

ella.
jenkins
multi-
cultural
children's
songs



Smithsonian
Folkways

Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings
Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies
955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 2600
Smithsonian Institution
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ella jenkins multicultural children's songs (Ages 3–8)

1. **The World is Big the World Is Small** (1:24) SF 45033
2. **Hello** (0:49) SF 45029
3. **Greetings in Many Languages** (1:53) SF 45009
4. **Jambo** (2:54) SF 45017
5. **Tahboo** (2:30) SF 45030
6. **On Safari** (2:14) SF 45017
7. **Counting in Swahili** (1:36) SF 45017
8. **Mexican Handclapping Song** (1:20) SF 45028
9. **Dulce, Dulce** (1:16) SF 45010
10. **In Trinidad** (1:40) SF 45028
11. **Caney Mi Macaro** (1:54) SF 45007
12. **A Yodeling Song** (2:11) SF 45009
13. **Dredle, Dredle, Dredle** (1:00) SF 45016

14. **Rabbi Teaches ABCs/English ABC Song** (2:19) SF 45009
15. **Dance Tunes from Many Lands** (3:45) SF 45033
16. **Eh-un-lan-weh-seh-un-lan (Greeting in Arabic)** (1:45) SF 45030
17. **Balloon Song** (2:05) SF 45009
18. **Maori Chant** (0:31) SF 45010
19. **Play Your Instruments** (4:46) SF 45018
20. **May-ree Mack** (1:56) SF 45010
21. **We Are Native American Tribes** (2:28) SF 45006
22. **A Neighborhood is a Friendly Place** (2:48) SF 45032
23. **Thank you in Many Languages** (0:52) SF 45009

(All songs written or arranged by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Music)

introduction

It is never too early to teach children about different ways of speaking, different rhythms, and different ways of moving their bodies. I have been doing this for audiences on every continent in the world for over 40 years. In this collection of songs taken from my Smithsonian/Folkways recordings, children will learn new words and hear new sounds and rhythms from different places. They will also discover that although some things are different, many other things are the same. Almost everywhere people count, balloons pop, and friends say "hello" and "goodbye" and "thank you."

Our journey begins with a song about learning about people by singing their songs and dancing their dances. Then it teaches children how to say "hello" to people in different lands, then moves to songs that grew out of my trip to Africa. After learning two songs in Spanish and others from the Caribbean, we move to Europe for yodeling, Jewish traditions, and dance music. The Middle East is represented by a Druse dance melody and an Arabic greet-

ing. A song about balloons comes from India and then we go further to New Zealand, for a short Maori chant. At last we reach the United States, which is filled with different kinds of people too. Some of these are the American Indians. Many other people live in many kinds of neighborhoods, playing and singing songs like Mary Mack. Children play instruments that come from all over the world. By the end of the journey children will have encountered many languages, and the sounds of many different musical traditions. When we are through, we say "good bye" in many languages, too.

These songs were inspired by wonderful people I have met all over the world, many of whom have taught me some of their own music. I have often adapted their songs to make them easier for young children to learn. Other songs come from the roots of my own culture and my own childhood on the South Side of Chicago.

Today we don't have to travel around the world to meet many kinds of people: they often live in our own neighborhoods and attend our schools. Music teachers and children everywhere should be encouraged by these songs to learn from their friends,

their students, their parents, and other family members.

These are just a few of my songs. There is a list of my Smithsonian/Folkways albums on the back of this page, and I hope you will look for them and learn some of my other songs as well.

Ella Jenkins

notes about the songs

1. The World is Big the World Is Small (1:24)

From *Songs and Rhythms from Near and Far* (SF 45033)

This is the theme song for the whole recording: children can broaden their experience of the world through dances, games, and songs. And that is what these songs are all about.

