Spain

Songs

Children's

and Isabela Alonso

Sung by Karen James

Warning:

Descriptive Notes are inside pocket.

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Tomati li ha sal med

ESTA NOCHE HAY LLOVIO

Loving Pussy Cat

EL SEÑOR DON CATO

The Bug and the Flea

EL "PREGA" Y LA PLEGA

Why My Dime and a Half

CON UN REAL MEDIDO

What will you send the little children?

GIVE ME MANA USED AS POLLITO

Among the Plants and Flowers

ENTRE LAS PLANTAS Y FLORES

Get up, Joseph!

LEVANTA JOSE

The Trotting Horse

EL CABALLO TROTON

There was a little lady

GRANDE NAVA VIEJECITA

The Three Mice

LOS TRES RATONES

The Hen that Got Lost

LA GALINA SE PERDIO
CHILDREN'S SONGS
from SPAIN
sung by KAREN JAMES
and ISABELITA ALONSO

NOTES ON SONGS

The songs for this record came from collections made in the Spanish provinces of Santander, Madrid and La Mancha. Three provinces out of Spain's 48 - only a sixteenth of the possible sources - without taking into account the rest of the Spanish-speaking world. Spanish children are indeed fortunate to have such a rich heritage of folksong. And Spanish children do learn to sing right from the time they are in their mothers' laps. When they are older, it is mainly the little girls who keep the songs alive. They sing while they skip with a rope, roll a hoop, or roll stones. They sing ring games, action songs, riddles, jingles and tongue-twisters, and sweet melodies with sweeter lyrics that give the young singer a taste for the fine poetry that is so often found in Spanish folklore.

The record is dedicated to the young folk of America who are learning the Spanish language. I hope you will have fun with them. First learn to sing the choruses of songs like "Levanta Jose," "A mi burro" "La gallina" "Caballo trotón" until you have enough confidence to try verses. Remember that the Spanish language never minds changing the spoken stress in order to fit a word into the music, or telescoping two or three vowels to sing them on one note. Thus you have to sing Le manDareuna camisa" instead of "Le mandare una camisa".

My Spanish being Castillian is probably different from the way you have been taught to pronounce it. Never mind. Just say your CE and CI as SE and SI as they do in South America. It won't make any difference to the songs.

Two teaspoons in a pop bottle provide percussion accompaniment for "Levanta Jose" or any marching song.

Lastly, I would like to mention how happy I am to be collaborating with my daughter Karen on this record. When Sam Gesser of Folkways first suggested my collecting the songs for it, neither of us had any idea that Karen would help to make it. While thirty songs lay on my shelf for three years half forgotten, Karen, experimenting with a guitar for her own amusement proved her outstanding talent as a folksinger and guitarist. The idea of making the record together followed quite logically. This was what the songs had been awaiting all the time - the extra life and colour that the blending of two voices and two personalities would give them. We hope you have as much fun trying to sing them as we had preparing the record together.

ISABELITA ALONSO - Biographical Note

Was born in Bilbao in Northern Spain, of Castillian parents. At school age was sent to London, where she received all her formal education. At the same time her parents saw to it that she did not forget her native tongue, thus Isabelita grew up completely bilingual. She received her musical education at the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of music in London, and during the war made a special study of Spanish folklore under the noted Spanish musicologist, Eduardo Martinez Torner. She became a well-known radio performer from 1941 on, appearing in many popular war-time programmes such as Variety Bandbox, Workers Playtime, Tuesday Serenade and many others, besides being heard in recital in the Home Service and in the Third Programme. She specialized in modern Spanish and Latin-American repertoire. In 1948 she gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall.

Since 1952 she has made her home in Canada, where she has broadcast in Sunday Morning and Distinguished Artists recitals, several times in "Songs of My People" the popular folksong series. Besides she played a principle role in the CBC's production of "Patience" by Gilbert and Sullivan, and has appeared as soloist in "Rhapsody", "Open House" and other TV programmes.
LA GALLINA QUE SE PERDIO
Yo tenía una gallina quince reales me costó; la compré por la mañana por la tarde se perdió.
- Vecinas murmuradoras que vivís alrededor, habéis visto una gallina que ayer tarde se perdió.
- Si señora, la hemos visto, que a mi pozo se cayó. Cuando se estaba ahogando cantaba co-ro-co.
Yo no siento la gallina ni el precio que me costó. Lo siento por los pollitos que siendo chiquititos no pueden cantar el co-ro-ro-ro-co-ro-co.
THE HEN THAT GOT LOST
I had a hen; it cost me fifteen reales.*
I bought it in the morning; in the evening it got lost.
Gossiping neighbours who live all around, Have you seen a hen which escaped yesterday afternoon?
"Yes ma'am", we've seen it, "She fell in my pond."
While she was drowning she sang: co-ro-ro-co.
I'm not sorry about the hen or the money she cost; I'm sorry about the little chicks, because they are so small and they cannot sing co-ro-ro-ro-co-ro-co, co-ro-ro-ro-co-ro-co.
* a "real" is a small coin

LOS TRES RATONES
Por la calle abajito leren-lerén, van tres ratones leren-lerén,
Uno va haciendo punto y otro botones, y otro lleva la cesta de los melones.
THE THREE MICE
Down the street leren-lerén, Go three mice leren-leren.

