

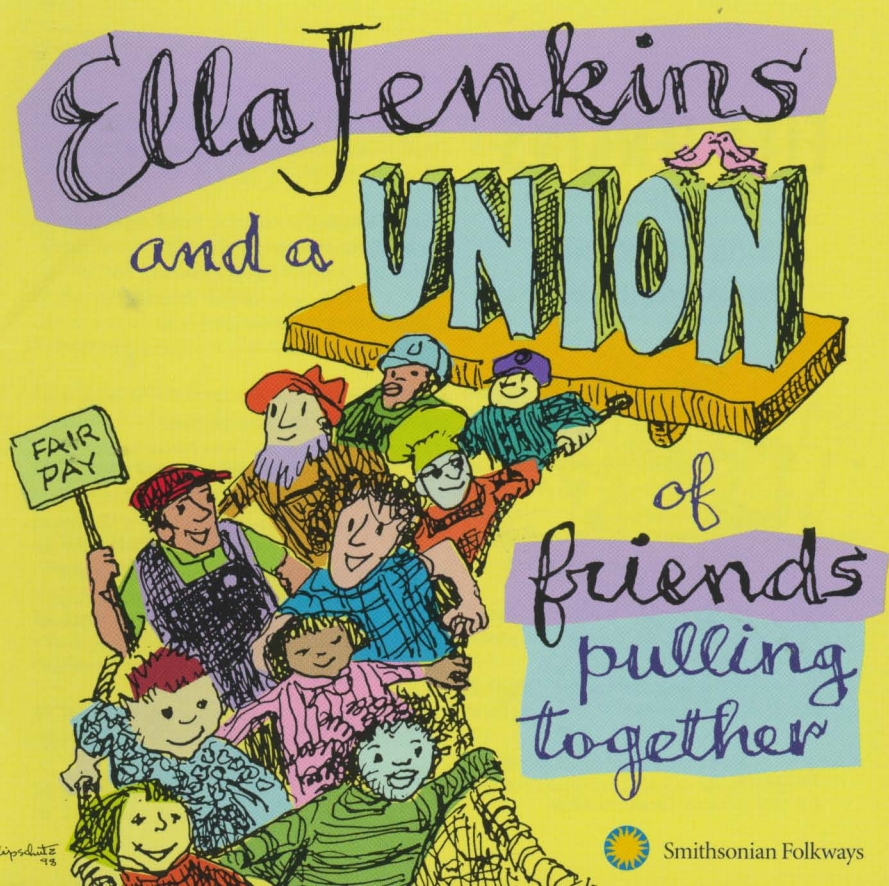


Photo by Jeff Tinsley, Smithsonian Institution



Smithsonian Folkways

Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, 955 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7300
Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560-0953



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Smithsonian Folkways

Ella Jenkins

AND A UNION OF FRIENDS PULLING TOGETHER

Legendary children's performer Ella Jenkins and a group of young and older musical friends introduce children to the ideas of unity, cooperation, and labor unions through songs, recitation, and poetry. Recorded in 1999, this CD features harmonica, piano, percussion, banjo, guitar, vocals, and chorus. The recording reminds us how unity and strength are part of family ties as well as adult life and work. 47 minutes, 16-page booklet, discography. Suitable for children ages 4-12 and their parents.

