


smithsonian
folkways
children's
music
collection

 Smithsonian
Folkways

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, Center for Folklife Programs & Cultural Studies, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7300
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 Smithsonian Folkways

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These 26 songs, play-party games, and poems selected from over 200 outstanding recordings for children on Smithsonian Folkways Recordings and Folkways Records present a panorama of music performed for and by young children. If you have never heard of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings or Folkways before, this collection will reveal a whole world of sound; if you have heard some already, you will still be delighted by the breadth and variety of this collection. Includes notes, song texts, and a complete list of recordings for children.

1 Riding in My Car (Car Song)

Woody Guthrie 1:49

2 Mary Mack *Ella Jenkins* 1:56

3 All Around the Kitchen *Pete Seeger* 1:59

4 Ha-Ha This-a-way *Lead Belly* 1:33

5 Merrily We Roll Along *Lord Invader with The Calypso Orchestra* 4:11

6 Miwoe Nenyoy *W. K. Amoaku* 2:14

7 Pole Pole *Ella Jenkins* 4:46

8 "Dreams" and "Youth" *Langston Hughes* 0:54

9 Why, Oh Why *Woody Guthrie* 3:26

10 I Had a Rooster *Pete Seeger* 3:51

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12 Sur le Pont d'Avignon *Alan Mills* 1:05

13 Benjamin Franklin (jump rope rhyme) *Illinois school children* 0:19

14 Los Pollitos/The Chicks *Suni Paz* 1:12

15 Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star *Ella Jenkins* 1:13

16 ABC's *Ella Jenkins* 0:55

17 Animal Alphabet Song *Alan Mills* 2:10

18 Whoopie Ti Yi Yo *Cisco Houston* 1:31

19 A la vibora de la mar/Serpent of the Sea *Mexican children* 1:05

20 Wolf Song and Turtle Song *Irene Poolaw* 0:50

21 "Bedbug" *Arna Bontemps* 0:35

22 Skip to My Lou and Four Pence a Day *Pete Seeger* 3:36

23 Hey, Coal Miner *Larry Long & Mrs. Side's 6th Grade Class* 4:03

24 Among the Little White Daisies *Jeanne Ritchie* 1:27

25 Old Bell Cow *New Lost City Ramblers* 3:05

26 One Grain of Sand (excerpt) *Pete Seeger* 3:06



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- 1 Riding in My Car (Car Song) Woody Guthrie 1:49 (WORDS AND MUSIC BY WOODY GUTHRIE/TRO-FOLKWAYS MUSIC PUBLISHERS, INC., BMI) from *Woody Guthrie, Nursery Days* (1951) SFW 45036
- 2 Mary Mack Ella Jenkins 1:56 (TRADITIONAL WORDS; MUSIC BY ELLA JENKINS/ELLBERN PUB. CO., ASCAP) from *Ella Jenkins, You'll Sing a Song, I'll Sing a Song* (1966) SFW 45010
- 3 All Around the Kitchen Pete Seeger 1:59 from *Pete Seeger, American Folk Songs for Children* (1953) SFW 45020
- 4 Ha-Ha This-a-way Lead Belly 1:33 (WORDS AND MUSIC ARRANGED BY HUDDIE LEDBETTER/TRO-FOLKWAYS MUSIC, BMI) from *Lead Belly, Where Did You Sleep Last Night* (1942) SFW 40043
- 5 Merrily We Roll Along Lord Invader with The Calypso Orchestra 4:11 (WORDS AND MUSIC BY LORD INVADER) from *West Indian Folksongs for Children* (1960) FOLKWAYS 7744
- 6 Miwoe Nenyo W. K. Amoaku 2:14 (DR. W. K. AMOAKU/ORFF SCHULWERK IN THE AFRICAN TRADITION) from *African Songs & Rhythms for Children* (1990) SFW 45011
- 7 Pole Pole Ella Jenkins 4:46 (MUSIC AND WORDS BY ELLA JENKINS/1974 ELBERN PUB. CO., ASCAP) from *Jambo, and Other Call and Responses Songs and Chants* (1974) SFW 45017
- 8 "Dreams" and "Youth" Langston Hughes 0:54 (WORDS © 1959 ALFRED A. KNOPF, INC.) from *The Voice of Langston Hughes, Selected Poetry and Prose Read by the Author* (1995) SFW 47001
- 9 Why, Oh Why Woody Guthrie 3:26 (WORDS AND MUSIC BY WOODY GUTHRIE/TRO-LUDLOW MUSIC, INC., BMI) from *Woody Guthrie, Songs to Grow On for Mother and Child* (1956) SFW 45035
- 10 I Had a Rooster Pete Seeger 3:51 from *Pete Seeger, Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Fishes (Little and Big)* (1955) SFW 45021
- 11 "Oksn" Ruth Rubin 1:33 from *Jewish Children's Songs and Games* (1957) FOLKWAYS 7224
- 12 Sur le Pont d'Avignon Alan Mills 1:05 from *French Folk Songs for Children* (1953) FOLKWAYS 7208
- 13 Benjamin Franklin (jump rope rhyme) Illinois school children 0:19 from *Skip Rope Games* (1955) FOLKWAYS 7029
- 14 Los Pollitos/The Chicks Suni Paz 1:12 from *Suni Paz, Canciones para el Recreo/Children's Songs for the Playground* (1989) SFW 45013
- 15 Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star 1:13 (ARRANGED BY ELLA JENKINS/ELLBERN PUBLISHING CO., ASCAP) from *Ella Jenkins, Early, Early Childhood Songs* (1982) SFW 45015
- 16 ABC's Ella Jenkins 0:55 (ARRANGED BY ELLA JENKINS/ELLBERN PUBLISHING CO., ASCAP) from *Ella Jenkins, Early, Early Childhood Songs* (1982) SFW 45015
- 17 Animal Alphabet Song Alan Mills 2:10 (WORDS AND MUSIC BY ALAN MILLS) from *14 Numbers, Letters and Animal Songs* (1972) FOLKWAYS 7545
- 18 Whoopie Ti Yi Yo Cisco Houston 1:31 from *Songs to Grow On, Volume 3: This Land Is My Land: American Work Songs* (1961) FOLKWAYS 7027
- 19 A la vibora de la mar/Serpent of the Sea Mexican children 1:05 from *Latin American Children's Game Songs Recorded in Puerto Rico and Mexico by Henrietta Yurchenco* (1968) FOLKWAYS 7851
- 20 Wolf Song and Turtle Song Irene Poolaw 0:50 from *A Fish That's a Song* (1990) SFW 45037
- 21 "Bedbug" Arna Bontemps 0:35 from *An Anthology of African American Poetry for Young People, compiled and read by Arna Bontemps* (1958) SFW 45044
- 22 Skip to My Lou and Four Pence a Day Pete Seeger 3:36 from *Pete Seeger, Folk Songs for Young People* (1959) SFW 45024
- 23 Hey, Coal Miner Larry Long & Mrs. Side's 6th Grade Class 4:03 (WORDS [AND PERFORMANCE] BY LARRY LONG WITH MRS. SIDE'S 6TH GRADE CLASS OF T. W. MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL, GOODSPRINGS, ALABAMA; MUSIC BY LARRY LONG, BMI) from *Larry Long with the Youth and Elders of Rural Alabama, Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom and Children's Song* (1996) SFW 45050
- 24 Among the Little White Daisies Jeanne Ritchie 1:27 from *Jean Ritchie Sings Children's Songs from the Southern Mountains* (1957) FOLKWAYS 7054
- 25 Old Bell Cow New Lost City Ramblers 3:05 (MIKE SEEGER, TOM PALEY, AND JOHN COHEN [SOURCE: DIXIE CRACKERS]) from *Old Timey Songs for Children* (1959) FOLKWAYS 7064
- 26 One Grain of Sand (excerpt) Pete Seeger 3:06 and fade (WORDS AND MUSIC BY PETE SEEGER/LUDLOW MUSIC INC., BMI) from *Pete Seeger, Abiyoyo and Other Story Songs for Children* (1958) SFW 45001