EL CABALLO TROTÓN
Una tarde salí al campo con el ay, con el ay-ay-ay, en mi caballo trotón, que-que, con el levitín, que-que, con el levitón, con mi caballo trotón; y me encontré con dos damas que eran más guapas que el sol.

Las agarré de la mano y las llevé al mesón.
Pregunté si había cena me dijeron. - Si señor.
Pregunté que cena había. Dos gallinas y un capón.
Gallinas para las damas, y el capón para el señor.
Pregunté si había vino me dijeron - Si señor.
Pregunté que vino había. Dos vasitos y un jarrón.
Vasitos para las damas, y el jarrón para el señor.

THE TROTTING HORSE
One afternoon I went to the country On my trotting horse.
I met two ladies Who were fairer than the sun.
I took them by the hand And led them to the Inn.
I asked if there was supper. They said, "Yes, sir."
I asked what was for supper. Two hens and a capon.
Hens for the ladies; The capon for the gentleman.
I asked if there was wine. They said, "Yes, sir."
I asked what wine there was. Two glasses and a jug.
Glasses for the ladies; The jug for the gentleman.
LEVANTA JOSE

Levant Ojoe, y enciende la vela, 
Y mira quien viene por la carreta. 
Son los angélicos que van de carrera, 
Y llevan a un niño vestido de seda. 
De quién es ese niño? 
De María, señora. 
Dónde está María? 
Hablando con Pablo. 
Dónde está Pablo? 
Hablando con Pedro, 
quien abre y cierra las puertas del cielo.

Ya vienen los reyes por los arenas, 
y traen al niño sus ricos pañales. 
Ya vienen los reyes por las arenillas, 
y traen al niño sus ricas mantillas.

Dónde está María, etc.

GET UP, JOSEPH!

Get up, Joseph, and light the candle, 
And see who is coming down the road. 
It's the little angels racing fast 
And bringing the little boy dressed in silk. 
Who is this little boy? 
He belongs to the fair Mary. 
Where is Mary? 
She's talking to Paul. 
Where is Paul? 
He's talking to Peter, 
Who opens and closes the gates of Heaven.

Here come the Kings across the deserts, 
They are bringing rich napkins for the baby. 
Here come the Kings across the sands, 
Bringing the baby his rich shawls.

Who is that baby? etc.

Here come the Kings across those hills, 
They are bringing the baby his rich swaddling clothes. 
The tambourines are ringing, loudly, more loudly, 
Because the prophecies have now been fulfilled.

Who is that baby? etc.

MI BURRO

A mi burro, a mi burro, 
Le duele la cabeza, 
El médico le ha puesto 
Una gorrita negra. 
Una gorrita negra.

Zapatos lilá-la-la, 
Zapatos lilá.

A mi burro, a mi burro, 
Le duele la garganta. 
El médico le ha puesto 
Una bufanda blanca.

... le duelen las orejas. 
El médico le ha dicho 
Que las tenga muy tiasas. 
... le duelen el corazón. 
El médico le ha dado 
Jarabe de limón.

... le duelen las puzunías. 
El médico le ha dado 
Jarabe de lechuga.

... ya no le duele nada. 
El médico le ha dado 
Jarabe de manzana. 
Jarabe de manzana, 
Jarabe de lechuga, 
Jarabe de limón, 
Que las tenga muy tiasas, 
Una bufanda blanca, 
Una gorrita negra, 
Zapatos lilá-la-la, 
Zapatos lilá.

MY DONKEY

My donkey, my donkey, 
Has got an awful headache. 
The doctor has told him, 
To wear a woollen scarf.

... has a pain in his ears. 
The doctor has told him 
To hold them up quite straight.

... has a pain in his heart. 
The doctor has given him 
syrup of lemon.

... has a pain in his hooves. 
The doctor has given him 
syrup of lettuce.

... no longer has a pain. 
The doctor has given him 
syrup of apples.

To wear a woollen scarf, 
To wear a black bonnet, 
A pair of lilac shoes, la-la, 
A pair of lilac shoes.

YO TENÍA DIEZ PERRITOS

Yo tenía diez perritos (bis) 
y uno se murió de fiebre. 
Ya no tengo más que nueve.

