

Because You Asked Gordon Bok

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 13. Luz de la Luna 2:57
 14. If I Was a Dog 3:00
 15. Walter's Garden 4:51
 16. Jenny in the Roadstead 3:36
- Total time: 61:28

With The January Men and Then Some, Carol Rohl, Will Brown, David Dodson, Matt Szostak, Anne Dodson, Holly Torsey, Kat Logan and Jim Loney



TIMBERHEAD

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PO Box 840
Camden, Maine 04843
www.gordonbok.com



Gordon Bok

Because You Asked

THHD CD18

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I keep a very large repertoire alive, I'm always learning or making songs, because they reflect my changing understanding of the world. They feel like a great herd of horses that need to be exercised. And I feel a strong need to do that, because they seem to exercise different parts of myself. That's why I have never done two solo concerts the same.

I take about two hundred songs with me on a typical three-week tour and will practice and perform most of them. On the next tour, about half of those songs will be replaced by others. So when you ask me for an old song in a concert, I may not be able to bring it to hand or voice in the time we're given.

These are some of the songs you have requested or asked me to record. You'll note the preponderance of chorus songs; I'm always proud that you and I are still part of a singing tradition. Luckily we've built a strong musical community at home, and enjoy helping each other with our various projects, so local friends are filling in for you on this recording. Here you go then, and thanks for asking.

Recorded and engineered by Bruce Boege, Limin Music, Northport, Maine, with additional recording by Hamilton Hall. Mixed by Bruce Boege, Gordon Bok and Anne Dodson. Mastered by Grey Larsen at Grey Larsen Mastering, Bloomington, Indiana

Produced by Gordon Bok and Anne Dodson

Cover photograph by Gordon Bok

Programming by Carol Rohl

Graphic design by Ken Gross

In this recording The January Men and Then Some are: Gordon Bok, Bill Huntington, Jamie Huntsberger, Bob Richardson, Carol Rohl, Langley Willauer, Ivan Stancioff, Judith Simpson, Dan Beckman, Kat Logan and Jim Loney.

In the photo below: Will Brown, Carol Rohl, Anne Dodson, Gordon Bok, Kat Logan, Jim Loney, and Matt Szostak. Missing from photo: David Dodson, Holly Torsey, and many of the January Men and Then Some.



LONI

© 1986 Jan Harmon

Gordon – vocal & 12-string guitar
Will, Matt, Kat, Jim, David, Anne – vocals

An early, off-season visit to Yosemite by Jan and a friend inspired this song.

ISLE AU HAUT LULLABY

© 1965 Gordon Bok, BMI

Gordon – vocal & 12-string guitar
Will, Matt, Kat, Jim, David, Anne – vocals

I made the tune when Capt. Havilah Hawkins pointed to Hay Island and said "Can you make a tune as simple as that island?" Hence the Hay Ledge Tune. Later, beading east toward Isle au Haut with a young friend asleep below who'd had a hard day, I put the words together.

BROKEN DOWN SQUATTER

© Charles Flowers circa 1880s, from the Penguin Australian Songbook, compiled by John S. Manifold [Penguin Books 1964]

Gordon – vocal & 12-string guitar
Will, Matt, Anne – vocals

I think I first heard this from Dave de Hugard, whom I've never met, but whose singing has taught me a lot over the years. A sad commentary, but one repeated over the years in many countries. The last double verse was found a few years ago by Bill Scott of Warwick, who thought to look in Charles Flowers's journals, which his family had kept. It is not commonly sung.

MY IMAGES COME

© 1983 Don Cooper, New Mutant Music

Gordon, Will, Matt, Kat, Jim, David, Anne – vocals

I got this song from my old friend, Bob Stuart. Only this year did I have the chance to hear Don's singing of it – that's well worth a listen.

WILLEM

© 1985 Gordon Bok

Gordon – Spanish guitar
Carol – harp

I originally made this tune for a film pilot with my friend and colleague, Eton Churchill. Our local instrumental group, "Small World Orchestra" enjoyed playing it and polished it up some, and I named it after one of our number, Will Brown, a shipmate of many musical (and other) voyages, because it felt like the way he seems to dance the days with such grace and kindness.

CHANGING TIMES

© 1985 Dan MacArthur, BMI

Gordon – vocal & 12-string guitar
Will, Matt, Kat, Jim, David, Anne, Holly – vocals

From my dear MacArthur family of Marlboro VT, whose love and work has kept so many traditions of music, building and land care alive and healthy in the world that feeds us all.