introduction *Anthony Seeger*

The purpose of this anthology of music for children from Smithsonian Folkways Recordings is to give listeners a chance to experience the variety, excitement, and fun of a selection of songs found on many different recordings for children that Folkways and Smithsonian Folkways have issued over the years. We hope this will lead you to other recordings by the same artists, or of the same type. Each song comes from an entire recording. If you like the song or the artist, look for the whole recording and try that. If you want to learn more about Smithsonian Folkways recordings, look on the last page of this booklet. You can send for a catalogue, or look at the contents of each recording on the Internet (<http://www.si.edu/folkways>). You can also obtain a children's music catalogue from 1-800-410-9815.

Singing together is a wonderful family activity. You can sing almost anywhere—riding in the car, skipping down the sidewalk, cleaning up a room, getting ready for bed, or sitting together on the floor. You don't need to buy anything special to do it—almost everyone is born with a voice. A song never need be the same twice—you can sing in different voices, or make up special verses for your own family

and activities. Try some harmony, too; it gives everyone something different to do.

Singing is fun in school, too. If you are a teacher, you can use singing to bring children together and create a group feeling based on common experience, rather than on exclusion and difference. You can use songs to start off discussions of all kinds of subjects, from numbers to far-away places to historical events. If you are a child, singing is a nice break from school routine—it's a new way to learn and enjoy it.

Moses Asch started Folkways Records in 1948. He thought children should be exposed to good, authentic music from many different musicians and many cultural backgrounds. His first children's record was of an African American musician named Lead Belly. He asked some of his most popular adult artists to produce children's recordings, too, and from these we have the contributions of Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Cisco Houston, and others. Asch also encouraged young performers to make a career out of making music with and for children, among them Ella Jenkins, one of the most important children's musicians of the century. We have gathered a selection of the artists and their songs together on this recording for you to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Folkways, and to celebrate the

continuing power these songs have today. Some of the people who heard them first as children are grandparents today—but children's songs can last for centuries.

Children's songs are not like popular music, which changes styles frequently. Some of these songs may have been around for centuries, like "Sur le Pont d'Avignon." Others were written recently, but build on the timelessness of simple rhythm, rhyme, and activities. Often older children teach younger children the songs and games, and they are passed on for decades without adult participation. Other songs and stories have always been taught by older members of a community. Enjoy them; learn them; dance to them; teach them to some friends. Because these songs were recorded over a period of decades and under many different conditions, the sound quality varies from track to track. We have worked from the best sources available, but some of them will sound quite rough compared to studio recordings of the 1990s.

Compared to other musical genres, children's music has received relatively little attention from scholars. There are, however, some important exceptions, among them the two below. Dr. Campbell's 1998 book provides a good bibliography for going further.

Campbell, Patricia S. *Songs in Their Heads: Music and Its Meaning in Children's Lives.*

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Opie, Iona and Peter Opie. *The Singing Game.*

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Folkways Records issued over 200 recordings for children between 1948 and 1986. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, founded in 1988, has reissued some of them, but not all of them. All of the songs on this recording that say "From such-and-such a recording, SFW 45____" are from Smithsonian Folkways (SFW). You can ask for those in your local record store, or order them from our mail order. If the song says "From such-and-such a recording, F 7____," it is from a Folkways Record (F) we have not reissued yet. By special order, however, these are all available on CD or cassette with their original liner notes. They can only be purchased from our mail order office. Some of the special-order titles are quite short (many were originally issued as 10" LPs) and the notes have not been updated, but they remain enduring contributions to children's music recordings.

We provide a full list of Folkways recordings for children at the back of this booklet. More information about each recording is on

the Internet (<http://www.si.edu/folkways>). View the song lists on each recording by clicking on “database search,” then searching by album, catalogue number, or title.

about the songs

1. Riding in My Car (Car Song)

Woody Guthrie 1:49 from *Woody Guthrie, Nursery Days* (1951) SFW 45036, track 4.

In the late 20th century many children spend a lot of time in the car, and this is a good song to sing on a trip—though you might want to rethink the verses to take account of seat belts and airbags (unknown when this song was written) and the sound of the horn. Woody Guthrie (1912–1967) was a prolific and influential songwriter, whose best-known songs include “This Land Is Your Land” and “Roll On, Columbia.” In the 1940s he recorded hundreds of songs for Moses Asch, among them dozens of songs he wrote for and sang with his own children. The best of these have been reissued on two Smithsonian Folkways recordings (SFW 45035 and 45036). *Nursery Days* is targeted at children 2–6, but, as Woody wrote, “I spilled over a bit on every side, because all of us sang and danced these songs, and all of us got

about the same kick out of them.”

He instructed parents: “I want to see you join right in, do what your kids do. Let your kids teach you how to play and how to act these songs out. (These and thousands of other songs.) Get your whole family into the fun.... I don’t want kids to be grownup. I want to see the grown folks be kids” (from the Introduction to *Nursery Days* by Woody Guthrie).

Take me riding in the car, car
Take me riding in the car, car
Take you riding in the car, car
Take you riding in the car.

Click, clack, open up the door, girls,
Click, clack, open up the door, boys,
Front door, back door, clickety, clack,
Take you riding in my car.

Climb, climb around on the front seat,
Spree, I spraddle on the back seat,
Turn my key, step on the starter,
Take you riding in my car.

The engine it goes brrrr, brrrr,
The engine it goes brrrr, brrrr,
Front seat, back seat, boys and girls,
Take you riding in my car.

Trees and houses walk along,

Great big buildings walk along,
Truck and car and a garbage can,
Take you riding in my car.

Well, ships and little boats chug along,
Ships and little boats chug along,
Brrrr, brrrr, roll-y home,
Take you riding in my car.

I’m going to let you blow the horn,
I’m going to let you blow the horn,
Rrrrr, rrrrr, rrrr, rrrr,
Take you riding in my car.