1. **Miss Sue Just Joined the Union** (song) 0:42
2. **Family Reunion/Skip to My Lou** (recitation and song) 3:30
3. **Mabel, Mabel, Mabel** (recitation) 2:10
4. **Union Train** (recitation)/
Train's A Comin' (harmonica solo) 0:49
5. **Hallelujah, We Are Traveling** (song) 2:12
6. **Keep Your Hands on the Plow** (harmonica solo) 0:57
7. **The Farmer Feeds Us All**
(The Farmer Is the Man) (song) 3:47
8. **Let My People Go** (harmonica solo) 1:25
9. **Going Down That Road Feeling Bad** (song) 3:55
10. **In Unity There Is Strength/**
Stickin' to the Union (Union Maid) (song) 1:13
11. **What's Your Trade?** (recitation) 0:47
12. **Hammer, Hammer, Hammer** (song) 2:02
13. **A Singer of Folk Songs** (recitation) 1:03
14. **If I Had a Hammer — Pete Seeger** (song) 2:02
15. **Union Meeting** (recitation) 0:53
16. **Speak Right Up** (song) 2:12
17. **The Picket Line** (recitation) 0:22
18. **Step by Step** (song) 1:59
19. **Making Music Together** (recitation) 1:11
20. **One Meat Ball — Josh White, Jr.** (song) 3:53
21. **The More We Work Together** (song) 1:21
22. **The Union Team** (cheer) 1:01
23. **Which Side Are You On?** (song) 2:29
24. **Sticking to the Union**
(Union Maid) (harmonica solo) 0:54
25. **Solidarity Forever** (song) 2:19
26. **Circle of Friends** (recitation) 0:12
27. **Sticking to the Union (Union Maid)** (song) 1:10



Smithsonian Folkways

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ELLA JENKINS

and a UNION OF FRIENDS PULLING TOGETHER



SFW CD 45046

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(Traditional, new words by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

**2. Family Reunion/
Skip to My Lou** (recitation and song) 3:30
(©1999 Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

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4. Union Train (recitation)/
Train's A-Comin'* (harmonica solo) 0:49
(*Music by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

5. Hallelujah, We Are Traveling (song) 2:12
(Music by John J. Husband, words by Harry McClintock)

6. Keep Your Hands on the Plow (harmonica solo) 0:57
(Arranged by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

**7. The Farmer Feeds Us All
(The Farmer Is the Man)** (song) 3:47

8. Let My People Go (harmonica solo) 1:25

9. Going Down That Road Feeling Bad (song) 3:55

**10. In Unity There Is Strength/
Stickin' to the Union (Union Maid)** (song) 1:13
(Woody Guthrie/TRO-Ludlow Music, BMI)

11. What's Your Trade? (recitation) 0:47
(Words by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

12. Hammer, Hammer, Hammer (song) 2:02
(Words and music by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

13. A Singer of Folk Songs (recitation) 1:03
(Words by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

14. If I Had a Hammer — Pete Seeger (song) 2:02
(L. Hays and P. Seeger/TRO-Ludlow Music, BMI)

15. Union Meeting (recitation) 0:53
(Words by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

16. Speak Right Up (song) 2:12
(Words and arrangement by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

17. The Picket Line (recitation) 0:22
(Words by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

18. Step by Step (song) 1:59
(W. Hille and P. Seeger/Sanga Music, BMI)

19. Making Music Together (recitation) 1:11
(Words by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

20. One Meat Ball — Josh White, Jr. (song) 3:53
(Zaret-Singer/MCA Music Pub., ASCAP; Oliver Music Pub., ASCAP)

21. The More We Work Together (song) 1:21
(Words and music by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

22. The Union Team (cheer) 1:01
(Words by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

23. Which Side Are You On? (song) 2:29
(Florence Reece/Stormking Music, BMI)

24. Sticking to the Union (Union Maid) (harmonica solo) 0:54
(Woody Guthrie/TRO-Ludlow Music, BMI)

25. Solidarity Forever (song) 2:19
(Words by Ralph Chaplin)

26. Circle of Friends (recitation) 0:12
(Words by Ella Jenkins/Ell-Bern Publishing, ASCAP)

27. Sticking to the Union (Union Maid) (song) 1:10
(Woody Guthrie/TRO-Ludlow Music, BMI)

*This recording is
lovingly dedicated to
the memory of my
young traveling friend
Dan Barnhart.*

— Ella Jenkins



Photo by Jeff Tinsley, Smithsonian Institution

INTRODUCTION

BY ELLA JENKINS

THIS RECORDING IS DESIGNED to open a wider concept of being part of a union to preschool, kindergarten, and primary school children through a variety of songs, rhymes, and stories.

