Calypso-Rock Songs of Jamaica
Horace Johnson & The Eagle Star

Descripive notes are inside pocket
Folkways Records FTS 31308
INTRODUCTION

I, Horace Johnson was born August 29th, 1948. I was grown up without a father, until I reached the age that I could go to school. During my school time I used to work three days per week, and two days in school. It becomes a hard struggling for me. At the age of twelve I used to work on a farm, hearing songs on the radio playing and I started to imitate these songs: Mocking Bird-song by Inez Fox and Charley Fox, Empty Cheer by Keith Lynor. After the imitation I started to sing more and more on the farm. Then I started to develop my skill, not knowing that I could ever make a hit record at no time. I finally leave the country-side after my mother died. Then I go to the big city Kingston, I was living there for four years, trying very hard to do some recording. Nobody seems to pay me no mine. I see where I couldn’t survive because I didn’t have a job. All through my struggling I tell myself that one day I’m going to make myself a record. Then I leave from the city back to the countryside. I bought a guitar for twenty dollars and I started to play and sing my own creative work, I find my friends and people in great motion. One day I got a job at the Jamaica Hilton Hotel on the beach, with the Water Sports doing Scuba diving. I didn’t give up my singing. I still insist to sing. During my work I met a couple from Chicago take them for a walk where they have some private villas. I met a man in the hotel who is in the recording business. I refer to the man that I had a song that I would like to sing for him, he replied to me that he doesn’t talk business when he’s on vacation. This couple that I was walking with said to him, he has a beautiful voice, he can sing very well. He gave me an appointment to come and see him at his office. When I went there he sent me to the Producer who works for him then I started to sing reggae songs. The Producer remarks to me he doesn’t do these kind of songs anymore, then I leave him and go and record the same song with another Producer in 1973. The song became a hit bound on chart for two weeks. I started to realize how good I was. I never get fright I stay cool. They gave me a contract for a year. I didn’t have a lawyer, and I didn’t understand clearly so I sign the contract because I think I did have a good thing going. One day Shelter Recording Company in New York sent some of his agent that works for them to come and get some hit records for them. They come and get me, telling me that they are making a Movie and they would like my song to be a theme song for a movie. When I tell them that I sign a contract they told me that I have made a mistake. They did get the song and it was released, but that’s where I loose a chance again. I still continue on the recording, but because I didn’t have the money to stand the Production cost. When I went in the Recording Studio the man who claimed that he is the Producer, he always standing with the engineer listening to the sound while I’m working very hard and he always get the money. I passed through a lot of strugglings in music and several other things. I didn’t go to a Music School, it’s just an in-born talent. I experience and learnt the hardest way. Now I can produce and arrange from a two tract to a sixteen tract. I still didn’t get the proper chance but I have good things in store to put out. That’s my life story in Music and tribulation. My music has been called “Calypso Rock.” The name of the group is Horace Johnson and the Eagle Star with Leroy Jones, Noel Dona and Enel Allen.
Band 1. Education In School

Chorus:

How do I happen to get some education
I don’t know
How do I happen to get some education
I don’t know
How do I happen to get some education
I don’t know
I have to ask myself the question over
and over again

Well, when I was a little boy I did not go to school
I ask my parents why didn’t they send me to school
They say to me son I could not afford it
I didn’t have a chance to get food to eat much less to send you
to school

Well the first subject they teach me in school the cow jump
over the moon
The little girl laugh to see such sport and the cat ran away
with the spoon
They tell me about . . . . what see the chicken elephant and he
didn’t get caught at all

Chorus:

Well, now I decided to send myself to school
I started to work some money on selling myself again
But when I wake up in the morning I have to help my parents
with something in the home
Before I went out to school sometime I was pretty limb
Then the teacher say to me son you always be so late
She take up her . . . . and she run it through my hair then the
trouble get start
She take up a ruler and she chop me in my head says I’m a
nasty boy
And then from that I cannot learn A from B

Chorus:

Band 2. Island In The Sun (Harry Belafonte)

This is my island the sun where my people has toiled since
time began
I may sail on many a seas but the shore will always belong to
me

Chorus:

Oh island in the sun give to me by my father’s hands
All my life I will sing and pray at the forest water, the shining
sun
I swore and prayed on heaven and earth
I lift my head alone up to the sky
The sun came down with a burning glow sprinkle my sweat to
the earth below