2. Mary Mack Ella Jenkins 1:56

from *Ella Jenkins, You’ll Sing a Song, I’ll Sing a Song* (1966 and 1989) SFW 45010, track 26.
Also appears on *Ella Jenkins, Songs Children Love to Sing* (1996) SFW 45042, track 2.

Ella Jenkins has been inspiring children and adults through her performances and recordings for many years. She has issued over 28 cassettes and CDs on Smithsonian Folkways recordings, and two videotapes. Ella Jenkins is Folkways’ best-known children’s artist—she has appeared with Mr. Rogers and Barney, received dozens of awards, and travels unceasingly. *You’ll Sing a Song, I’ll Sing a Song* is the most popular recording in Folkways history. Each Ella Jenkins album has a theme

and is targeted at a particular age group. Through her songs, instrumentals, and stories Ella instructs, entertains, and inspires children and teachers alike. A list of her recordings appears at the back of this booklet. Many of her songs involve the children through call and response, like this one, where they repeat lines and clap their hands. See also her songbook *This is Rhythm*, published by *SingOut!* Corp., 1993.

Miss Mary Mack, MACK, MACK
All dressed in black, BLACK, BLACK
With silver buttons, BUTTONS, BUTTONS
All down her back, BACK, BACK.

She asked her mother, MOTHER, MOTHER
For fifteen cents, CENTS, CENTS
To see the elephants, ELEPHANTS, ELEPHANTS,
Jump the fence, FENCE, FENCE.

They jumped so high, HIGH, HIGH
They touched the sky, SKY, SKY
And they never came back, BACK, BACK
’Til the Fourth of July, LY, LY
And they never came back, BACK, BACK
’Til the Fourth of July, LY, LY.

3. All Around the Kitchen Pete Seeger 1:59
from *Pete Seeger, American Folk Songs for Children* (1953) SFW 45020, track 10.

This is a great rainy-day activity song for the whole family. The 11 songs on *American Folk Songs for Children* were selected by Pete Seeger from an anthology of songs arranged for children by his stepmother, Ruth Crawford Seeger (*American Folk Songs for Children*, Doubleday & Company, 1948, and still available). Six of the songs were especially adapted for children 2–3 years old, and many of them can be performed with movements, like this lively song for dancing around the kitchen.

Although best known as a songwriter and inspiring song leader, Pete Seeger also recorded songs for children. He recorded most of his children's albums on Folkways when his own children were young, in the 1950s. His recordings include many activity and play-party songs. A play-party is a gathering of young people for playing singing games. They may be played in school yards, homes, recreation centers, and wherever there is room to move around and singing is allowed (Botkin, *The American Play-Party Song*, Unger, 1963).

Chorus:

All around the kitchen/Cocky doodle doo

All around the kitchen/Cocky doodle doo
Now you stop right still/Cocky doodle doo.
Put your right foot up, etc...
Raise your left hand high, etc...
Put your hand on your hip, etc...
And the other on your toe, etc...
Now you close both eyes, etc...
And you turn all around, etc....

4. Ha-Ha This-a-way Lead Belly 1:33
from *Lead Belly, Where Did You Sleep Last Night* (1942) SFW 40043, track 19. Also on the forthcoming *Lead Belly Sings for Children* (1999) SFW 45047.

The African American singer Huddie Ledbetter (1888–1949), better known as Lead Belly, learned a huge repertory of songs in his lifetime, and recorded many of them for Moses Asch. Among his best-known songs are “Goodnight Irene” and “Take This Hammer.” He also recorded many songs for children, drawing on his experience as a child in Louisiana. *Where Did You Sleep Last Night—Lead Belly Legacy Volume 1* includes several children's songs on its 34 tracks, but is mostly directed to adults. In addition to the three volumes of *Lead Belly Legacy* (SFW 40044, SFW 40045, SFW 40056), children's songs are also found on *Lead Belly's Last Ses-*

sions (SFW 40068). Like many children's songs, the text of “Ha-Ha This-a-Way” concerns “adult” topics, such as divorce, punishment, marriage, and death (see also track 24 below). Yet children everywhere must deal with the stresses of life, and many of these are expressed through songs and games.

Lead Belly introduces this song with the following description: “This is a children's play song. Now the children, when they play back in my home, they put one in [the center of a] ring and they sing...” The children circle around the boy or girl in the center of the ring of dancers. When they sing ‘ha-ha-this-a-way’ the boy or girl has to jump in one direction; when they say ‘ha-ha-that-a-way’ he or she has to jump the other way.”

For music and information about the song, see *Sing Out!* Magazine, volume 2, no. 8 (1952) and John A. and Alan Lomax, *Lead Belly, No Stranger to the Blues* (TRO-FOLKWAYS MUSIC, 1998).

Chorus:

Ha-Ha this a-way, Ha-Ha that a-way
Ha-Ha this a-way, then, oh then...
Ha-Ha this a-way, Ha-Ha that a-way
Ha-Ha this a-way, then, oh then....

When I was a little boy...12 years old

Papa went and left me...so I was told
Mama came and got me...to save my soul
Mama never whupped me...so I was told
I went to school...when I was 12 years old
Obeyed the rules...as I was told
Went to a teacher...to save my soul
Teacher was a preacher...so I was told
I learned my lesson...to save my soul
Wasn't that a blessin'...so I was told

5. Merrily We Roll Along Lord Invader with
The Calypso Orchestra 4:11 from *West Indian
Folksongs for Children* (1960) FOLKWAYS 7744,
track 1.

Children's songs come in all languages and many different rhythms. This version of an old song (also the melody for “London Bridge Is Falling Down”) gives it a new Calypso beat and improvisational instrumentals, and it is fun to dance around the room to this music. Lord Invader recorded two albums for children on Folkways. This one, *West Indian Folksongs for Children*, includes nine songs by this artist, and it is a special-order cassette or CD available only from mail order. It cannot be found in stores. Call 1-800-410-9815 or see back cover for instructions on ordering.

Chorus:

Merrily we roll along, roll along, roll along
Merrily we roll along,/My fair lady.

I lost my watch and broke my chain
Broke my chain, broke my chain
I lost my watch and broke my chain
My fair lady.

I lost the buttons off my coat...
Now kids will you please jump around...
Down to prison you must go...

6. Miwoe Nenyō A. Kdjo *Tetty, drums, vocal, and bell*; W. K. Amoaku, *vocal and drums* 2:14 from *African Songs & Rhythms for Children* (1990) SFW 45011, track 2.

This is a children's game song of the Ewe people of Ghana, in Africa. Rhythm is important in their games. Many more complex rhythms are built by adding one simple rhythm to another, and then adding a vocal part. *African Songs & Rhythms for Children* was prepared under the guidance of Dr. Carl Orff to represent the African version of an approach to music education called the *Orff Schulwerk*. The recording re-emphasizes the close interrelationship between the traditional African approach and *Orff Schulwerk* in rhythm, movement, and improvisation, which

for many years were not considered by many music educators to be important aspects of music education. The recording is meant to be used with a published book, *African Songs and Rhythms for Children: A Selection from Ghana* by W. K. Amoaku, published in Mainz by Edition Schott 6376, B. Schott's Sohne.