The wider concept of “union” includes the union of marriage, union of friendship, the “union jack,” “union suit,” “union label,” “union card,” and “union scale,” as well as the idea of a team, a credit union, a labor union, a student union, a musician’s union, and so forth.

Webster’s Vest Pocket Dictionary speaks of union as an “act of joining together of two or more groups or things; a group of countries or states joined together under one government, a marriage, an organized body of employees who work together to upgrade their working conditions and wages. Union, The United States.”

To make a union, people have to get together and work in harmony and unity, and act agreeably toward one another.

About Labor Unions

This recording has long been in my thoughts. I have been planning it for over a decade. Over the years I have heard many, many conversations about unions. During the past year, I have seen quite a few bumper stickers promoting unionism — like “Use a Union Carpenter,” “Buy Union Products,” “Work for Union Wages.” Even large billboards carry words of union awareness.

I belong to the Chicago Federation of Musicians Local 10-208. When I first became a member, the union was segregated. Black musicians belonged to Local 208, located on the South Side of Chicago. White musicians belonged to Local 10, located in downtown Chicago. Union locals helped musicians get jobs. Through much effort by African Americans,

Chicago now has a single integrated union: Local 10-208. Last year I became a "Lifetime Member" of the musician's union.

Belonging to a union is a good thing, because you can help obtain better working conditions. But everyone should be aware that some unions do not always serve their members fairly or wisely. Harmonious agreement and unity are very important things for us all to strive for.

About the Performers

My idea for this recording was not to do another solo album — I have done many of those. I wanted the sounds to reflect the experience of working together and making something together. The recording was made by a *union of friends* who *pulled together* to make it: children and adults in Chicago, Illinois. The professional artists are Stephen Goers, Bucky Halker, Ella Jenkins, and Mary Ringstad.

Stephen Goers is the Music Director of my church (Church of the Three Crosses). He is also a musician, performer, composer, and recording artist.

Bucky Halker has been performing since the early 1980s as a solo performer and with his former band, The Remainders. He has recorded six albums and written a book, *For Democracy, Workers, and God: Labor Song-*

Poems and Labor Protest, 1865-1895 (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1991).

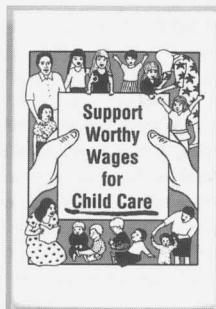
Ella Jenkins has been inspiring children and adults through her performances and recordings for many years. She is an extremely well-known artist — having appeared with Mr. Rogers and Barney, and received dozens of awards, and having traveled unceasingly. She has issued nearly 30 cassettes and CDs on Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, as well as two videotapes (see list at end of booklet). Ella Jenkins has her own publishing company, Ell-Bern Publishing, and is a member of ASCAP.

Mary Ringstad is proud to be a member of the Actors' Equity Association. She became interested in labor music through her involvement with the Women and Labor History Theatre Project. She has worked in theaters across the country. She has a MFA in acting from Ohio University.

Most of the other performers in this recording are my fellow church members. We got together quite informally — I simply placed two sign-up sheets on a table one Sunday: one for children and one for adults. We chose a convenient date and met at the recording studio. Adults and children trickled in all day and all evening, as it suited their schedules, and our songs made this recording. The children on this CD are: Terrell, Ashley, and Justin

Boykin; Edna Dapkus; Alisha Edmonds; Lucas Jacob Herzog; Marc and Wesley Urschel; Lauren and Lance Washington; and Marley Melchiorre. The adults on this CD are: Bucky Halker, Mary Ringstad, Stephen Goers, David Melchiorre, Frank Schneider, Susan Herzog, Anita Marshall, Lesley Stephens, Beverly Urschel, Jacquelyn Washington, Frank Alan Schneider, and Frances Dutton.