The world is big, the world is small
So there's lots of room for the short and the tall

The world is far and the world is wide
But there are many different ways to see the other side

You can travel on a boat, you can travel on a plane

You can travel in a dance, you can travel in a game

You can travel on a bus, you can travel on a plane

You can travel in a song, you can travel in a name

2. Hello (0:49)

From *Counting Games and Rhythm Songs for the Little Ones* (SF 45029)

Children like to be greeted. This is a song I often use to open or close a program.

3. Greetings in Many Languages (1:53)

From *Travellin' with Ella Jenkins* (SF 45009)

One of the easiest things to learn is to say "hello" to people in their own language. (song text from the original liner notes)

4. Jambo (2:54)

From *Jambo and Other Call and Response Songs and Chants* (SF 45017)

I made up this song after a trip to Africa. It is a song about greetings in Swahili.

Jambo, jambo sanna, jambo.

5. Tahboo (2:30)

From *Call and Response* (SF 45030)

This call and response song is fun, and teaches listening and singing skills.

Although it is not an actual African song, it features call-and-response singing to a single drum as do many African songs.

6. On Safari (2:14)

From *Jambo and Other Call and Response Songs and Chants* (SF 45017)

"Safari" is the Swahili word for "journey." This song swings along in a walking rhythm. Come along, go along, come along with me, on Safari.

7. Counting in Swahili (1:36)

From *Jambo and Other Call and Response Songs and Chants* (SF 45017)

Ella: Group: Ella: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Moja Moja One 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Mbili Mbili Two 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Tatu Tatu Three 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Ine Ine Four moja 1 mbili 2 tatu 3 ini

Tano Tano Five 4 tano 5 sita 6 saba 7 nane

Sita Sita Six 8 tisa 9 kumi 10 moja mbili

Saba Saba Seven tatu ine tano sita saba tisa

Nane Nane Eight kumi one two three four five six

Tisa Tisa Nine seven eight nine ten 1 2 3 4

Kumi Kumi Ten 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8. Mexican Handclapping Song (1:20)

From *This is Rhythm* (SF 45028)

This is a simple song with Mexican roots. It can be varied by adding instruments and altering the tempo.

Everyone come right along (clap, clap),
let's learn a Mexican song (clap, clap)
Muchacha means little girl (si si), Mucha-
cho means little boy (si si)
la-la....

9. Dulce, Dulce (1:16)

From *You'll Sing a Song, I'll Sing a Song*
(SF 45010)

This is a chant with Spanish words: "Dulce, Dulce." "Dulce" means "sweet. Songs from other countries and different languages introduce children to new sounds and cultural concepts.

Dulce, dulce (clap, clap) (x4)

Dulce, dulce, dulce, mama

Dulce, dulce, dulce, papa

Dulce, dulce, dulce chikicha (chikicha.....)

10. In Trinidad (1:40)

From *This is Rhythm* (SF 45028)

This song is about a mad bull. It has a calypso rhythm.

11. Caney Mi Macaro (1:54)

From *Adventures in Rhythm* (SF 45007)

This is a nonsense song, but the rhythm is influenced by calypso, which originated in the Caribbean. We use the rhythm sticks and drum, which are often used in the Caribbean.

12. A Yodeling Song (2:11)

From *Travellin' with Ella Jenkins* (SF 45009)

People around the world sing in many different ways, using different parts of their vocal ranges. After teaching a short yodeling song to the children, I have added a few seconds of Swiss Yodels for listening.

Let's all sing a yodeling song, a yodeling
song, a yodeling song
Let's all sing a yodeling song, yo-di-o le-i-
hoo

13. Dredle, Dredle, Dredle (1:00)

From *And One and Two and Other Songs for Pre-School and Primary School* (SF 45016)

This is a traditional Jewish song for children. The dredle is a clay top made and played with especially in holiday seasons.

Dredle, dredle, dredle, I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready, a dredle I shall
play.

I have a little dredle, I made it out of clay
And when it's dry and ready, a dredle I shall
play

14. Rabbi Teaches ABCs/English ABC Song (2:19)

From *Travellin' with Ella Jenkins* (SF 45009)

Just as there are many ways to count, so
there are many ways to say the alphabet.
This is just one of them, taught by Arnold.

15. Dance Tunes from Many Lands (3:45)

From *Songs and Rhythms from Near and Far* (SF 45033)

These are not for singing, but for clapping, foot-tapping, and dancing. Some of my friends gathered with me and we played some dances together on harmonica. In the 18th and 19th centuries, these dances were wildly popular, like hip-hop today. Listen to the different rhythms from Europe and the Middle East. The *Krakoviyak* is a Polish circle and couple folk dance. The name comes from the town of Krakov, which was the capital of Poland prior to

Warsaw. This *Polka* is a Slavic folk dance. Polkas are found all over the world—there are a lot of polka players in my home town of Chicago. The *Sheraleh* is an Eastern European Chassidic Jewish folk dance (Chassidim are members of a sect of Jewish mystics that originated in Poland in the 18th century). In formation and structure this dance somewhat resembles the U.S. square dance. The *Debka* is an ancient Druse dance (a Druse is a member of a religious sect in Syria). This is a line dance for men only. This is a very fast dance, and sometimes lasts for hours.

16. Eh-he-lan we-se-he-len (Greeting in Arabic) (1:45)

From *Call-and-Response, Rhythmic Group Singing* (SF 45030)

This is introduced by a 12-year old girl as an Arabic chant meaning "welcome."

17. Balloon Song (2:05)

From *Travellin' With Ella Jenkins* (SF 45009)

I learned this from a woman from India. English is one of the official languages of India, and she taught me this song in English.

Blow the balloon (shhh), blow the balloon (shhh)

Blow and blow and blow and blow and blow-(clap)

Where did my balloon go?

18. Maori Chant (0:31)

From *You'll Sing a Song, I'll Sing a Song* (SF 45010)

I learned this song from Dennis O'Sullivan of New Zealand when I was conducting a workshop in Idaho. The Maori were the original inhabitants of New Zealand, like the American Indians in the United States. The words I use are approximate. Begin the chant by slapping your thighs, Continue to slap throughout the chant, and jump as high as you can on the *whee-tee-ray-rah*

19. Play Your Instruments (4:46)

From *Play Your Instruments and Make a Pretty Sound* (SF 45018)

Like our music, the instruments we play come from all over the world. The ukelele was probably developed from Portuguese stringed instruments taken to Hawai'i. Musical cowbells probably come from Africa. They are played in many kinds of African-

influenced music in the Caribbean and Brazil. Rhythm sticks are found in many parts of the world—Australian Aborigines play them, as do Africans and American Indians. Maracas came from American Indians. The word "Maraka" is the Brazilian Tupinamba Indian word for "rattle" and "music." The triangle is more typical of European music. The castanets played here come from Japan, although they are also played in Spain. And the tone blocks are widespread as well. If we look at their origins, our children's orchestras are a multi-cultural experience in themselves!

20. May-ree Mack (1:56) with children

From *You'll Sing a Song, I'll Sing a Song* (SF 45010)

There are many versions of Mary Mack. This one is like those heard in playgrounds where I grew up.

Mary Mack, dressed in black
Silver buttons up and down her back
Hi-o hi-o hi-o hiii-o

Give me a nickle, give me a dime
See my honey baby all the time.
Hi-o hi-o hi-o hiii-o

I went to the river, I couldn't get a cross

I got in trouble with my boss
Hi-o hi-o hi-o hiii-o

21. We Are Native American Tribes (2:28)

From *We Are America's Children* (SF 45006)

There are many different Native American communities in the United States and Canada. Many of them have their own language and culture, and their own songs. This begins by naming a few of the groups. This might be an interesting project for a teacher to name local American Indian tribes, and to learn about them. In the second half of this song I sing *Sheenasha*, which means "she walks" in the Navajo language. This was taught to me by a Native American in Chinle, Arizona. The song is about freedom.

