

A black and white photograph of a man with a mustache, wearing a light-colored cowboy hat and a dark suit jacket over a striped shirt. He is shown in profile, playing a mandolin. The background is a soft-focus scene of autumn leaves in shades of orange and yellow. The overall mood is nostalgic and artistic.

Rich O'Brien

"Seasons, Roads, and Faces"

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THE TUNES:

1. Big Sky Bounce (*Stephanie Davis, EMI/Beartooth Music/BMI*) I thought this tune would be a good way to say "Howdy". It came from the musical mind of my Montana pal, Stephanie Davis. Stephanie is not only a great songwriter, she also keeps us supplied with some good sheep jokes.

2. There's An Old Spinning Wheel (In the Parlor) (*Traditional*) I learned this old tune from my Ma and brother, Paul, when I was a little kid and I still enjoy playing it.

3. Waltz For Bridget (*R. E. O'Brien*) This song was originally a Christmas gift for a lovely Texas lady. It was composed on the piano but it makes a nice string band tune.

4. Swing 42 (*Jean "Django" Reinhardt, Jewell Music Publishing Co. Inc./ASCAP*) Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli have influenced guitar players and fiddlers the world over. This is but one of their many tunes that is really fun to play.

5. I'll Be With You In Apple Blossom Time (*Traditional, Von Tilzer & Fleeson*) I have loved the incredible singing of Chris O'Connell since the first time I heard her with "Asleep At The Wheel" twenty years ago. She honors us with this wonderful version of an old pretty song.

6. Dancing Mick From Louisville (*R.E. O'Brien*) This Irish-sounding ditty just came to me from out of the blue (green?) on a St. Patrick's Day morning. I dedicated it to the memory of my grand-uncle, Ed "Yeller" O'Brien who, apparently, was never too concerned with what was considered conventional behavior.

7. Limehouse Blues (*Braham & Furber, Warner Bros. Inc./ASCAP*) Another old standard that's fun to play. Joey's rhythm guitar work and Wolf's dobro solo are equally ferocious on this cut.

8. Santa Rosa Serenade (*R.E. O'Brien*) A tip of my sombrero to the Great Southwest... for Steve Murrin.

9. The Gypsy's Jewelry (*R.E. O'Brien*) Thanks to Joey McKenzie for the loan of his Maccferri/Selmer-style guitar. The song was inspired by the music of Django Reinhardt, a gypsy who spent most of his life in France.

10. On The Trail--Basil Poledouris (*RHI Entertainment Music Co.-admin. by Zomba Songs, Inc., BMI*) I was about thirteen years old the first time I read Larry McMurty's "Leaving Cheyenne". Since then I've tried to read everything he's written. His "Lonesome Dove" has become my all-time favorite western movie. This lovely, bittersweet waltz is recurrent throughout the soundtrack. For Stan Hansen, Cheryl Malone and John Clark.

11. Come And Dine (The Master Calleth) (*Traditional*) I first heard this old song performed by the Armstrong girls; Oly, my aunt and Gracie, my ma. They learned it from my grandma, Florence, in the Ozark hills long ago. It's nice to imagine a time when families would get together and sing songs about the Lord; it seems to be a rarity in today's world.

12. October's Message (*R.E. O'Brien*) There is something about Autumn that words can't express so this little melody will have to do for now. Thanks to the other players for their input regarding which chord to use in the first measure.

13. Fling of the Tinks (*R.E. O'Brien*) The title is so much of an "inside" thing that I'm not sure that even I understand it. Ask Snuffy Elmore what it means.

14. When You And I Were Young, Maggie (*Traditional*) My ma, Gracie, told me that she remembered the old-timers singing "Maggie" slowly and reverently sometimes and at other times they'd sing it lively. Hopefully, this arrangement would earn the approval of the "old-timers".