De los nueve que tenía, 
uno se murió de tocho. 
Ya no tengo más que ocho.

De los ocho que quedaban 
uno se tragó un carrete. 
Ya no tengo más que siete.

De los siete que quedaban, 
uno le mató el expres 
Ya no tengo más que seis.

De los seis que me quedaban, 
uno se mató de un brinco, 
ya no tengo más que cinco.

De los cinco que quedaban, 
uno se mató de un salto; 
ya no quedan más que cuatro.

De los cuatro que quedaban, 
uno se murió de sed; 
ya no tengo más que tres.

De los tres que me quedaban, 
uno se murió de tos. 
Ya no tengo más que dos.

De los dos que me quedaban, 
uno se murió de susto. 
Ya no tengo más que uno.

El uno que me quedaba, 
se perdió por un gran cerro. 
Ya no tengo ningún perro.

TEN LITTLE PUPPY DOGS

I had ten little puppy dogs; 
One died of fever.
Now I have only nine.

I had nine little puppy dogs. 
One died of measles. 
Now I only have eight.

One swallowed a reel. 
Now I have seven.

One was killed by a train. 
Now I have six.

One jumped too high; 
Now I have five.

One jumped too much; 
Now I have four.
One died of a cough;  
Now I have three.

One died of fright;  
Now I have one.

The one I had left,  
Got lost on a high mountain.

I have no more little puppy dogs.

Tanto vestido blanco  
tanta parola,  
y eluchero ala lumbe  
con agua sola.

TO THE FLOWER,  
TO THE LITTLE FLOWER

To the flower, to the little flower  
To the green olive,  
In a ray of sunshine  
A little girl  
Combs her hair.

All these gold watches,  
All these gold chains,  
But when they get home,  
They have nothing to eat.

They set the table with a handkerchief,  
A wooden fork and an old pot.

The pot is broken  
It has a crack,  
The pumpkin soup leaks out of it.

So many white dresses,  
And such a show!  
And the pot on the fire,  
Only has water in it!

I can see her from here -  
The rose among the thorns;  
And I cannot pick her.  
My sighs come and go.

ESTA NOCHE HA LLOVIDO

Esta noche ha llorado,  
manana hay barro;  
cuatro pares de mulas  
tiene mi carro.

La Virgen de Loreto  
tiene un perrito,  
que ni come mi bebe  
y esta gordito.

Ventanas a calle  
on peligrosas  
para el padre que tenga  
hijas hermosas.

TONIGHT IT HAS RAINED

Tonight it has rained,  
Tomorrow it will be muddy;  
There are four pairs of mules  
Drawing my cart.

The Virgin of Loreto  
Has a little dog,  
Who neither eats nor drinks,  
But remains fat.

A father with beautiful daughters,  
should not have windows that look  
on the street.

ENTRE LAS MATAS Y ENTRE LAS FLORES

Entre las matas y entre las flores  
hay un nido de ruisenores  
unos sons grandes, grandes grandones,  
y otros son chicos, chiquirritones.

No duermas nina de mis amores  
tiempo ha te esperan los ruisenores.  
Cuando el sol salga en los aires  
han de cantarte los ruisenores.

AMONG THE PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Among the plants and the flowers  
There's a little nest of nightingales.  
Some are very big ones  
And some are very, very small ones.

Don't sleep, my darling little girl,  
The nightingales have been waiting  
for you.

When the sun rises at daybreak,  
The nightingales will sing to you.
QUE LE MANDA USTED AL POLLITO?

Que le manda usted al pollito?
Yo no tengo que mandarle,
Le mandaré una camisa,
que se la ponga su madre.

Ay que bonito estará el pollito
encamisado, elorigado, eloríguela;
y ahora si que el pollo vuela.

Que le manda usted al pollito?
Yo no tengo que mandarle,
Le mandaré una corbata
que se la ponga su madre.

Ay que bonito estará el pollito,
encorbatado, encamisado etc. etc.

.... le mandaré unos calzones...

Ay que bonito estará el pollito,
encalzonado, encorbatado, encamisado,
elorigado, eloríguela,
y ahora si que el pollo vuela.

WHAT WILL YOU SEND THE LITTLE CHICKEN?

What will you send the little chicken?
I have nothing to send him.
I'll send him a shirt
For his mother to put on him.

Oh how pretty the chicken will be,
with his shirt on, "elorigado, eloríguela"
Now the chicken will fly away!

What will you send the little chicken?
I have nothing to send him.
I'll send him a tie,
For his mother to put on him.

Oh how pretty the little chicken will be,
with his shirt on, with his tie on etc. etc.

.... I'll send him some shorts...

Oh how pretty the chicken will be,
with his shorts on, with his tie on,
with his shirt on, "elorigado, eloríguela"
And now the chicken will fly away!