Even my Minister, Norma Lee Barnhart, joined us, lending her lovely voice to our union of songs and stories. What I especially liked about our all-day all-evening series of sessions was the enthusiastic spirit of working together. There was a lot of excitement and everyone worked to make the recording a good one.



ABOUT THE SONGS

1. Miss Sue Just Joined the Union (song)

Ella Jenkins and chorus, vocals

AS SOON AS WE HAVE SUNG this song through once, "listeners" immediately become "joiners" — singing along with us, both children and adults. This is the aim of the whole recording as well: to stimulate a feeling of togetherness, a sincere feeling of being part of a group — a vital part of a union — learning and having fun at the same time. We even hope that some listeners will be inspired to take out their guitars, banjos, ukuleles, dulcimers, harmonicas, rhythm sticks (or whatever your instruments may be), snap your fingers, pat your feet, and join in.

I first became acquainted with "Miss Sue" singing "Miss Sue from Alabama." I just changed the words around to fit into our union theme. It might be interesting sometime to explore the southern United States using four- and five-syllable words. Miss Sue could be from Mis-sis-sip-pi, or from West Vir-gin-i-a, or North Ca-ro-li-na, or Miss Sue from Lou-i-sia-na. And there are many more possibilities.

2. Family Reunion/Skip to My Lou (recitation and song)
Ella Jenkins, spoken voice and caller for "Skip to My Lou";
Bucky Halker, guitar

MANY FAMILY REUNIONS are celebrated all over the world each year. Family experiences differ from place to place and from family to family. Some family reunions are grand and others are quite small. But the getting together is the really important thing. It's that sense of belonging that counts — of everyone doing things together and enjoying each other's company. Families often have common interests, and family reunions create common experiences with their stories, songs, food, and shared activities.

"Skip to My Lou" is an old play party song — a song that children would dance to. It is still widely sung all over the United States and makes a good song for family reunions.

3. Mabel, Mabel, Mabel (recitation)
Spoken text, Ella Jenkins; piano, Stephen Goers

IT IS ALWAYS FUN to make up rhymes, and the name "Mabel" has a lot of them. The important thing in this poem, though, is the rhyme with "label." The "union label" is a small tag that identifies clothing as made by unionized labor. Purchasing and wearing clothing with a union label is one way people can demonstrate their support of unions and what they stand for.

4. Union Train (recitation)/
Train's A-Comin' (harmonica solo)
Vocals and harmonica by Ella Jenkins

THE WORDS I SPEAK are from an old union song about the union train — it urges people to "get on board the train" and join the union. The song goes on to say, "It [the union train] has saved many a thousand, thousand, thousand/Get on board" and "It will save many more thousand, thousand, thousand/Get on board."

With my harmonica I try to imitate the sound of a train, blowing its whistle and puffing off down the track. I love trains and I wrote this music to capture the mournful sounds of trains making fast tracks across the country. In one of my songs I wrote this verse:
Train's a-coming.

Train is a-coming.

How do you know?

Train's a-coming.

I can hear that

Lonesome whistle blow

You can hear the whole song "Union Train" on *Talking Union* (Folkways 05285), sung by the Almanac Singers.

5. Hallelujah, We Are Traveling (song)
Bucky Halker, lead vocals and guitar; adults and children, group vocals

THIS IS AN OLD SONG about out-of-work laborers who travel around looking for jobs. Very often people who have no jobs and no homes are blamed for their condition, and this song asks the question, "How can we work when there is no work to do?" At various times during this century — especially during depression years — a large homeless and out-of-work population has taken to the roads and the trains to try to find work in distant places, begging along the way. Union organizing, job stability, and various social programs have reduced the number of itinerant job-seekers somewhat from their high numbers earlier in this century.

You may know the song by the name of "Hallelujah, I'm a Bum." It was written early in the 20th century by labor songwriter Harry McClintock, a labor organizer for the International Workers of the World. I didn't think using the word "bum" to describe people down on their luck was appropriate for children today, so I changed the words around a little — substituting "we're a-traveling" for "I'm a bum." But, although the words are a little different, the sentiments haven't changed since it was written.