7. Pole Pole Ella Jenkins 4:46 from *Jambo, and Other Call and Response Songs and Chants* (1974) SFW 45017, track 4.

Many of Ella Jenkins' recordings are designed to introduce children to new languages and new places. This song is from a recording she made after visiting East Africa, and uses words in the Swahili language. Like many of her songs, this one involves children not only in singing but in creating the song by adding words or moving their hands and bodies. Other good recordings for introducing children to different cultures are *Ella Jenkins, Multicultural Children's Songs* (SFW 45045) and *Ella Jenkins, Songs and Rhythms from Near and Far* (SFW 45033). For a description of Ella Jenkins, see track 2 above.

(pronounced *pob-lay pob-lay*)

Pole pole/Pole pole
Go slow, go slow/Go slow, go slow

Pole pole/Pole pole
For that's where the wild beasts go
For that's where the wild beasts go.
Take your time/Take your time
Go slow, go slow/Go slow, go slow
Take your time/Take your time
For that's where the zebras go
For that's where the zebras go.
Pole pole.... for that's where the kudus go.
Take your time...for that's where the elephants go.
Pole pole...for that's where the gerenuks go.
Take your time...for that's where the leopards go.
Pole pole...for that's where the baboons go.
Pole pole...that's where the hippos go.
Take your time...for that's where the ostriches go.
Pole pole....for that's where the goats go.
Pole pole... for that's where the gazelles all go.
Pole pole pole pole pole pole...

8. "Dreams" (1932) and "Youth" (1924) Langston Hughes 0:54 from *The Voice of Langston Hughes, Selected Poetry and Prose Read by the Author* (1995) SFW 47001, tracks 14 and 15.

The distance between song and poetry is a small one—for spoken words have rhythm and pitch just like sung ones. The renowned

African American poet, Langston Hughes (1902–1967), recorded a number of titles especially for children on Folkways in the 1950s. *The Voice of Langston Hughes* (SFW 47001) combines poetry, the blues, African American history, folklore, humor, jazz, and gospel music selected from his Folkways recordings. These two poems are from *Selected Poems by Langston Hughes*, © 1959 Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., and were written especially for young people and originally published in *The Dream Keeper* in 1955.

Dreams

Hold fast to dreams—
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

Youth

"And that is just what the poems are about in my book, *The Dream Keeper*. Its final poem is this one, called 'Youth.' It's dedicated to all the girls and boys, young men and young women today." —Langston Hughes

We have tomorrow
Bright before us
Like flame.

Yesterday
A night-gone thin.
A sun-down name.

And dawn-today
Broad arch above
The road we came.

We march
Americans together!

We march!

9. **Why, Oh Why Woody Guthrie** 3:26
from *Woody Guthrie, Songs to Grow On for
Mother and Child* (1956) SFW 45021, track 13.

Many children pass through a stage of asking “why” about everything—and this is a song for all ages and a good example of Woody Guthrie’s whimsical style. Some questions are hard to answer, some answers don’t exactly fit the rhyme, but the repeating lines are easy for everyone to learn. *Woody Guthrie, Songs to Grow On for Mother and Child* was designed for children ages 2–5, and includes counting songs, playful songs, and other songs for young children. For more information on

Woody Guthrie, see track 1 above.

Why can’t a dish break a hammer?
Why, oh why, oh why?
'Cause a hammer’s a hard head.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

Chorus: Why, oh why, oh why-o,
Why, oh why, oh why?
Because, because, because, because.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

Why can’t a bird eat an elephant?
Why, oh why, oh why?
'Cause an elephant’s got a pretty hard skin.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

Why can’t a mouse eat a streetcar?
Why, oh why, oh why?
'Cause a mouse’s stomach could never get big
enough to hold a streetcar.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

Why does a horn make music?
Why, oh why, oh why?
Because the horn player blows it.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

Why does a cow drink water?
Tell me why and why.
Because a cow gets thirsty just like you and
me and everybody else.

Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

(Chorus)

Why don’t you answer my question?
Why, oh why, oh why?
'Cause I don’t know the answer.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

What makes a landlord take money?
Why, oh why, oh why?
I don’t know that one myself.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

Why’s there no pennies for ice cream?
Why, oh why, oh why?
You put all the pennies in the telephone.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

Why can’t a rabbit chase an eagle?
Why, oh why, oh why?
'Cause the last rabbit that took and chased
off after an eagle didn’t come off so good.
And that’s why rabbits don’t chase eagles, and
that’s all I know about rabbits and eagles.
Because, because, because.

Why ain’t my grandpa my grandma?
Why, oh why, oh why?
Same reason your dad is not mama.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

Why couldn’t the wind blow backwards?
Why, oh why, oh why?
'Cause it might backfire and hurt somebody
it’d keep on hurting them.
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

10. **I Had a Rooster Pete Seeger** 3:51
from *Pete Seeger, Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Fishes
(Little and Big)* (1955) SFW 45021, track 2.

Many songs for children develop their memory through repetition—something children enjoy. This song, filled with animal sounds, challenges singers to keep the order straight. In 1955 Moses Asch issued two recordings of animal songs by Pete Seeger, *Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Little Fishes* for younger children, and *Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Bigger Fishes* for older children. Changing technology has allowed us to issue them both on a single CD (and cassette) with the title *Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Fishes (Little and Big)*, including 28 animal songs and stories. Most children and adults will enjoy all of the songs.

I had a rooster and the rooster pleased me,
I fed my rooster on a greenberry tree,
The little rooster went cockadoodle-do-de
Doodle-de-doodle-de-doodle-de-day.
I had a cat and the cat pleased me,

I fed my cat on a greenberry tree,
The little cat goes meow, meow, meow,
The little rooster goes cockadoodle-do-de
Doodle-de-doodle-de-doodle-de-day.
I had a duck, etc.
I had a pig, etc.
I had a cow, etc.
I had a lion, etc.
I had a baby, etc.

11. "Oksn" *Ruth Rubin with Pete Seeger on
banjo* 1:33 from *Jewish Children's Songs and
Games* (1957) FOLKWAYS 7224, track 3.

The 14 songs on *Jewish Children's Songs
and Games* represent different types of chil-
dren's Yiddish folk songs current in Jewish
communities in Eastern Europe a century
ago. "Oksn" is another example of a cumula-
tive song, where each verse adds a new ani-
mal and a new activity which have to be
repeated with the earlier ones (like Pete
Seeger's song above). Yiddish was the moth-
er tongue of many Eastern European Jewish
communities for a thousand years. With the
decimation of European Jewry during World
War II, Yiddish songs and traditions were
also silenced. Today, however, there is a
revival of Yiddish language, music, and cul-
ture throughout the world.

