14 Numbers, Letters and Animal Songs
sung by Alan Mills, guitarist: Bram Morrison
Folkways Records
Stereo FC7545

SIDE I

Band 1. Numbers & Letters (2:00)
Band 2. By'm By (Trad.) (1:45)
Band 3. One Man Went To Mow (Trad.) (1:15)
Band 4. One Man Shall Mow My Meadow (Trad.) (1:25)
Band 5. Mother, May I Go Out To Swim (Trad.) (1:00)
Band 6. The Animal Alphabet
   (Words & Music by A. Mills) (2:15)
Band 7. Little Bings (Trad.) (2:45)
Band 8. This Old Man (Trad.) (2:35)
   (Nick-Nack-Paddywhack)

SIDE II

Band 1. Old John Braddellum - (Words by A. Mills) (3:05)
    (Trad. English folk tune)
Band 2. Ten Green Apples - (A. Mills) (1:20)
Band 3. Six Little Ducks (American) (2:00)
Band 4. The Farmer's Three Pigs (Adap. by A. Mills) (2:20)
Band 5. Old King Cole (Trad.) (2:20)
Band 6. A Long Time Ago - (Trad. tune with
    new words by A. Mills) (4:05)

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14 Numbers, Letters
and Animal Songs

sung by Alan Mills

guitarist: Bram Morrison

cover by Henry Post
drawing by Chris Davis
14 Numbers, Letters, and Animal Songs

Sung by Alan Mills
Acc. by Bram Morrison

All the songs in this album, as its title indicates, 'have to do with numbers and letters in one form or another, and are aimed at encouraging the very young to familiarize themselves with counting and the alphabet.

Beginning with very simple counting and alphabet songs, it proceeds to number-rhyming and letter-rhyming songs, plus a spelling song and a few story songs, all of which were selected to entertain young listeners (and the not-so-young) through participation in the singing.

Because it has been our experience that many young children, from pre-schoolers to those attending elementary grades, find difficulty in learning and singing songs which are "too fast" or "too high" for them, all the songs have been recorded at a slower pace than usual, and in keys which do not extend the lower and middle registers of most youngsters.

It is suggested that teachers of the young, who hopefully will make use of this album as an educational aid, will try teaching the songs in the approximate tempo and register in which they have been recorded to begin with, so that children may not have any difficulty singing them. Once they become familiar with the songs, children will soon find their own pace and register.

Side 1, Band 1. -- Numbers & Letters

(A very simple counting and alphabet song, sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, you can sing it now yourself.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, you can sing it now yourself.


Now you've heard my A-B-C,
you can sing along with me.

(Repeat the second verse, changing the last two lines as follows: Now you've sung my A-B-C, it's as easy as can be.)

Side 1, Band 2. -- By'm By

(A favorite American counting song)

By'm by, by'm by, stars shinin',
Number one, number two, number three,
Good Lord, by'm by, by'm by, by'm by, by'm by.

By'm by, by'm by, stars shinin',
Number four, number five, number six,
Good Lord, by'm by, by'm by, by'm by, by'm by.

By'm by... (etc.)
Number seven, number eight, number nine... (etc.)

By'm by... (etc.)
Number ten, number eleven, number twelve... (etc.)

(Could be continued up to number twenty)

Side 1, Band 3. -- One Man Went to Mow

(Another favorite counting song, in which the trick is to count backwards as well as forwards)

One man went to mow,
One man and his dog went to mow a meadow.

Two men went to mow,
Went to mow a meadow.

Three men went to mow,
Went to mow a meadow.

(And so on up to 10 or 12)

Side 1, Band 4. -- One Man Shall Mow My Meadow

(A somewhat lesser-known and melodically superior version of the foregoing, if slightly more complicated)

One man shall mow my meadow,
Two men shall mow it together,
Three men shall mow it together,
Four men shall mow it together.

One man, one man, and one more,
Shall mow my lasms, and eves and rams,
And gather my wool together,
And gather my wool together.

(And so on, by two's up to 10)

Side 1, Band 5. -- Mother, May I Go Out To Swim?

(Mother, may I go out to swim?

Yes, my darlin' daughter,

Hang your clothes on a hickory limb,

But don't go near the water.


That's the way to spell 'em.

Then comes V, and then comes W, and the chorus rings 'em.

W, X, Y and Z, and that's the way to sing 'em.

Side 1, Band 6. -- The Animal Alphabet

(Words & Music by Alan Mills)
Side 1. Band 7. -- Little Bingo

(A traditional English spelling song, to which several verses have been added.)

There was a farmer had a young dog,
His name was Little Bingo.
S with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
B-I-N-G-O, His name was Little Bingo.

The farmer had a very good voice,
And he did like to sing-o.
S with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
S-I-N-G-O, And he did like to sing-o.

The farmer loved a pretty young maid,
He bought her a wedding ring-o.
R with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
R-I-N-G-O, He bought her a wedding ring-o.