EASY AND SLOW

Traditional

Gordon – vocal & Spanish guitar, Carol – vocal

I probably got this from the great British American singer, David Jones. I thought I got it from Tommy Makem – but when cornered, he denied that. So much for memory.

GO EAST

© 2003 Nadine Laughlin

Gordon – vocal & Spanish guitar

Nadine lives with her family in the woods of New Hampshire. She made this astonishing song for her daughter, who had lost her best friend. I thank her for writing it, and I thank our mutual friend Alouette Iselin for knowing to send it to me when I needed it. Nadine sang it on a CD called "Beautiful Mystery."

JOCK STEWART

Anon

Gordon – vocal & 12-String guitar
Will, Matt, Kat, Jim, David, Anne – vocals

OLD FAT BOAT

© 1976 Gordon Bok, BMI

Gordon – vocal & 12-string guitar, Anne – vocal

For some reason people have been asking for this song recently. It's about a boat-delivery from Connecticut to Maine. You can read the whole soggy story in the Folk Legacy songbook Time and the Flying Snow.

A SONG FOR ANGELA

© 1995 Bill Gallaher, SOCAN

Gordon – vocal, 12-string guitar, & viol da gamba

Bill Gallaher says, "The NFB docu-drama For Angela, told the story of a young First Nation Cree girl in Winnipeg who was on her way to school one day on a city bus, with her mom, when they were harassed by three white teenage boys. This was done with such utter cruelty that it put thoughts in the little girl's mind no child should have to bear. That night, feeling profoundly ashamed of her heritage, she slipped quietly into the bathroom where the scissors were kept, and cut off her beautiful braids. The scene was so moving it stirred my soul."

TURNING TOWARD THE MORNING

© 1975 Gordon Bok, BMI

Gordon – vocal & 12-String Guitar
The January Men And Then Some – vocals

This is probably my most requested song in concerts. I tend to sing it as a seasonal song, but those who request it tell me it's not. It started as an attempt to answer a letter from a lady I did not know well, who was having a hard time facing the thought of winter.

My singing of this has been influenced by my friends Dave Mallett, who sang it faster than I, and Megan MacArthur, who left off the last verse. I have taken their folk process (folk wisdom) to inform my present singing.

LUZ DE LA LUNA

© Papi Galan

Gordon – Spanish guitar
Carol – harp

My wife, Carol and I always have requests for this kind of music, and this is one of our favorites. It was recorded in 2003.

IF I WAS A DOG

© 1995 Colm Gallagher, ASCAP

Gordon – vocal & 12-string guitar
Will, Matt, Kat, Jim, David, Anne – vocals

I got this song from Tommy Makem. I think he told me that Colm used to play bass for him in NY City. Colm also made the words for "I Held a Lady," an old favorite of mine.

WALTER'S GARDEN

Written by Garic Barranger © 1998
NARP, BMI

Gordon – vocal & 12-String guitar
Will, Matt, Kat, Jim, David, Anne, Holly – vocals

I learned this from the singing of Rose Anne Bivens, one of Garic's musical partners, on the delightful CD, Rose Anne Bivens' "Walter's Garden." Garic says, "the song grew out of litigation in which a group of

Louisiana prisoners sued the state as a result of appalling conditions at Angola, our state prison. I represented a good number of the parties plaintiff and Walter was one of them. Walter was our "mole" inside the prison campus (poetically referred to by the residents as "the Farm") and kept us informed about just what the officials were up to from day to day, until he became so sufficiently annoying that the powers that be stopped his [asthma medication.] . . . [Y]ou know the rest. The story in the song is mainly true except that part in the last verse that refers to "a suit for wrongful death" following Walter's passing, the fact was that he had no heirs to file a suit on his behalf, so the song is his only memorial."

JENNY IN THE ROADSTEAD

© 2011 Gordon Bok, BMI

Gordon – vocal & Spanish guitar

Inspired by a carving I did years ago showing a young woman on the foredeck of a workboat, staring into the wind. Finally got curious enough about her to explore it with a song.

Song lyrics and additional information available at www.timberheadmusic.com

Where possible, I print the oldest sources I have of these songs, no matter how much they differ from the versions that came to me.

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