Ruth Rubin issued many recordings on
Folkways Records. Her notes to this record-
ing describe the songs and give the texts in
Yiddish and English. This album is a spe-
cial-order cassette or CD available only from
mail order. It cannot be found in stores.
Phone 1-800-410-9815.

Hob ich a por oksn, oksn,
Vos zay brokn lokshn, lokshn,
Ay vunder, ibber vunder,
Vi di oksn brokn lokshn,
Dos iz mir a vunder/Dos iz mir a vunder!

Hob ich a por bern, bern
Vos zay shtiber kern, kern,
Ay vunder, ibber vunder,
Vi di bern shtiber kern,
Un di oksn brokn lokshn,
Dos iz mir a vunder/Dos iz mir a vunder!

Hob ich a por tsign, tsign,
Vos zay kinder vign, vign,
Ay vunder, ibber vunder,
Vi di tsign kinder vign,
Un di bern shtiber kern,
Un id oksn brokn lokshn,
Dos iz mir a vunder/Dos iz mir a vunder!

Ho ich a por hint, hint,
Vos zay machn tint, tint,

Ah vunder, ibber vunder,
Vi di hint machn tint,
Un di tsign kinder vign,
Un di bern shtiber kern,
Un di oksn brokn lokshn,
Dos iz mir a vunder/Dos iz mir a vunder!

Hob ich a por hener, hener,
Vos zay klybn shpener, shpener,
Ay vunder, ibber vunder,
Vi di hint macn tint,
Un di tsign kinder vign,
Un di bern shtiber kern,
Un di oksn broken lokshn,
Dos iz mir a vunder/Dos iz mir a vunder!

Hob ich a por faygelech, faygelech,
Vos zay bakn baygelech, baygelech,
Ay vunder, ibber vunder,
Vi di faygelech bakn baygelech,
Un id hener klybn shpener,
Un id hint machn tint,
Un di tsign kinder vign,
Un id bern shtiber kern,
Un di oksn brokn lokshn,
Dos iz mir a vunder/Dos iz mir a vunder!

I have a pair of oxen, oxen,
Who chop noodles, noodles,
Oh, isn't it like magic

To see the oxen chopping noodles?
That is indeed magic!

I have a pair of bears, bears,
Who sweep the houses,
Oh, isn't it like magic./Oh, isn't it like magic
To see the bears sweeping houses,
And the oxen chopping noodles?
It is indeed like magic!

I have a pair of goats, goats,
Who rock the babies,
Oh, isn't it like magic
To see the goats rocking babies,
And the bears sweeping houses,
And the oxen chopping noodles?
It is indeed like magic!

I have a pair of dogs, dogs,
Who make ink, ink,
Oh, isn't it like magic
To see the dogs making ink,
And the goats rocking babies,
And the bears sweeping houses,
And the oxen chopping noodles?
It is indeed like magic!

I have a pair of roosters, roosters,
Who gather kindling-wood, kindling-wood,
Oh, isn't it like magic/To see the roosters
gathering kindling-wood,

And the dogs making ink,
And the goats rocking babies,
And the bears sweeping houses,
And the oxen chopping noodles?
It is indeed like magic!

I have a pair of birdies, birdies,
Who bake the little doughnuts, doughnuts,
Oh, isn't it like magic
To see the birdies baking doughnuts,
And the roosters gathering kindling-wood,
And the dogs making ink,
And the goats rocking babies,
And the bears sweeping houses,
And the oxen chopping noodles?
It is indeed like magic,
It is indeed like magic!

12. *Sur le Pont d'Avignon* Alan Mills 1:05
from *French Folk Songs for Children* (1953)
FOLKWAYS 7208, track 1.

This is a well-known "action" song in the French language. Children can act out the parts of lords and ladies circling and bowing to one other. It is also an old song. According to Alan Mills, during the 13th century, when the French city of Avignon was the home of the Pope, the old Bridge of Avignon was the center of much of the social and religious life

of the district. People would meet one another and bow or curtsy on the bridge. The Pope long ago left for Rome and the old bridge is no longer the center of social life in the city, but children still sing the song in France, Canada, and the United States.

Alan Mills was a popular Canadian folk singer who recorded many albums for Folkways. The 20 songs on *French Folk Songs for Children* include 13 "play" songs and seven of the most popular "story" songs of French-speaking children. *French Folk Songs for Children* is a special-order cassette or CD available only through mail order. It cannot be found in stores: 1-800-410-9815.

Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse, danse,
Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse en rond.
Les beaux Messieurs font comme-çi.
Les belles Dames font comme-ça.
Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse, danse,
Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse en rond.
Les Cappucins font comme-çi,
Les Militaires font comme-ça.
Sur le pont d'Avignon,

Tout le monde y danse, danse,
Sur le pont d'Avignon,
Tout le monde y danse en rond.

13. *Benjamin Franklin* (jump rope rhyme)
Illinois school children 0:19 from *Skip Rope Games* (1955) FOLKWAYS 7029, track 19.

Children perform many rhymes, chants, and songs on their own, without any adult at all. While most of the songs on this CD are performed by adults for (and often with) children, many songs performed only by children are also to be found on Folkways. Among these are *Skip Rope Games* (F 7029), *Ring Games, Line Games, and Play Party Songs of Alabama* (F 7004), and *Latin American Children's Game Songs Recorded in Puerto Rico and Mexico by Henrietta Yurchenco* (F 7851).

Like track 12 above, this short rhyme with its anti-monarch sentiment may have been handed down from child to child for generations. You can hear the rope slapping in the background. *Skip Rope Games* is a collection of 32 jump rope rhymes sung by schoolchildren in Edgwood, Illinois, in 1952, recorded and photographed by Pete Seeger. The illustrated notes describe the different skip rope styles.

14. *Los Pollitos/The Chicks* Suni Paz, vocals, guitar; Norton Torres, guitar and cuatro; Jorge Morales, percussion 1:12 from *Suni Paz, Canciones para el Recreo/Children's Songs for the Playground* (1989) SFW 45013, track 3.

This is a song from Puerto Rico about baby chickens and their mother. Songs are a good way to learn languages, and children's songs are simple and repetitive enough to learn easily. The subject matter is common to many cultures—the activities of domestic animals. Suni Paz is an educator who has prepared two albums of songs for children in Spanish. *Canciones para el Recreo/Children's Songs for the Playground* is a collection of songs in Spanish that are fun for English speakers and Spanish speakers alike. The notes include translations of every song, and five songs are sung in both languages—like this one.

"Los Pollitos Dicen Pío, Pío"
(The Chicks Cry *oh, oh, oh*)

Los Pollitos dicen: "pío, pío, pío"
cuando tienen hambre/cuando tienen frío.
La gallina busca/el maíz y el trigo
les dará comida/y les presta abrigo.
Bajo sus dos alas,/Acurrucaditos,
hasta el otro día/duermen los pollitos.

The chick cry: "Oh!, oh!, oh!"
When they get hungry/When they get cold.
Mama chicken looks for/corn and wheat,
That will give them dinner,
That will give them heat.
Under her wings/Her chicks she'll keep,
Until the morning/They all will sleep.

15. Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star *Ella Jenkins*
1:13 from *Ella Jenkins, Early, Early Childhood Songs that have been sung by generations of children, with Ella Jenkins and some three- and four-year-olds from The Lake Meadows Nursery School* (1982) SFW 45015, track 9.

Twinkle twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder what you are.

16 ABC's *Ella Jenkins* 0:55
from *Ella Jenkins, Early, Early Childhood Songs that have been sung by generations of children, with Ella Jenkins and some three- and four-year-olds from The Lake Meadows Nursery School* (1982) SFW 45015, track 10.

Ella Jenkins says about her *Early, Early*

Childhood Songs: "These are simple songs and they have been sung by generations of children. I feel they are a good first step into music for little people. The simplicity of lyrics and the rhythmic quality, along with remembering long sequences and the rhyming value of the songs, enhance a child's musical expression" (from her introduction).

A, B, C, D, E, F, G
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P
Q, R, S, T, U, V
W, X, Y, and Z
Now I know my ABC's
Tell me what you think of me.

17. Animal Alphabet Song *Alan Mills, vocals; Bram Morrison, guitar* 2:10
from *14 Numbers, Letters and Animal Songs* (1972) FOLKWAYS 7545, track 6.

Numbers and the alphabet are the basis of many children's songs and games. This one is a little different because of the sheer number of animals mentioned. Alan Mills, a popular Canadian folk singer, recorded six albums of children's songs for Folkways, in English and French. This album is a special order cassette or CD available only from mail order. Phone 1-800-410-9815.

A is for ant, that's plain to see,
B is for bear and bumble-bee,
C is for cat and chicken and cow,
D is for dog that barks "bow-wow!"
E is for elephant, big and strong,
F for the fishes in a pond,
G is for goose and gander, of course,
H is for hen and hog and horse.
I is for ibis, a lovely fowl,
J is for jackal, who likes to howl,
K for the kicking kangaroo,
L is for lamb and lion, too.
M is for monkey, you will note,
N for nibbling nanny-goat,
O for the owl that sleeps all day,
P for the peacock, proud and gay.
Q is for quail, and R for rat,
S for the skunk, 'nough said of that!
T is for tadpole, toad, and tiger,
U for the unicorn, V for viper.
W is for walrus and for whale,
X is a cross and Y has a tail,
Z is for zebra, it can't be wrong,
And that is the end of this alphabet song.

18. Whoopie Ti Yi Yo *Cisco Houston* 1:31
from *Songs to Grow On, Volume 3: This Land Is My Land: American Work Songs* (1961) FOLKWAYS 7027, track 9.

This is a classic "cowboy song" with an easily sung chorus. Partly through the influence of the entertainment industry in the middle part of the 20th century, "cowboy" songs became popular and were often included in collections of songs for children. Cisco Houston recorded many songs for Folkways, frequently with his friend Woody Guthrie. Here he sings solo. *Songs to Grow On, Volume 3: This Land Is My Land: American Work Songs* is a collection of songs about work performed by Bill Bonyon, Sam Eskin, Woody Guthrie, Cisco Houston, Lead Belly, "Mac" McClintock, and Pete Seeger. Moses Asch, the founder of Folkways, thought that work was an important subject for children to listen to and learn about, and included songs about it on many of his recordings for children. This album is a special-order cassette or CD available only from mail order. It cannot be found in stores. Phone 1-800-410-9815.

As I was a-walkin' one mornin' for pleasure/
I spied a young cowboy a-ridin' along.
Well, his hat was shoved back, and his spurs
was a-jinglin',/And as he was riding he was
singing this song.

Chorus: Whoopie ti yi yo git along little dogies
It's your misfortune and none of my own,

Whoopee ti yi yo git along little dogies/ You know that Wyoming will be your new home.

Early in the springtime we round up the dogies,/We cut 'em out, brand 'em, and bob off their tails,/Round up the horses, load up the chuck wagon/Then throw the dogies out on the north trail.

(Chorus)

Your mother was raised way down in Texas/ Where the jimson weed and the cholla is grown/But we'll fill you up on those prickly pear briars/Until you are ready for Idaho.

(Chorus)

19. *A la víbora de la mar/Serpent of the Sea Mexican children* 1:05 from *Latin American Children's Game Songs Recorded in Puerto Rico and Mexico* by Henrietta Yurchenco (1968)

FOLKWAYS 7851, track 4.

"This is a well-known game in the Spanish-speaking world. It is played like the English London Bridge game. Two girls (each representing a flower or fruit), holding hands high, form a bridge. Singing the song, the players go through the bridge in single file. The last person who passes as the song ends is captured. The prisoner chooses a flower or fruit, and goes to one side or the

other. When everyone has been captured, there is a tug of war between the two teams" (from the liner notes).

To the serpent, serpent of the sea
Through here you can pass
Those in front run so fast
Those in back will stay behind
Three, three times pass through.
A Mexican lady who sold fruit
Plums, peaches, melon, or watermelons
Spoken: Shall it be melon or watermelon?
Shall it be the old lady of the other day
Sung: The bridge has fallen down
We must have it put up again
With the shells of an egg
And pieces of tinsel/Sel, sel, sel.
Little bells of gold/Let me go through
With all my children
Except the one in back
Back, back, back, back.

A la víbora, víbora de la mar/por aquí pueden pasar/los de adelante corren mucho
Los de atrás se quedarán
tres, tres, veces pasarán
Una Mexicana que fruta vendía
Ciruela, chabacances, melon, o sandía.
Spoken: ¿Será melon, será sandía,

será la vieja del otra día?

Sung: El puente se ha caído/hay que mandarlo a componer/con cascarras de huevo y pedazos de oropel/pel, pel, pel, pel.
Campanitas de oro/dejame a pasar con todos mis hijos
menos el de atrás/trás, atrás, atrás, atrás.

20. *Wolf Song and Turtle Song Irene Poolaw* 0:50 from *A Fish That's a Song* (1990) SFW 45037, side B, track 5.

Music, and especially song, is a very important part of social life in many American Indian nations. These songs were sung by Irene Poolaw in the Apache language. At the end of the "Wolf Song" the singer makes a sound like a wolf. This is a song from *A Fish That's a Song*—produced in collaboration with the National Museum of American Art. Each of the 19 songs is related to a piece of art in an exhibit of American art. The notes accompanying the cassette include photographs of each piece of art and a short description of the songs. This song accompanies a photograph of a carving of a wolf sitting on top of a turtle. *A Fish That's a Song* is another good introduction to the variety of music to be found on Folkways.

21. "Bedbug" *Arna Bontemps* 0:35 from *An Anthology of African American Poetry for Young People, compiled and read by Arna Bontemps* (1958) SFW 45044, side 1, track 2.