The wedding bells soon merrily rang,
A-ting, a-ting, a-ting-o.
T with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,

Then off they went to London town,
To see the Queen and King-o.
K with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
K-I-N-G-O, To see the Queen and King-o.

Now, isn't this a jolly good song,
I think it is, by Jingo.
J with an I, I with an N, N with a G,
G with an O,
J-I-N-G-O, I think it is, by Jingo!

Side 1. Band 8. -- This Old Man (Nick-Nack-Paddywhack)

(This English folk song is probably the most popular of all number-rhyming songs.)

This old man, he played One,
He played nick-nack on my drum,
Nick-nack paddywhack, give a dog a bone,
This old man came rolling home.

This old man, he played Two,
He played nick-nack on my shoe... (etc.)

This old man, he played Three,
He played nick-nack on my knee... (etc.)

This old man, he played Four,
He played nick-nack on my door (or floor)...

This old man, he played Five,
He played nick-nack on my hive...

This old man, he played Six,
He played nick-nack on my sticks (or chicks)...

This old man, he played Seven,
He played nick-nack up to heaven...

This old man, he played Eight,
He played nick-nack on my gate (or plate)...

This old man, he played Nine,
He played nick-nack on my spine...

This old man, he played Ten,
He played nick-nack on my hen... (or -- now let's sing this song again)...

Side 2. Band 1. -- Old John Braddelum

(Words & music adapted by Alan Mills from an old English folk song)

(A lesser-known number-rhyming song than This Old Man, but just as much fun to sing.)

Number one, number one, now my song has just begun,
With a rum-tum-taddeleum, Old John Braddelum,
Hey, what country folk we be.

Number two, number two, roosters crow cockadood-l doo,
With a rum-tum-taddeleum... (etc.)

Number three, -- Three little monkeys up a tree... (etc.)
Number four, -- Two plus one, then add one more...
Number five, -- Bees make honey in a hive...
Number six, -- Three little ducks and three little chicks...
Number seven, -- Add four more to make eleven...
Number eight, -- Four through the window and four through the gate...
Number nine, -- Nine little ants march in a line...
Number ten, -- Five women and five men...
Number eleven, -- Always rhyme with number seven...
Number twelve, -- If you want any more you can sing it yourself...

Side 2. Band 2. -- Ten Green Apples

(Words & music by Alan Mills, adapted from a popular drinking song)

Farmer Brown had ten green apples hanging on a tree (2)
Then he plucked one apple and he ate it greedily,
Leaving nine green apples a-hanging on a tree.

Farmer Brown had nine green apples hanging on a tree (2)
Then he plucked one apple and he ate it greedily,
Leaving eight green apples a-hanging on a tree.

Farmer Brown had eight green apples... (etc.)

(Continue the song to last verse: --)

LAST LINE: -- Leaving no green apples a-hanging on a tree.

Side 2. Band 3. -- Six Little Ducks

There were six little ducks that I once knew,
Thin ones, fat ones, funny ones, too,
One little duck with a feather on his back,
He led the others with a quack-quack-quack,
Quack, quack, quack, quack, quack, quack,
He led the others with a quack, quack, quack.

Down to the river they all did go,
With a wibble-wobble, wobble-wobble to and fro,
One little duck with a feather on his back,
He led the others... (etc.)

Up and down the river they swam all day,
And their tails wiggle-waggled as they did play,
One little duck with a feather... (etc.)

Home from the river they all did come,
With a wobble-wobble, wibble-wobble, Hi-ho-hum,
Still one little duck with a feather... (etc.)

Side 2. Band 4. -- The Farmer's Three Pigs

(Words & music by Alan Mills, adapted from an English folk song)

Oh, the farmer had one, and the farmer had two,
And the farmer had three little pigs in a stew,
Tra-la-la, la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

Oh, he wrapped them in butter, and he wrapped them in dough,
And he spiced them and stewed them and baked them, ho-ho,
Tra-la-la... (etc.)

While the piglets were cooking, the farmer grew sad,
To think that he'd treated his piglets so bad,
Tra-la-la... (etc.)

While the piglets were roasting, the farmer looked in,
But he just couldn't eat them for fear 'twas a sin,
Tra-la-la... (etc.)

So he opened the oven, and took them all three,
And onto the table he placed them, did he,
Tra-la-la... (etc.)

Then, much to the farmer's delight and surprise,
The piglets jumped up before his very eyes,
Tra-la-la,...

Then all round the table, they danced merrily,
While the farmer looked on with wonder and glee,
Tra-la-la,...

Then the pigs started singing and the farmer joined in
And the meal was forgotten amidst all the din,
Tra-la-la,...

Now that you've heard the story, there's no more to tell,
If you want any more, you can sing it yourself,
Tra-la-la,...
Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he,
He called for his pipe and he called for his bowl,
And he called for his harpers three.
Every harper had a fine harp, and a very fine harp had he,
There's none so rare as can compare
With King Cole and his harpers three.