6. Keep Your Hands on the Plow (harmonica solo)
Ella Jenkins, harmonica

THIS IS AN OLD RELIGIOUS SONG that has been used in many other situations. As I recall, it has some moving words:

*Union workers make a chain/
Every link in freedom's name.*

Keep your hand on the plow, hold on!

Hold on, hold on.

Keep your hand on the plow, hold on.

Once people have started organizing a union and making a chain of solidarity and cooperation, they often have to hold on tight — because there is often opposition to them.

(For a sung version, see Pete Seeger, *If I Had a Hammer: Songs of Hope & Struggle*, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings SFW CD 40096, track 17.)



7. The Farmer Feeds Us All

(The Farmer Is the Man) (song)

Bucky Halker, lead vocals and guitar; adults and children, chorus

THIS SONG WAS WRITTEN in the late 19th century during one of the many economic crises that have affected our farmers. It reminds us that, while there are many occupations in the world, without the farmers we wouldn't have anything to eat. During the past one hundred years the number of farmers has shrunk, and many farmers have seen their life's work being sold at farm auctions to pay off their mortgage. But still, "The farmer is the man who feeds us all."

I think many kinds of school and family projects could be designed around farming, to give children an idea of how hard it is to make things grow.

8. Let My People Go

(harmonica solo)

Ella Jenkins, harmonica

THIS SONG, originally about telling Moses to ask the Pharaoh of Egypt to "let my people go," has always represented for me the struggles of people to gain their freedom, and a sense of uniting for a common cause. The song begins:

*When Israel was in Egypt land
Let my people go*

They were so sick they could not stand

*Let my people go
Go down, Moses
Way down in Egypt land
Tell old Pharaoh
To let my people go*

9. Going Down That Road Feeling Bad

(song)

Bucky Halker, lead vocals and guitar; adults and children, supporting vocals

THIS IS ANOTHER SONG about hard times and people traveling to try to find better places to live. During the 1930s tens of thousands of people left the Midwest, which was afflicted with drought and dust storms, and migrated to California and other parts of the country looking for work. Movingly described in Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* and documented in song by Woody Guthrie, these migrants came to stand for the misery of hard times.

Like most of the songs on this album it is performed to encourage children and adults to join in on the chorus and to create a sense of community by singing together.



10. In Unity There Is Strength/

Stickin' to the Union (Union Maid) (song)

Mary Ringstad, guitar and lead vocal; Ella Jenkins, vocal and harmonica; children and adults, group vocals

I HAVE HEARD THE PHRASE "in unity there is strength" applied to people working together — teamwork, kinship, and working. Breaking down these words for children to understand is important, for the ideas of "unity" and "strength" can come from family and group togetherness. Children need to be strong about what they believe and to feel strongly about their friends. Unity, solidarity, and strength are part of our everyday lives and are very important ideas for children to understand. They should also learn how to create them through cooperation.

Mary Ringstad leads the group in the chorus to a song about a woman who joined the union and wasn't afraid of anyone who tried to stop her. It was originally written by Woody Guthrie, and if you are acquainted with the song you will notice right away that I have changed a few words. The last line was "I'm sticking to the union to the day I die," which I changed to "I'm sticking to the union, so don't even try."

The melody originally comes from a famous dance tune called "Red Wing." You'll notice that we only sing the chorus — it's a catchy one.

(For a full performance of the song, see Pete Seeger, *If I Had a Hammer: Songs of Hope & Struggle*, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings SFW CD 40096, track 7).

11. What's Your Trade?

(recitation)

Spoken by Ella Jenkins, David Melchiorre, and Frank Schneider

WHEN PEOPLE WORK to make something, they should get paid for it. We often call specialized work that people do their "trade." All over the country people make things, and when we purchase them we pay them for their work. This is a little rhyme I made up about men in different cities making lemonade. Things don't cost the same everywhere, though.