CON MI REAL Y MEDIO

Con mi real y medio
me compré una polla.
Ay señores, señores que polla!
Y la polla me puso unos huevos,
y ahora me queda
la polla, los huevos,
y también me queda
mi real y medio.

Con mi real y medio
me compré una cabra.
Ay señores.....etc.
Y la cabra me dió un cabrito,
y ahora me queda la cabra, el cabrito,
la polla, los huevos,
y también me queda
mi real y medio.

.... me compré una vaca.

......
Y la vaca me dió un chotito
y ahora me queda
la vaca, el chotito...etc.

.... me compré una cerda.

......
y la cerda me dió un cerditito,
y ahora me queda....etc.

.... me compré una yegua

......
y la yegua me dió un mulito,
y ahora me queda
la yegua, el mulito,
la cerda, el cerditito,
la vaca, el chotito,
la cabra, el cabrito,
la polla, los huevos,
y también me queda
mi real y medio.

WITH MY DIME AND A HALF

With my dime and a half
I bought a hen.
Oh, ladies and gentlemen,
What a hen!
And the hen laid me some eggs,
And now I have,
The hen, the eggs,
And I also have
My dime and a half.

.... I bought a nanny goat.

.......
And the nanny gave me a kid,
And now I have the nanny, the kid,
The hen, the eggs,
And I also have
my dime and a half.

.... I bought a cow.

....... 
And the cow gave me a calf,
And now I have
The cow, the calf...etc.

.... I bought a sow.

........
And the sow gave me a piglet
And now I have.....etc.

....I bought a mare.

........
And the mare gave me a little mule,
and now I have the mare, the mule,
The sow and the piglet,
The cow and the calf,
The nanny and the kid,
The hen and the eggs,
And I also have
My dime and a half.
THE BUG AND THE FLEA

The bug and the flea want to marry,
And they have no loaf for dinner.

The little ant comes out of her ant hill:
"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll bring some flour."
We are happy because we have bread,
For want of wine we cannot wed.

The mosquito replies from its swamp:
"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll bring a flagon."
We are happy
because we have wine;
For want of smoked sausage
we cannot wed.

Out comes the snake long and skinny:
"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll be the sausage."
We are happy
because we have sausage;
For want of a bed,
we cannot wed.

Out speaks the hedgehog, with his beautiful wool:
"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll be the bed."
We are happy
because we have a bed;
For want of a best man
we cannot wed.

Out speaks the mouse with his face like a piglet:
"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll be best man." We are happy
because we have a best man;
For want of a bridesmaid
we cannot wed.

Out speaks the frog from the shore:
"If there's going to be a wedding
I'll be the bridesmaid.
We are happy
because we have a bridesmaid;
We have no-one to dance so we cannot wed."

The she-wolf answers from her lair:
"Let the wedding take place,
I will dance around." We are happy
because we have someone to dance;
for lack of a singer
we cannot wed.

The donkey answers from his hayrick:
"Let the wedding take place,
I'll come and sing."
As the neighbours sat feasting,
along came the black cat
and carried off the best man.

When the bridesmaid saw
the party was breaking up,
she gave a jump
and landed on the roof.
LORD PUSSY CAT

As Lord Pussy Cat
sat on the roof
miaow-miaow-miaow-miaow-miaow,
was sitting on the roof,

he received a letter
(to ask if) he wanted to marry
miaow etc.
if he wanted to marry

a little white kitten
niece of a tabby cat,
Miaow etc.
niece of a tabby cat.

The cat, on going off to see her
fell off the roof,
and broke seven ribs,
his tail and spinal column.

They quickly call doctors,
doctors and surgeons.

They take him away to bury him
down Fish Street,

and the rats and the mice
go dancing along in front.

Now the enemy is dead
who used to catch us for supper.

At the smell of the sardines
the cat revives.

That's why people say:
A cat has seven lives.

SENOR DON GATO

Estando el senor don Gato
sentadito en el tejado
marrá-miau-miau-miau-miau,
sentadito en el tejado,

ha recibido una carta
que si quiere ser casado,
marrá-miau-miau-miau-miau,
que si quiere ser casado,

con una gatita blanca
sobrina de un gato pardo,
marrá-miau-miau-miau-miau,
sobrina de un gato pardo.

El gato por ir a verla
se ha caído del tejado,

se ha roto siete costillas
la cola y el espinazo.

Llanan doctores aprisa
doctores y cirujanos.

Ya le llevan a enterrar
por la calle del pescado,
y las ratas y ratones
van delante bailando.

Y se ha muerto el enemigo
que nos cazaba cenando.

Al olor de las sardinas
el gato se ha resucitado.

Y por eso dice la gente:
Siete vidas tiene un gato.