The snow falls on the city. The fog falls on my heart. People are walking tranquilly, bundled up in their happiness. And I turn in the streets like a carousel without children whose vanished music still plays with the wind. And I see again in the hollow of the pillow the clear morning shining in her eyes. You pretend that it is better to forget. I ask for nothing better. What do you want me to tell you? The snow melts in the sun. To remove all traces of it, two days are enough. But sorrow is not the same.

Chansons Populaires De France

13. LE SOLDAT MECONTENT (The Dissatisfied Soldier) In this song an unhappy soldier complains of the drums which awaken him in the morning, of the noble exercise of drilling, or the corporals drinking beer while he drinks water. The poor soldiers must have patience for in time of war the big guns will repay the discomforts they have suffered. The song was composed by the battalion drummer one day while beating retreat and regretting his wasting life.

14. LES CANUTS (The Silkweavers) The poor silkweavers make golden chasubles for the great of the church while they themselves have not even shirts to wear. They make rich coats and decorations for the great of the land while they themselves have not even pallis for their coffins. But they warn, their time will come, and the rule of the great will end. The silkweavers will weave the shroud of the old world. A revolution can already be heard rumbling in the distance.

15. LE TEMPS DES CERISES (Cherry Blossom Time) This is a song of a disappointed lover. He sings of cherry blossom time when everyone is gay, the birds sing and lovers have sunlight in their hearts. But that time is short. So if you are afraid of the pains of love, avoid beautiful girls or you too, will suffer as the singer has. But the lover will always love cherry blossom time in spite of the constant pain in his heart, and the memory of that time will always be precious to him.

16. LA BUTTE ROUGE (The Red Hill) The red hill was the scene of a terrible battle where many workers and peasants were killed. It was baptised by the blood of the innocent. Today there are vineyards there, one hears singing, and lovers exchange their vows. But at night can still be heard the cries of the wounded and dying, and in place of the vines can be seen the crosses on the graves of the dead.

17. GIROFLE GIBOFLA The peasant has a pleasant house in lovely surroundings and an abundance of fruit and grain. But with war everything will be destroyed. Airplanes will set the sky on fire. His daughters will be raped. His sons will be killed in battle and their bodies eaten by crows. There can be nothing good on earth as long as there is war.

18. CHANT DE LA LIBERATION (Le Chant des Partisans) (Song of Liberation) This is the call to arms of the partisans. They are to take out their guns, their grenades, their knives, their dynamite. It is the partisans who break the bars of prisons. Hate and misery push them on, and they are killed. As soon as one dies, a friend appears to take his place in the battle for liberty.

Translated by PATRICIA BENNETT
Cover Photo: Courtesy 20th Century Fox.
Songs of Paris

1. LE GAMIN DE PARIS A child of Paris is a poet. In no other place are children the same. A child of Paris is a mixture of free sky, of bad and good. It is a sturdy sonnet, becoming sentimental when offered an orange. He is a tiny thing, hurtful. He is the sun with a trunk swaddled in lace.

2. VEL D'HIV Take the subway, plunge into the crowd. Everyone is hot—mechanics, white collar workers, businessmen. When you reach the surface you say, "Ah, I get it!" As if you see the Big Sign VELODROME D'HIVER.

3. RUE LEPIC Rue Lepic. Do you see the vegetable stands offering an abundance of red tomatoes, green grapes, golden melons, and cowlips, to the public? And the cries of the merchants in a song, and the murmur of the merchant. Rue Lepic—there are people who wander aimlessly and stragglers who come to relax and gigolos who do nothing.

4. LE DERNIER ROLL, ROLL Cabdriv e r a nd his h or se go d own t he n ig h t. A fternoon or evening, the snow falls, like a crowd.

5. FLAMENCO DE GRAND BOULEVARD I see again in the heat of summer the swirl of a pretty dress. And on my arm which reaches out for it.

6. BALLADE DE PARIS So many poets have written about Paris that I don't know what to sing to praise your beauty, my Paris. So many girls, something else?

7. RENDEZVOUS DE PARIS You talk of a Basile Day when there was excitement on the Rue de Paname. That day the Rue de Paname became the Tuileries where the king used to walk. The Seine watched from its bed, and the clock on the Gare d'Orsay smiled down on the gay parade arriving by subway, on foot, and on bicycle. There is no point in going to the movies for that day the theater is the Rue de Paname which performs for you. The program lasts all day and all night.

Children welcome you with firecrackers, and you will be tired of walking. But come as you are to celebrate the 14th of July in Paris. At the Porte de la Chapelle you find a cow at the corner in a linen skirt trimmed with lace. Today, my little doll in nylon, you will turn to the sound of an accordion. But does not the heart smile the same now as long ago? Paris surrounds itself every year with song to celebrate its joy.

A strange Monday! What a perfect sport will return to its usual place. You will again be able to see all the children in the Tuileries when school is out. The Seine will remain in its bed. And if you question the clock on the Gare d'Orsay, it will reply with a smile, every passing in life. But we will be there next year to celebrate the 14th of July in Paris.
YVES MONTAND: SONGS OF PARIS
(and others)

PARIS
1. LE GAMIN DE PARIS
2. VEL’ D’HIV’
3. RUE LEPIC
4. LE COCHER DE FIACRE
5. FLAMENCO DE PARIS
6. GRAND BOULEVARDS
7. RENDEZ-VOUS DE PANAME
8. LA GRANDE CITE
9. FAUBOURG ST. MARTIN
10. LA Ballade DE PARIS
11. LUNA PARK
12. NEIGE SUR LA VILLE

CHANSONS POPULAIRES DE FRANCE
13. LE SOLDAT MECONTENT
14. LES CANUTS
15. LE TEMPS DES CERISES
16. LA BUTTE ROUGE
17. GIROFLE GIROFLA
18. LE CHANT DE LA LIBERATION (Le Chant des Partisans)

Accompanied by Bob Castella & His Orchestra
English Translations Enclosed. Total Playing Time: 54:35

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YVES MONTAND
SONGS OF PARIS
Accompanied by Bob Castella & His Orchestra

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