12. Hammer, Hammer, Hammer

(song)

Mary Ringstad lead vocal; Bucky Halker guitar; children and adults, group vocals

THIS RHYTHMIC SONG was inspired by the work of Habitat for Humanity. Good work is being done through the cooperative spirit of union carpenters, who share their skills with neighborhood residents and help fix up their houses. Children might be taught something about groups who work together for a common and worthy cause. When they grow up, they might join them. For now, they can hammer their hammers and sing along.

13. A Singer of Folk Songs (recitation)

Spoken by Ella Jenkins

THIS TELLS A LITTLE BIT about my life. My uncle, Floyd Johnson (I called him "Uncle Flood"), grew up in Louisiana, migrated to Chicago, and worked in the steel mills in Gary, Indiana, for fairly low wages until he joined the union. The following words remind me of his life at the time. It can be chanted by a leader and a group.

Down to the Steel Mill

Leader: *He went down to the steel mill*

Group: *He went down to the steel mill*

Leader: *And he saw his paycheck there*

(Group: repeat)

Leader: *It was laying on the boss's table*

(Group: repeat)

Leader: *So small, so thin, so bare*

(Group: repeat)

Leader: *Well, he took that little old paycheck*

(Group: repeat)

Leader: *And he went to the grocery store*

(Group: repeat)

Leader: *He bought a little can of baked beans*

(Group: repeat)

Leader: *He didn't have his paycheck no more*

(Group: repeat)

Leader: *Hey, hey, hey, hey*

(Group: repeat)

Leader: *So he joined a union*

(Group: repeat)

Leader: *And got better pay*

(Group: repeat)

14. If I Had a Hammer – Pete Seeger (song)

Pete Seeger, lead vocals and banjo. From Pete Seeger, *If I Had a Hammer: Songs of Hope & Struggle*, Smithsonian Folkways SFW CD 40096, used with permission.

THIS IS A FAMOUS SONG written by Lee Hays and his friend Pete Seeger, who was the first person I ever heard singing union songs. Pete sang at union meetings and on picket lines in the 1940s with friends and fellow musicians in a group called the Almanac Singers. I wanted to include one of his songs on this album. "If I Had a Hammer" was popularized by Peter, Paul, and Mary and is known and sung around the world. Children and adults alike will want to join in and sing as soon as Pete sings the first few phrases. Pete would love that — he always wants people to sing along with him.



15. Union Meeting (recitation)

Spoken by Ella Jenkins

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT going to a union meeting and the people there. An old musician friend of mine, the folk and blues artist "Big Bill" Broonzy, took me to my first musicians' union meeting. The group met at the Forum Hall on the South Side of Chicago. It was very exciting, seeing so many male and female musicians together. Bill introduced me to a famous singer and pianist, "Lil" Armstrong. Lil had just returned from an extended stay of living and working in Paris. Lil was the former wife of the well-known Louis Armstrong. At the union meeting she sang in French and English. I immediately joined the union.

16. Speak Right Up (song)

Mary Ringstand, solo voice; Bucky Halker, solo voice and guitar; group vocals by children and adults

ONE OF THE THINGS unions do is get people together to negotiate for better pay, better working conditions, and a role in decisions made about the places where they work. This is a simple song about calling up the "boss" and asking for what you want.

17. The Picket Line (recitation)

Spoken by Ella Jenkins

A "PICKET LINE" is an action workers take when they go on strike. They form a line in front of the place they work and try to keep everyone else from doing business with it. Local laws usually require workers to keep moving, and picket lines are often made up of men and women carrying signs that say "On Strike!" Other workers are supposed to respect the striking workers and not cross the picket line. For many years I have tried to honor picket lines and their causes.