22. A Neighborhood is a Friendly Place (2:48)

From *Growing Up With Ella Jenkins* (SF 45032)

After travelling so far, it is good to remember that we all grow up in neighborhoods. Not all of our neighborhoods are friendly places, but we should work to make them friendly for our children.

23. Thank you in Many Languages (0:52)

From *Travellin' With Ella Jenkins* (SF 45009)

For over thirty years Ella Jenkins has charmed children, parents and teachers with her songs, stories, and rhythms. Her songs are shaped to stimulate children's musical, motor, and intellectual skills, and they are from many lands in many languages. Ella's songs and rhythms make learning about different people's traditions accessible and fun.

Ella has recorded many albums for Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings. They are listed below. You can ask for these recordings at your local record shop, order them by telephone by calling 1-800-410-9815, by fax (301-443-1819) or by writing Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings at 414 Hungerford Drive, Ste 444, Rockville, MD 20850. To receive a Smithsonian/Folkways Catalogue call 202-287-3262.

(PK=pre-kindergarten; P=primary; UP=upper primary)

A Long Time to Freedom SF 45034 (CS) 1992 P,UP

Jenkins favorite African American folk songs about freedom, dedicated to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Adventures in Rhythm SF 45007 (CD,LP,CS) 1989 P,UP

An engaging progression of rhythmic concepts from simple to complex, a favorite with primary school children and appropriate for children with learning disabilities.

African American Folk Songs and Rhythms SF 45003 (CS) 1992 P,UP

Ella Jenkins and the Goodwill Spiritual Choir of Chicago celebrate the musical heritage of African Americans with work songs, rhythmic chants, and inspiring spirituals.

And One And Two SF 45016 (CS,LP) 1990 PK,K
Simple songs and rhythm exercises for young children

Call and Response: Rhythmic Group Singing SF 45030 (CS) 1990 K,P

Ella celebrates the rich, complex rhythms of West African people which explores their influence on music in the Americas.

Come Dance by the Ocean SF 45014 (CD,CS,LP) 1991 PK,K,P

Songs about the world we live in—the oceans, lands, and cultural differences of its peoples.

Counting Games and Rhythms for the Little Ones SF 45029 (LP,CS) 1994 PK

Nine familiar songs and chants provide a wonderful guide to help kids with basic number skills and simple math.

Early, Early Childhood Songs SF 45015 (LP,CS) 1990 PK

Eight all-time favorite children's songs including Mary Had A Little Lamb, Farmer in the Dell, and Skip to My Lou—performed on folk instruments.

Growing Up with Ella Jenkins: Rhythms, Songs and Rhymes SF 54032 (CS) 1990 PK,K

The children of the Mary Crane Day Care Center join Ella in a 20-song collection honoring this historic Chicago School.

Jambo and Other Call and Response Songs and Chants SF 45017 (CS) 1990 PK,K,P

Twelve of Ella's best call and response songs recorded with "voices in training" of the Chicago Children's Choir.

Little Johnny Brown SF 45026 (CS) 1990 PK,K,P

Heartwarming American, American Indian, and Mexican folk songs recorded with children, ages 5-10 from Uptown Chicago.

My Street Begins at My House SF 45005 (CD,LP,CS) 1990 PK,K,P

An imaginative and enthusiastic salute to a child's own neighborhood experience.

Nursery Rhymes: Rhyming and Remembering SF 40519 (LP,CS) 1990 PK,K

Twenty-two all-time favorite nursery rhymes with Ella encouraging group participation by cuing lyrics and activities while she sings.

Play Your Instruments and Make a Pretty Sound SF 45018 (CD,LP,CS) 1994 PK,K,P

Wonderful songs designed to introduce musical instruments to children. Includes a full Dixieland jazz band.

Rhythm and Game Songs for the Little Ones SF 45027 (CS) 1990 PK

Playful songs for young children with Ella encouraging them to vary the lyrics, tunes, and activities while they sing.

Rhythms of Childhood SF 45008 (CD,LP,CS) 1989 PK,K,P

Ella emphasizes the rhythms of nature, dance, and traditional African chants and presents many possibilities for teaching rhythm throughout elementary school.