This is an anonymous children's rhyme from a collection of African American poetry compiled and read by Arna Bontemps. The poems on this *Anthology* were taken from his book *Golden Slippers* (Harper) and include poems by Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Beatrice Murphy, Claude McKay, Sterling Brown, and others. Arna Bontemps was the author and compiler of many books, and eventually became Head Librarian at Fisk University, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The June-bug's got the golden wing,
The lightning-bug the flame,
The bedbug's got no wing at all,
But he gets there just the same.

The Pumpkin-bug's got a pumpkin smell,
The squash-bug smells the worst,
But the perfume of that old bedbug,
Is enough to make you burst.

When that bedbug comes down to my house,
I takes my walking cane,
Go get a pot and scald him hot!
Good-bye, Miss Liza Jane!

22. Skip to My Lou and Four Pence a Day

Pete Seeger 3:36 from *Pete Seeger, Folk Songs for Young People* (1959) SFW 45024, tracks 1 and 5.

In *Folk Songs for Young People*, Pete Seeger uses one side to talk about and perform some of the different kinds of songs that have been composed about work and play. The second side is an excerpt from a concert. The song “Skip to My Lou” is also a play-party game and appears in a longer version on *Pete Seeger, American Game and Activity Songs for Children* (SFW 45025) with instructions for how to dance to it. “Four Pence a Day” is a 19th-century English song about the exploitation of child labor—a subject that continues to be of concern at the end of the 20th century. Children and disabled miners were used as inexpensive labor to separate the lead-bearing rocks from the gravel and mud in the Yorkshire lead mines. What is unusual about this song is that it is sung in the first person—the child speaking about his work in the mines. It is attributed to Thomas Raine, a lead miner who was fired and blacklisted for writing this song.

Hey, hey, skip to my Lou,
Hey hey, skip to my Lou.
Hey, hey, skip to my Lou

Skip to my Lou my darling.

Lost my partner, what I'll do...
Little red wagon, painted blue...
Flies in the sugar bowl, shoo, shoo...

“Four Pence a Day”

It's early in the morning, we rise at five o'clock./And the little slaves come to the door and knock, knock, knock./Come ye little washer lad, come let's away./We're bound down to slavery for four pence a day.

My daddy was a miner, and lived down in the town,/Twas hard work and poverty that always kept him down,/He aimed for me to go to school, but brass he couldn't pay./So I had to go to the washing rig, for four pence a day.

Four pence a day, me lad, for working like a horse,/And never a pleasant word from my gruffy-looking boss./His conscience it may fail, and his heart it may give way,/And he'll raise us our wages, for nine pence a day.

23. Interview with Atha Thacker and Hey, Coal Miner Larry Long & Mrs. Side's 6th Grade Class 4:03 from *Larry Long with the Youth and Elders of Rural Alabama, Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom and Children's Song* (1966) SFW 45050,

tracks 17 and 18.

Here is an example of another kind of activity for children that creates good music. In collaboration with the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative and the Program for Rural Services and Research at the University of Alabama, troubadour Larry Long went to rural Alabama schools and had the children invite older members of their communities into the classroom to interview them—or had children do interviews in the older peoples' homes. Then the children in each class would write a song about what they learned from talking to their elders. Some of the most successful of these songs, as well as parts of the interviews that stimulated them, were released on *Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song*. Interviewing community elders and writing songs about life's hardships and joys can be a very exciting and creative project for both schools and families. A teacher's guide is available from Larry Long, Community Celebration of Place, Box 581601, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55458-1601, or e-mail long@tt.net or Web site <http://www.tt.net/LarryLong>

For more information about the Pacers contact PACERS Cooperative, Program for Rural Services and Research, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0372, e-mail music@pacers.org

or Web site <http://www.pacers.org>

Both the interview and the song deal with the hardships of coal mining. Mr. Thacker, suffering from black lung disease, describes to two young students why he started working in the coal mines. The song that follows builds on that and other parts of their interview with him. The “Hoot Owl Shift” is the night shift; a “clacker” was a company coin that could only be exchanged at the company store. Miners early on were only paid in clackers.

A coal miner's job is never done
Works down in the ground away from the sun
Been a coal miner since he was young
Hey, coal miner!

From the Little to the Big Pratt
With a carbide lamp stuck to his hat
Digging for coal for the steam plant
Hey, coal miner!

Chorus: Goes in when it's dark/Comes out when it's light/For a Hoot Owl Shifter
The sun is too bright
Goes right to bed/Sleeps until night
Hey, coal miner!

Two or three clackers is what he got paid
For a hard day's work 'til his dying day

A clacker's not much, but that's what he made
Hey, coal miner!

With a wrist auger, brace, and a bit
Drilled a six-foot hole for the charges to fit
Not much time once the fuse got lit
Hey, coal miner! (Chorus)

Into the truck, then into the bath
Ground into dust, then in a flash
Turns into fire that turns into ash
Hey, coal miner!

When Daddy don't come out of the mine
There's so many kids left behind
She rears them all up on the hillside
Hey, coal miner! (Chorus)

A coal miner's job is never done
Works down in the ground away from the sun
Been a coal miner since he was young
Hey, coal miner!

24. Among the Little White Daisies Jeanne Ritchie 1:27 from *Jean Ritchie Sings Children's Songs from the Southern Mountains* (1957)
FOLKWAYS 7054, track 4.

This game-song dealing with serious subject matter was widely known throughout the southern United States. A circle of children revolves around one child in the center

during the first two verses. They then change direction and revolve the other way for the next two stanzas. For stanza five, everyone rests his head on his hands (to simulate being dead). In stanza six, everyone cries (in sorrow for the widow). At the end of the last stanza, the child in the center counts out 24 while pointing to each one of the children in the circle in turn. The child on whom the number 24 falls then takes his or her place in the center of the circle, and they repeat the song and the movements.

Jean Ritchie is a member of the famous Kentucky family often referred to as "The Singing Ritchies of Kentucky." She has performed widely and recorded many albums for Folkways Records, often accompanying herself on the guitar and the dulcimer, among them *Jean Ritchie and Doc Watson at Folk City* (SFW 40005). Her children's recording, *Jean Ritchie Sings Children's Songs and Games from the Southern Mountains*, is a special-order cassette or CD available only from mail order. It cannot be found in stores. Call 1-800-410-9815.

Jeannie is her first name,
First name, first name,
Jeannie is her first name,
Among the little white daisies.

Robinson is her second name,
Second name, second name,
Robinson is her second name,
Among the little white daisies.

Peter is his first name,
First name, first name,
Peter is his first name,
Among the little white daisies.

Ritchie is his second name,
Second name, second name.
Ritchie is his second name,
Among the little white daisies.

Now poor Peter is dead and gone,
Dead and gone, dead and gone.
Now poor Peter is dead and gone,
Among the little white daisies.

Left poor Jeannie a widow now,
Widow now, widow now.
Left poor Jeannie a widow now,
Among the little white daisies.

Twenty-four children at her feet,
At her feet, at her feet.
Twenty-four children at her feet,
Among the little white daisies.

(Spoken) One, two, three, four,...twenty-four!

