of education to induct the child into the realities of the culture in which he will live... (this music) should occupy a familiar place in the child's daily life. This music has been a natural part of work, play, sleep, fun, ridicule, love, death... through it one can grow in intimate appreciation of the railroads it helped build, the cotton it helped pick, the ships it helped sail, the land-stretches it made less lonely. This kind of music has crossed and recrossed many boundaries and is still recrossing them. Children can get a glimpse of life and thought different from their own. This adaptability and breadth of experiences give it special appeal and value to all. It can be a window through which children and grown ups can look at themselves, their neighbors, their toys, their thoughts."

ACTIVITY

"The rhythmic vitality of this music lends ease to the process of improvisation. For these are singing games, play-party songs, square dance tunes, work songs, patting or jiggling songs. Songs that are accustomed to action; to being danced to, clapped to, skipped to, worked to."

PARTICIPATION

"This music is within the singing capacity of practically everyone even the smallest - yet it is Good Music, and by singing together a feeling of creating and experiencing jointly gives a feeling of accomplishment of joint contribution."

SONGS especially adapted to the very young (2-3):

This Old Man
All Around the Kitchen
Clap Your Hands
The Train Is A-Coming
There Was a Man and He Was Mad
Jim Along Josie

SUBJECT INDEX

Animals
Billy Barlow
Bought Me a Cat
Frog Went A-Courting
Jim Crack Corn

BUYING and SELLING
Bought Me a Cat

COUNTING and NUMBERS
This Old Man

FAMILY and HOME ACTIVITIES
All Around the Kitchen

GARDENS and GARDENING
Clap Your Hands

GOING PLACES
Train Is A-Coming

NONSENSE
Billy Barlow
Bought Me a Cat
Frog Went A-Courting
There Was a Man and He Was Mad
This Old Man

RHYTHMIC INDEX

General
Clap Your Hands
Jim Along Josie (10 examples)

CLAPPING and RHYTHM BAND

All Around the Kitchen
Jim Along Josie
There Was a Man and He Was Mad

JUMPING and HOPPING

There Was a Man and He Was Mad

ROLLING

Jim Along Josie

HAMMERING, KNOCKING, etc.
This Old Man

SKIPPING

Billy Barlow

STRETCHING

Clap Your Hands

SWINGING

Billy Barlow

STONE PLAY

Bought Me a Cat
There Was a Man and He Was Mad

GAMES

All Around the Kitchen

FINGER PLAY

Clap Your Hands
This Old Man

SMALL DRAMA

Billy Barlow
She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain

BUILDING THE RAILROAD

Train Is A-Coming

FOLKWAYS RECORDS, No. FC 7601
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BOUGHT ME A CAT

I bought me a cat, the cat pleased me,
Fed my cat under yonder tree,
Cat went fiddle-i-fee, fiddle-i-fee.

I bought me a hen, the hen pleased me,
Fed my hen under yonder tree,
Hen went chipsey, chopsey, cat went
fiddle-i-fee, fiddle-i-fee.

I bought me a duck the duck pleased me,
Fed my duck under yonder tree,
Duck went slishy, sloshy, hen went
chipsey, chopsey, cat went fiddle i-fee,
fiddle-i-fee.

I bought me a goose, the goose pleased
me,
Fed my goose under yonder tree,
Goose went qua, qua, duck went slishy
sloshy, hen went chipsey, chopsey,
cat went fiddle-i-fee, fiddle-i-fee.

I bought me a dog, the dog pleased me,
Fed my dog under yonder tree,
Dog went bow, wow, goose went qua, qua,
duck went slishy, sloshy, hen went
chipsey, chopsey, cat went fiddle-i-fee,
fiddle-i-fee.

I bought me a sheep, the sheep pleased
me,
Fed my sheep under yonder tree,
Sheep went baa, baa, dog went bow, wow,
goose went qua, qua, duck went
slishy, sloshy, hen went chipsey,
chopsey, cat went fiddle-i-fee, fiddle-
i-fee.

I bought me a cow, the cow pleased me,
Fed my cow under yonder tree,
Cow went moo, moo, sheep went baa,
baa, dog went bow, wow, goose went
qua, qua, duck went slishy, sloshy,
hen went chipsey, chopsey, cat went
fiddle-i-fee, fiddle-i-fee.

I bought me a horse, the horse pleased
me,
Fed my horse under yonder tree,
Horse went neigh, cow went moo, moo,
sheep went baa, baa, dog went bow,
wow, goose went qua, qua, duck
went slishy, sloshy, hen went chipsey,
chopsey, cat went fiddle-i-fee, fiddle
-i-fee.

Well, I bought me a baby, the baby
pleased me,
Fed my baby under yonder tree,
Baby went mammy, mammy, horse
went neigh, cow went moo, moo,
sheep went baa, baa, dog went bow,
wow, goose went qua, qua, duck went
slishy, sloshy, hen went chipsey,
chopsey, cat went fiddle-i-fee, fiddle
-i-fee.

I bought me a woman, the woman pleased
me,
Fed my woman under yonder tree,
Woman cried honey, honey, baby went
mammy, mammy, horse went neigh,
cow went moo, moo, sheep went baa,
baa, dog went bow, wow, goose went
qua, qua, duck went slishy, sloshy,
hen went chipsey, chopsey, cat went
fiddle-i-fee, fiddle-i-fee.

JIM CRACK CORN (Big Old Owl)

Big old owl with eyes so bright,
On many a dark and starry night,
I've often heard my true love say,
"Sing all night and sleep all day."