Rich O'Brien

THE PLAYERS:

CHRIS O'CONNELL - Vocal on "Apple Blossom Time"

TOM "WOLF" MORRELL - Dobro and Rhythm Guitar

RANDY "SNUFFY" ELMORE - Fiddle, Rhythm Guitar, Mandolin and Strings

JOEY MCKENZIE - Rhythm Guitar, Tenor Guitar, Fiddle and Mandolin

BUCK REAMS - Rhythm Guitar

MARK ABBOTT - Acoustic Bass Fiddle

RONNY SHULTZ - Bass Fiddle on "Big Sky Bounce", "Limehouse Blues" and "Fling of the Tinks"

GREG HARDY - Drums and Percussion

BILLY ENGLISH - Percussion

RICH O'BRIEN - Acoustic Guitars, Marimba on "Santa Rosa Serenade"
and Mandolin on "Fling of the Tinks"

Executive Producers: Bob Coffey, Gary Graham and Richard E. O'Brien

Producer and Arranger: Rich O'Brien

Recorded at Studio 12, Weatherford, Texas (817) 596-9191

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"Seasons, Roads, and Faces"

This recording is dedicated to my family who has always encouraged me: My Dear Ma, Gracie, for sharing her legacy of music, Frances, who gave me my first gut-string guitar, Ruby and Stan, for making music part of every visit, Buck and Brenda, for having confidence in me, Paul, who taught me how to play guitar, Jerry and Rhonda, for liking the old songs, Mick and Cathy, for the selfless devotion to my interests by two very busy people, Janice, who literally wears out the tapes I give her, and Don who never seems to wear out at all, Dear Lavon, who would brag about me even if I couldn't play a lick. And three guys we all really miss - Jim, who loved music and laughter, Tom my Dad, who gave me more than he probably ever realized. And brother John, who was my biggest fan.

Thanks to Chris O'Connell, Bill Hearne, Don and Kathy Edwards, Stephanie Davis, Red Steagall, Sumter Bruton and Kevin Coffee, for kind words and good deeds which were of great value toward the completion of this album. Thanks to Dick Capplemann for the fine photograph. Thank you - no - Bless You, Bob Coffey, for making the completion of this project a reality.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to Gary Graham for his steady patience and interest in this project. We finally did it, Garrison!

Finally, music would not be possible without musicians and I'm fortunate to have had the assistance of great musicians who are also great friends. I would like to think that the friendship is evident as you listen to these tunes.

- Rich O'Brien

"I have known and played with Rich for many years. His friendship I treasure and his musical genius fires my soul and motivates me to be a better player. But this recording is not just for musicians. It's for anyone who enjoys and appreciates good music. Rich has surrounded himself with others of his like to bring you one of the most brilliant and downright enjoyable instrumental recordings of this century."

- Don Edwards

"Rich O'Brien is one of the great guitarists of our time. This collection is a fabulous piece of work. Rich's selection of songs and musicians to accompany him are exceptional. When history looks back on the great instrumentalists of our time, Rich O'Brien will be at the top of the list. Relax and listen to the beauty and masterful interpretations of these classic melodies and get to know my dear friend, Rich O'Brien. You will find him inventive, versatile and extremely enjoyable."

- Red Steagall





Rich O'Brien Seasons, Roads and Faces 80302-01183-2

"In the best cowboy tradition, O'Brien plays as if he is never in a hurry, even when he's picking a lightning-fast solo."

- *Acoustic Guitar Magazine*



Rich O'Brien Seasons, Roads and Faces 80302-01183-2

1. **Big Sky Bounce** 2:01
2. **There's An Old Spinning Wheel (In the Parlor)** 2:44
3. **Waltz for Bridget** 3:48
4. **Swing 42** 2:49
5. **I'll Be With You in Apple Blossom Time** 2:53
6. **Dancing Mick from Louisville** 1:54
7. **Limehouse Blues** 2:44
8. **Santa Rosa Serenade** 4:00
9. **The Gypsy's Djewelry** 2:41
10. **On The Trail** 2:55
11. **Come and Dine (The Master Calleth)** 2:10
12. **October's Message** 3:23
13. **Fling of the Tinks** 3:13
14. **When You and I Were Young, Maggie** 2:50



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Rich O'Brien
"Seasons, Roads, and Faces"



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