18. Step by Step (song)

Henry Herzog, vocals and guitar; Suzan Herzog, vocals and tambourine

THE WORDS TO THIS SONG come from the preamble of the Constitution of the United Mineworkers Union. I heard Susan and Henry sing this song at a Labor Day program at our church. I was deeply impressed and knew right away that I wanted them to be part of this recording. It speaks very strongly for the importance of pulling together. A single stone is nothing; many stones make a building. A single drop of water is weak; many drops make a strong river. A single person can't change much, but many people acting together can do wonderful things.

19. Making Music Together (recitation)

David Melchiorre, Frank Schnieder, Ella Jenkins, voices

MAKING MUSIC as a group is a kind of organizing and sharing. By sharing a variety of instruments and listening to one another, people learn to pull together. Poems, too, can be shared by a few people together. This is an example, presented with the assistance of David and Frank.

20. One Meat Ball — Josh White, Jr. (song)

Josh White, Jr., guitar and vocals; festival audience, choruses. Recorded at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, July 1998.

THIS IS A SONG about a man who was so poor he could only afford to order one meatball at a restaurant. He was treated without respect by the waiter, was not given any bread to eat, and left the restaurant hungry and sad. Being poor and out of work means that you are often treated badly simply because you don't have money. We need to learn to share and to work together so that everyone has enough to eat and is treated with respect.

This song was recorded at a concert celebrating the issue of a special commemorative stamp for Josh White, Sr., who made this song popular in the 1940s. I always liked the song and have sung at concerts with Josh White, Jr., so I asked him if I could put his performance

of his father's song on my "union of friends" album. He agreed, and I think you will be able to sing along on the chorus — "One meatball."

21. The More We Work Together (song)

Mary Ringstad, solo vocals; Bucky Halker, guitar; children and adults, group vocals

THE MORE WE PRACTICE getting together and cooperating, the better we will be at it. Cooperation should start with small children cooperating together and singing together. Then it will seem natural to work together in a cooperative way as they grow older.

22. The Union Team (cheer)

Ella Jenkins, leader; children and adults, response vocals

WHEN I ATTENDED high school, I participated in many team sports. I loved to cheer for our school's basketball, swimming, volleyball, and table tennis teams. In this cheer I have substituted "union" for the name of a school. Over the past year or so I have used it at a lot of my concerts. It is a good chant to get children and adults participating together.

I have been leading call-and-response shouts, rhymes, and songs ever since I began to sing for children, and it is a very good way to bring people together.

23. Which Side Are You On? (song)

Bucky Halker, guitar and lead vocal; Ella Jenkins, harmonica; children and adults, chorus

THIS IS AN OLD union song from the coal mining country around Harlan County, Kentucky. It is an easy song to get into, so please join us and sing along.

(For a complete version, see Pete Seeger, *If I Had a Hammer: Songs of Hope & Struggle*. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings SFW CD 40096, track 3.)

24. Sticking to the Union (Union Maid) (harmonica solo)

I PLAY THE MELODY of the song to keep up the union spirit. You heard us sing the chorus together on track 10 and will hear it again later.

25. Solidarity Forever (song)

Mary Ringstad, solos; Stephen Goers, piano; group chorus vocals

THIS IS A FAMILIAR melody for many people but set to new words by Ralph Chaplin, one of the early leaders of the International Workers of the World, a union movement at the beginning of the 20th century. It has been called "the greatest song in American labor history."

Solidarity means "pulling together." This song pinpoints our union mission. Mary organized two union programs for our church to

stimulate children's and adult's awareness of the importance of working together and helping each other.

26. Circle of Friends (recitation)

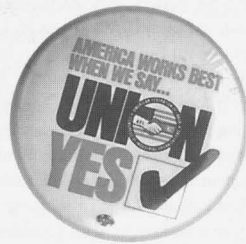
Ella Jenkins, vocals

*Let us pull together, neighbors and friends.
Let our circle of unity go around and
around again,
Because a full circle never ends.*

27. Sticking to the Union (Union Maid) (song)

Mary Ringstad, guitar and vocals; Ella Jenkins, harmonica and vocals; group chorus

HERE IS A GREAT song again, to end our program with a union of friends singing together. We hope you have had a good time with our musical venture and have learned a lot about unity and solidarity. That was the goal of this union of friends.