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And he called for his harpers three.
Every harper had a fine harp, and a very fine harp had he,
There's none so rare as can compare
With King Cole and his harpers three.

Side 2. Band 6. -- A Long Time Ago

(Adapted from a popular sea-shanty, with new verses by Alan Mills.)

This is one of the many songs telling the story of Noah's Ark. Like its better-known counterpart, 'One More River,' it is a number-chasing song, and it has an easy chorus for everyone to sing.

A long time, and a very long time, TO ME WAY, HEY, HEZ, NO.
A long time, and a very long time, A LONG TIME AGO.

In 'Frisco Bay there lay three ships, TO ME WAY....
In 'Frisco Bay there lay three ships, A LONG TIME AGO,
And one of those ships was Noah's old ark,...
'Twas covered all over with hickory bark,....

Out came the animals one by one....
The first was an elephant chewing a bun....
Out came the animals, two by two....
A donkey and a kangaroo....

Out came the animals, three by three....
Two monkeys and a chimpanzee....

Out came the animals, four by four....
The hippopotamus stuck in the door....

Out came the animals, five by five....
Two ants, two birds, and a bee in a hive....

Out came the animals, six by six....
Two horses, two bears, and two tiny ticks....

Out came the animals, seven by seven....
While seven angels looked down from heaven....

Out came the animals, eight by eight....
A cow and a bull jumped over the gate....

Out came the animals, nine by nine....
Three owls, three eagles, and three doves a-flyin'....

Out came the animals, ten by ten....
Then Noah sailed off to sea again....

ABOUT ALAN MILLS

While Canadian folk-singer Alan Mills prepared this album of "educational" songs for pre-school children and elementary graders, Folkways Records feel sure that most of the 14 songs he has recorded will appeal to people of all ages, and all of them will be particularly useful to teachers of the young.

A native Montralker and a former newspaper reporter, Alan Mills began collecting and singing folk-songs as a hobby back in the early thirties, and started singing them professionally shortly thereafter, as a sideline to his newspaper work, along with acting in little theatre groups and radio dramas for Canada's government-owned CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation). Increasing demands for his talents as an actor and folk-singer led him to quit newspaperwork entirely in the early forties, since when he has been heard in thousands of radio and television programs on both English and French networks of the CBC, as well as in short-wave broadcasts to Europe and Latin-American countries.

Through these programs, as well as his many recordings and concert appearances, he soon became recognized as one of the foremost interpreters of both English and French folk-songs of his officially bilingual native land.

His concerts have taken him on more than a dozen tours across North America, from Newfoundland to the west coast, and from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico, and twice to Britain -- first at the invitation of the English Folk Music & Dance Society, and again by the Joint Commonwealth Societies.

Although he has a wide knowledge of the general literature of folk balladry, he has concentrated most of his efforts in trying to make others aware of Canada's vast heritage of traditional songs, and in demonstrating how folk-songs may be used as educational aids in many forms.

Besides his concerts and radio and television appearances, Mills has recorded more than a score of LP's, most of which reflect his own interests in Canadians and young people, and he has compiled and edited some half-dozen songbooks. He has also composed a number of songs in the folk idiom, the best known of which is the widely-popular "nonsense" song called "I Know An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly."

His Folkways Recordings alone include the following:

Album No. 7009 - MORE SONGS TO GROW ON
Album No. 7021 - FOLK SONGS FOR YOUNG FOLK (1)
Album No. 7032 - FOLK SONGS FOR YOUNG FOLK (2)
Album No. 7208 - FRENCH FOLKSONGS FOR CHILDREN
Album No. 7719-20-21-22 - CHANTONS EN FRANCAIS
Album No. 3001 - 0 CANADA (A History in Song)
Album No. 6929 - FRENCH CANADIAN SONGS
Album No. 6831 - FOLKSONGS OF NEWFOUNDLAND
Album No. 8771 - FAVORITE SONGS OF NEWFOUNDLAND
Album No. 6923 - CHANTS D'ACADIE (Songs of Acadia)

(Twenty folk-songs & traditional ballads of the early French settlers of a section of eastern Canada now incorporated in the Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Sung with Helene Baillergeon)

Album No. 8744 - SONGS OF THE MARITIMES

(Sixteen traditional English ballads & folk-songs of the three aforementioned provinces.)

Album No. 2312 - SONGS OF THE SEA

(32 favorite sea-shanties and ballads sung with a small chorus.)

Album No. 3532 - SONGS & FIDDLE TUNES OF CANADA

(With traditional Fiddler Jean Carignan)

Album No. 7790 - CHRISTMAS SONGS OF MANY LANDS

(Includes 25 well-known and lesser-known traditional songs of 15 countries, sung in English.)

Album No. 6918 - SONGS OF FRENCH CANADA

(With Helene Baillergeon)

Album No. 8771 - JEWISH SONGS

(With Ransche)
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