25. Old Bell Cow New Lost City Ramblers 3:05
from *Old Timey Songs for Children* (1959)
FOLKWAYS 7064, track 1.

Taking care of the family milk cow and milking her was a chore often given to older children. Dairy cattle, while usually good natured, are not always well behaved. This is a song about a troublesome cow that gets into the garden, and eats a "best hat." The New Lost City Ramblers specialize in performing songs from the first third of the 20th century, which they have learned from both recordings and older musicians. They have released 18 albums on Folkways records, including a new recording in 1997 (*There Ain't No Way Out*, SFW 40098), and are celebrating their 40th anniversary with a tour in 1998. Their *Old Timey Songs for Children* contains nine songs, of which John Cohen writes, "Some of these songs I heard when I was a kid—and some of them I wish I had heard then." This album is a special order cassette or CD available only from mail order. It cannot be found in stores: Call 1-800-410-9815.

Went down to the cornfield to pick a mess of beans/
Along come the bell cow a-pecking at the greens.

Chorus: Oh the bell cow, catch her by the tail

Oh the bell cow, milk her in the pail.
Oh the bell cow, catch her by the tail
Oh the bell cow, milk her in the pail.

Some of these days when I learn how
I'm gonna milk that old bell cow
(Chorus)

The milk ain't whipped and the butter ain't
fat/The darned old cow ate my best hat.
(Chorus)

The old bell cow, I milked her in a gourd
I sold my milk and bought me a Ford.
(Chorus)

Way down yonder in Arkansas
The bell cow whipped her mammy-in-law.
(Chorus)

Some of these days when I learn how
I'm gonna' milk that old bell cow.

26. One Grain of Sand (excerpt)

Pete Seeger 3:06 and fade

from *Pete Seeger, Abiyoyo and Other Story
Songs for Children* (1958) SFW 45001, track 3.

Abiyoyo and Other Story Songs for Children
includes Pete's famous story/song about the
giant Abiyoyo, the story of Sam the Whaler,
and a nine-minute lullaby, "One Grain of
Sand," among other songs.

"This singer feels that the main function
of this record will be achieved if parents take

to the idea of singing lullabies for their own
children, and making up stories for them. For
is it not true that just as we would not want
to miss the pleasure of using our legs, simply
because we have automobiles, we would not
want to forget the fun of singing, nor of
telling and retelling stories, even though we
can agree that the LP record and the printing
press were great inventions?" (*from Pete
Seeger's introduction to the album*).

One grain of sand/One grain of sand
One drop of water in the sea
One grain of sand,
One little you, one little me.
One grain of sand
One lonely star up in the blue
One grain of sand
One little me, one little you.
One grain of sand is all my joy
One grain of sand is all my joy
One grain of sand
One leaf of grass upon a plain
I'll sing it now again and again and again.
One grain of sand in all the world
One grain of sand, one little boy, one little
girl.
One grain of sand, one lonely star up in the
sky
One grain of sand, one little you, one little I.

One leaf of grass upon the plain
One leaf of grass, we come and go again and
again.

The sun will rise and then go down
The sun will rise, one little world go round
and round and round.

So close your eyes and go to sleep
So close your eyes, one little smile, one little
weep.

One grain of sand upon the shore
One grain of sand, one little light, who'd ask
for more?

One grain of sand
One drop of water in the sea
One grain of sand
One little you, one little me.
One grain of sand is all my own
One grain of sand is home sweet home.
So go to sleep by the endless sea.

(*For the next 5 minutes of this song listen to
the CD*)

smithsonian folkways children's catalogue

Bontemps, Arna: *An Anthology of African American
Poetry for Young People* 1992 [reissue of FOLK-
WAYS 7114, 1958]. Compiled by Arna Bontemps.
SF 45044 CS

Guthrie, Woody: *Nursery Days* 1992 [reissue of
FOLKWAYS 7675, 1951 with tracks from 7016,
1985] SF 45036 CD, CS

Guthrie, Woody: *Songs to Grow On for Mother and
Child* 1991 [reissue of FOLKWAYS 7015, 1956 with
tracks from 7016, 1985]. SF 45035 CD, CS

Long, Larry: *Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Chil-
dren's Song* 1996 SF 45050 CD

Paz, Suni: *Alerta Sings: Children's Songs in Spanish
and English* 1992 [reissue of FOLKWAYS 7830,
1980] SF 45012 CS

Paz, Suni: *Canciones para el Recreo: Children's Songs
for the Playground* 1990 [reissue of FOLKWAYS
7850, 1977]. Annotated by Suni Paz. SF 45013
LP, CS, CD

Seeger, Pete: *Abiyoyo and Other Story Songs for
Children* 1989 [reissue of FOLKWAYS 7525, 1958].
Annotated by Pete Seeger. SF 45001 CD, LP, CS

Seeger, Pete: *American Folk Songs for Children* 1990
[reissue of FOLKWAYS 7601, 1953]. Annotated by
Anthony Seeger. SF 45020 LP, CS

Seeger, Pete: *American Game and Activity Songs for
Children* 1990 [reissue of FOLKWAYS 7674, 1962]
SF 45025 CS

Seeger, Pete: *Birds, Beasts, Bugs and Fishes (Little and Big)* 1998 [reissue of FOLKWAYS 7610 & 7611, 1955] SF 45039 CS, CD

Seeger, Pete: *Folk Songs for Young People* 1990 [reissue of FOLKWAYS 7532, 1959] SF 45024 CS, CD

Seeger, Pete: *Song and Play Time* 1990 [reissue of 7526, 1960] SF 45023 CS

COLLECTIONS

A Fish That's a Song: Songs and Stories for Children 1990 [Compilation from FOLKWAYS recordings]. Compiled by Andrew Connors and Lori Elaine Taylor. Annotated by A. Connors. SF 45037 CS, CD

African Songs and Rhythms for Children 1989 [reissue of FOLKWAYS 7844, 1978]. Recorded and annotated by Dr. W. K. Amoaku. SF 45011 CS, CD

Been in the Storm So Long: Spirituals, Folk Tales and Children's Games from Johns Island, South Carolina 1990 [Includes tracks from FOLKWAYS 3841, 1964 and 3842, 1967]. Recorded and annotated by Guy and Candie Carawan. SF 40031 CD, CS

Cowboy Songs on Folkways 1991 [Compilation from FOLKWAYS recordings] SF 40043 CD, CS

The Science of Sound: Bell Telephone Laboratories 1990 [reissue of FOLKWAYS 6136, 1960]. Produced by Bell Telephone Laboratories. SF 45038 CS

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ABOUT SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS

Folkways Records was founded by Moses
Asch and Marian Distler in 1948 to document
music, spoken word, instruction, and sounds
from around the world. In the ensuing
decades, New York City-based Folkways
became one of the largest independent record
labels in the world, reaching a total of nearly
2,200 albums that were always kept in print.

The Smithsonian Institution acquired
Folkways from the Moses Asch estate in 1987
to ensure that the sounds and genius of the artists
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