Refrain: Jim crack corn, I don't care,
Jim crack corn, I don't care,
Jim crack corn, I don't care,
Old master's gone away.

Said the blackbird to the crow:
Down to the cornfield let us go;
Pulling up corn has been our trade,
Ever since Adam and Eve was made.

Refrain: Jim crack corn, etc.

Said the sheldrake to the crane:
When do you think we'll have some rain?
The farm's so muddy and the brook so
dry,
If it wasn't for the tadpoles, we'd all die.

Refrain: Jim crack corn, etc.

When I was a boy I used to wait
On master's table and pass the plate,
Hand round the bottle when he got dry,
And brush away the blue-tail fly.

Refrain: Jim crack corn, etc.

THE TRAIN IS A-COMING

The train is a-coming, oh, yes, etc.

Who'll be the engine, oh, yes, etc.

Who'll be the coal car, oh, yes, etc.

Mary is the engineer, oh, yes, etc.

Pete is the brakeman, oh, yes, etc.

Who'll be the conductor, oh, yes, etc.

Who'll be the passengers, oh, yes, etc.

Better get your ticket, oh, yes, etc.

Let's see you punch the ticket, oh, yes,
etc.

THIS OLD MAN

This old man, he plays one,
He plays knick knack on his thumb,
Knick knack paddy whack, give a dog
a bone,
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he plays two,
He plays knick knack on his shoe,
Knick knack, paddy whack, give your
dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he plays three,
He plays knick knack on my knee.

This old man, he plays four,
He plays knick knack on the floor.

This old man, he plays five,
He plays knick knack on his hives.

This old man, he plays six,
He plays knick knack on his sticks.

This old man, he played seven,
He played knick knack up to heaven.

This old man, he plays eight,
He plays knick knack on his gate.

This old man he played nine,
He plays knick knack on his spine.

This old man, he plays ten,
He plays knick knack now and then.
Knick knack, paddy whack, give your
dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.

FROG WENT A-COURTIN'

Frog went a-courtin' and he did ride,
M-hm,
Frog went a-courtin' and he did ride,
M-hm,
Frog went a-courtin' and he did ride,
Sword and pistol by his side, M-hm.

He rode up to Miss Mousie's door, M-hm,
He rode up to Miss Mousie's door, M-hm,
He rode up to Miss Mousie's door,
Gave three raps and a very loud roar,
M-hm.

He said, "Miss Mouse, are you within?"
M-hm, etc.
"Yes, kind sir, I sit and spin, M-hm."

He took Miss Mousie on his knee,
Said, "Miss Mousie, will you marry Me?"

"Without my Uncle Rat's consent,
I would not marry the President."

Uncle Rat he laughed and shook his fat
sides,
To think his niece would be a bride.

Uncle Rat went a-running down to town
To buy his niece a wedding gown.

"Where will the wedding supper be?"
"Way down yonder in the hollow tree."

"What will the wedding supper be?"
"A fried mosquito and a black-eyed pea."

First to come in was a flying moth,
She laid out the table cloth.

Next to come in was a Juney bug,
Carrying a water jug.

Next to come in was a bumberly bee,
Balancing a fiddle on his knee.

Next to come in was a broken-backed
flea,
Danced a jig with the bumberly bee.

Next to come in was Missus Cow,
Tried to dance but she didn't know how.

Next to come in was a little black tick,
He ate so much he made himself sick.

Next to come in was Doctor Fly,
Said Mister Tick you'll surely die.

Next to come in was a big black snake,
Ate up all of the wedding cake.

Next to come in was an old gray cat,
She swallowed the mouse and ate up the
rat.

Mister Frog went a-hopping over the
brook,
A lily-white duck came and swallowed
him up.

Little piece of cornbread lying on the
shelf,
If you want any more you can sing it
yourself.

SIDE II

JIM ALONG JOSIE

Hey jim along, jim along Josie,
Hey jim along, jim along Jo. (Repeat)

Walk jim along, jim along Josie, etc.

Hop jim along, jim along Josie, etc.

Tiptoe along, jim along Josie, etc.

Crawl along, jim along Josie, etc.

Swing along, jim along Josie, etc.

Roll jim along, jim along Josie, etc.

Jump jim along, jim along Josie, etc.

Run jim along, jim along josie, etc.

THERE WAS A MAN and HE WAS MAD

There was a man and he was mad
And he jumped into the pudding bag.

The pudding bag it was so fine
That he jumped into a bottle of wine.

The bottle of wine it was so clear
That he jumped into a bottle of beer.

The bottle of beer it was so thick
That he jumped into a walking stick.

The walking stick it was so narrow
That he jumped into a wheel barrow.

The wheel barrow began to crack
And he jumped onto a horse's back.

And the horse's back began to break
So he jumped into a chocolate cake.

The chocolate cake it was so rotten
That he jumped into a bag of cotton.

The bag of cotton caught on fire
And blew him up to Jeremiah.

Pouf!

CLAP YOUR HANDS

Clap, clap, clap your hands,
Clap your hands together,
Clap, clap, clap your hands,
Clap your hands together.

Stamp, stamp, stamp your feet, etc.

Tap, tap, tap your toes, etc.

Nod, nod, nod your head, etc.

Shake, shake, shake your hands, etc.

Stretch, stretch, stretch up high, etc.

Wheels, wheels going round, etc.

Dig, dig, dig the ground, etc.

See, see, see the moon, etc.

Sing, sing, sing a song, etc.