Seasons of Singing SF 45031 (CS) 1990 P,UP
Recorded with the summer workshop of St. Paul's Church, Seasons features favorite songs, original and traditional, from the world over.

Songs and Rhythms From Near and Far SF 45033 (CS) 1992 P,UP

A musical journey to places like Greece, Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Holland, Italy, Canada, and the U.S. through the songs, dances, musical sounds, and textures of these regions.

Songs, Rhythms and Chants for the Dance SF 45004 (CS) 1992 P,UP

Teaches children about the different activities and professions of dance performance.

This-a-Way, That-a-Way SF 45002 (CD,LP,CS) 1989 PK,K,P

A classroom of young children from Tennessee joins Ella in this wonderful collection of thirteen songs and chants.

This Is Rhythm SF 45028 (CD,LP,CS) 1981 PK,K,P

Ella introduces the basic rhythm instruments—congas, rhythm sticks, maracas—to her young listeners.

This is Rhythm (Illustrated Songbook)

SF 45028-BK 1993

Each page is filled with lyrics and rhymes, presented in varying shades of color to help children learn how loudly or softly to sing and play. Teaches that rhythm is a basic element in music, speech, and sounds in all cultures and throughout the natural world.

Travellin' with Ella Jenkins: A Bilingual Journey SF 45009 (CD,LP,CS) 1989 K,P,UP

Songs from around the world sung by Ella and the children of the Cross Cultural Family Center of San Francisco.

We Are America's Children SF 45006 (CD,LP,CS) 1989 UP

Explores America's diversity through powerful music ranging from blues and spirituals to folk and Native American songs.

You'll Sing a Song and I'll Sing a Song SF 45010 (CD,LP,CS) 1989 PK,K,P

Ella's best selling record includes international songs which encourage singing and rhythmic participation. Recommended for early education by Teachers Magazine.

VIDEO TAPES:

Live at the Smithsonian SF 48001 (VHS) 1991 PK,K,P

Recorded with children from the Smithsonian Institution Early Enrichment Center and geared towards viewer participation.

Ella Jenkins for the Family SF 48002 (VHS) 1991 PK,K,P

Eleven intimate performances which convey a strong feeling of being one-on-one with Ella Jenkins.

Credits

Production supervised by Anthony Seeger
and Matt Walters

Editorial assistance by Mary Monseur and
Michael Maloney

Mastered by David Glasser at Airshow,
Inc., Springfield, VA

Design: Visual Dialogue

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 Asch estate in 1987 to ensure that the sounds and genius of the artists would be preserved for future generations. All Folkways recordings are now available on high-quality audio cassettes, each packed in a special box along with the original lp liner notes.

Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings was formed to continue the Folkways tradition of releasing significant recordings with high-quality documentation. It produces new titles, reissues of historic recordings from Folkways and other record labels, and in collaboration with other companies also produces instructional videotapes, recordings to accompany published books, and a variety of other educational projects.

The Smithsonian/Folkways, Folkways, Cook, and Paredon record labels are administered by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife Programs and Cultural Studies. They are one of the means through which the Center supports the work of traditional artists and expresses its commitment to cultural diversity, education, and increased understanding.

You can find Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings at your local record store. Smithsonian/ Folkways, Folkways, Cook, and Paredon recordings are all available through:

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fax (301) 443-1819
orders only 1-800-410-9815
(Discover, MasterCard, and Visa
accepted)

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ella jenkins multicultural children's songs (Ages 3–8)

Ella Jenkins herself selected these 23 spoken games, rhymes, and songs from among hundreds on her 25 earlier Smithsonian/Folkways releases. This collection is designed to introduce young children to cultural differences. "It is never too early to teach children about different ways of speaking, different rhythms, and different ways of moving their bodies. In this collection, taken from my earlier recordings, children will hear new sounds and rhythms from many places"—Ella Jenkins, from the album notes.

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