CREDITS

THIS RECORDING could not have been made without the assistance of many people. A thousand “thank you’s” to the children and adults who participated in the recording sessions for all for your energy, patience, talent, and warm cooperative spirit — making our union endeavor a successful one. I want especially to thank my manager and the producer of the recording, Bernadelle Richter, for spurring me on under many trying and stressful situations, when I did not think things could be worked out.

My gratefulness goes out to all, including Dr. Anthony Seeger (“Tony” to me), Director of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, for encouraging me to pursue this project when I first presented my “union of friends” idea to him, for having faith in me, and for helping me with these notes. I extend my thanks to Dr. Atesh Sonneborn, Assistant Director of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, and Pete Reiniger, Sound Production Supervisor for Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, for working with the engineers of the Chicago Recording Company, Hank Neuberger, Director, to smooth out some difficult wrinkles. *Improvement is always welcomed!*

And I thank the hard-working staff of Smithsonian Folkways, who completed the

work on *Ella Jenkins and a Union of Friends*.

Our union story is colorfully portrayed on the cover of this recording, thanks to my friend and creative artist, Peggy Lipschutz. It portrays a group of children and adults from many different backgrounds, pulling the union train along (the same union train I played on the harmonica on track 4). Pulling together we move the union train along.

— Ella Jenkins, April 1999

OTHER RECORDINGS BY ELLA JENKINS

Adventures in Rhythm (1989) Reissue of F-7682 from 1959. SFW 45007

African American Folk Rhythms (1990) Reissue of F-7654 from 1960. SFW 45003 *

And One and Two (1990) Reissue of F-7544 from 1971. SFW 45016

Call and Response (1990) Reissue of F-7638 from 1957. SFW 45030

Come Dance by the Ocean (1991). SFW 45014

Counting Games and Rhythms for Little Ones (1997) Reissue of F-7679 from 1965. SFW 45029

Early, Early Childhood Songs (1990) Reissue of F-7630 from 1982. SFW 45015

For the Family (1991) VHS, 27 minutes. SFW 48002 (Video)

Growing Up with Ella Jenkins: Rhythms, Songs, and Rhymes (1990) Reissue of F-7662 from 1976. SFW 45032

Holiday Times: Songs, Stories, Rhymes, and Chants for Christmas, Kwanza, Hannukah, Chinese New Year and St. Patrick's Day (1996). SFW 45041

Jambo and Other Call and Response Songs and Chants (1990) Reissue of F-7661 from 1974. SFW 45017

Little Johnny Brown (1990) Reissue of F-7631 from 1972. SFW 45026

Live at the Smithsonian (1991) VHS, 28 minutes. SFW 48001 (Video)

A Long Time to Freedom (1992) Reissue of F-7754 from 1969. SFW 45034

Multicultural Children's Songs (1995). SFW 45045

My Street Begins at My House (1989) Reissue of F-7543 from 1971. SFW 45005

Nursery Rhymes: Rhyming and Remembering for Young Children and for Older Girls and Boys with Special Language Needs (1991) Reissue of F-7660 from 1974. SFW 45019

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Songs, Rhythms and Chants for the Dance (1992) Reissue of F-7000AB from 1977. SFW 45004

This Is Rhythm (1990) Reissue of F-7652 from 1961. SFW 45028

This Is Rhythm (1993). SFW 45028-BK (Book)

This-A-Way, That-A-Way (1989) Reissue of F-7546 from 1973. SFW 45002

Travellin' with Ella Jenkins — A Bilingual Journey (1989) Reissue of F-7640 from 1979. SFW 45009

We Are America's Children (1990) Reissue of F-7666 from 1976. SFW 45006

You'll Sing a Song and I'll Sing a Song (1989) Reissue of F-7664 from 1966. SFW 45010

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