Chorus:

I saw a woman on bending knees cutting cane for the family
I saw a man by the waterside casting a net in the surging tide

Chorus:

I pray the day might never come when I can’t awake to hear
the sounds of jum
Never leave me in this carnival to sing calipso songs in this
tropical

Chorus:

My sweet Jamaica is my island in the sun

Band 3. Paradise Island

Chorus:

This land is our land come let us use it
we have a paradise island brothers don’t abuse it
This land is our land come let us use it
we have a paradise island sisters don’t abuse it
Let’s get together and live in harmony
let’s build our nation and don’t be funny
let’s work together one people in unity
brother and sister let’s live with sincerity

On the beach to have some fun, oh yeah tropical breeze and
the shining sun
Oh yes it is reggae, mento and island rock
come enjoy the adds of a nations stock
come enjoy the adds of a nations stock

Chorus:

Band 4. Yellow Bird (Harry Belafonte)

Yellow bird fly in banana tree
yellow bird why they sit all alone like me
If your lady friend leave your nest again that is very bad make
me feel so sad
You can fly away endless skies way you’re more lucky than me

I always have a little yellow bird be around me through the
day
Whatever time she’s ready to build her nest she flaps her
wings and flies away

Yellow bird fly in banana tree
yellow bird why he sit all alone like me
If your lady friend leave your nest again picker coming soon,
pick from night to noon
you’re more luckier than me

If I were a yellow bird
I would fly away with you
But since I’m not a yellow bird here I stand with nothing else
to do

Yellow bird fly in banana tree
yellow bird why he sit all alone like me
If your lady friend leave your nest again picker coming soon,
pick from night to noon
you’re more luckier than me

Yellow bird a fly in banana tree
yellow bird that sit all alone like me
If your lady friend leave your nest again that is very bad make
you feel so sad
You can fly away, endless skies away
you’re more lucky than me
Band 5. Come To Jamaica (Harry Belafonte)

Chorus:
Run, run, run to Jamaica, down to this tropical area
come visit my sweet Jamaica, this is the land of sunshine and
water

When you go to your hometown land tell your friends that
the time that you spend here was grand
and you can always visit this place it is fit for the human race

Chorus:

When you go to your hometown land tell your friends that the
time that you spend here was grand
and you can always visit this place it is fit for the human race

In the night when you feeling cool and you can drink up this
good old rum it give you appetite for the native food

Chorus:

When you go to your hometown land tell your friends that the
time that you spend here was grand
and you can always visit this place it is fit for the human race

When you feeling down and out
you make a walk.....
it give you appetite for the native food

Chorus:

Band 6. January, February, March

January, February, March, April, May, June, July

January, February, March, April, May, June, July
August, September, October, November, December

REPEAT

Band 7. The Donkey Want Water

Hold him Joe, hold him Joe, hold him Joe
but don’t let him go
Hold him Joe, hold him Joe, hold him Joe
but don’t let him go

the donkey want water, hold him Joe
the donkey want water, hold him Joe
See Joe hold the donkey, hold him Joe

Lead him come, lead him come, lead him come (2X)
make him tumble on
Lead him come, lead him come, lead him come
make him tumble on

The donkey want water, hold him Joe
the donkey want water, hold him Joe
So the chicken follow the hen
and so the women follow the men
I've pack up her things to leave
she went through and out
All she had alone to do,
she have a man in the south

Said I really love you Johnny
what will your future be
She say she love me
you can’t make love without money

You can’t make love on an empty belly
Johnny you will be the only one I am dreaming of
you are my turtle dove
But no money, no love

Gentlemen let me tell you plain
I don’t want to create a scene
But if you if you only touch me again
the police will intervene

She said you ain’t got a damn cent
you can’t even pay the rent
She say she love me
you can’t make love without money

You can’t make love on a hungry belly
Johnny you will always be the only one I am dreaming of
you are my turtle dove
But no money, no love

You should hear how she really plead
I beg her to understand
Listen mister I tell you mean
let go me blasted hand
Cause you ain’t got a damn cent
you can’t even pay the rent

Chorus:

Gentlemen let me tell you plain
I don’t want to create a scent
But if you only touch me again
the police will intervene

Chorus: