ella jenkins
seasons for singing
Introduction

Ella Jenkins, 1970

(revised 1999)

Summer is a sunny season of singing. Lots of people sing during the summer at camps, picnics, community centers, festivals, parks, at home, and at church. There is singing somewhere all summer long, but singing, I feel, should accompany every season. Wouldn't it be grand if each of us could find something to sing about the year round, even if sometimes we have to sing the blues?

Teachers can stimulate children to sing by selecting the material carefully, and especially by choosing good songs. Who wants to sing dull songs? Teachers should not be afraid to tackle contemporary songs. Sometimes they are a route to communicating. When I recorded this album in 1970, some of the song styles were modeled on popular music.

Today, nearly 30 years after I recorded these songs, I still enjoy singing some of them with a new generation of children. Some of these young boys and girls are children and even grandchildren of people I taught some of these songs to years ago!
How This Recording Came to Be

In 1968 a young minister, Assistant Pastor Mark H. Miller of St. Paul's Church (Evangelical and Reformed), phoned me, telling me of his forthcoming summer day camp program and how it was filled with numerous workshops and classes. However, the program lacked a music workshop, and he wondered if I would be interested in conducting one for girls and boys whose ages ranged from 7 to 14 years.

Inasmuch as I had been working, earlier that year, on singing materials geared to the middle and upper elementary grades — including junior high school — it seemed a wonderful opportunity to try out the effectiveness of these songs and rhythms with the six-week Summer Music Workshop at St. Paul's Church. We had a good time singing that summer. We had a large, well-attended workshop, and many warm friendships were established too.

I was so moved by what the children and I experienced musically that when Pastor Miller approached me the following year about leading another summer music workshop, I responded immediately with a positive reply.

During the first summer, I was only able to meet with the group one day a week for an hour and a half, but the next year two consecutive days were possible. We achieved much more. Many of the same children returned, but we had an ample number of new children too. Thus, we used some of the old songs, requested by the first year's workshop, but mostly fresh, new material. The group on this record is from the 1969 summer's workshop. Recording was easy; it was like having our workshop at the studio.

The truly exciting thing about this kind of workshop is that any child can take part in it. Age is the only requirement, but no musical experience is necessary. All of the children did not have "great" voices, but they all had good attitudes about singing and they simply loved to sing. As you listen to us sing, you won't always hear perfect harmony. You might get a flat note or two, but you'll find joy and the feeling of working together. Communication is there!

Concerning This Album

This is a "listen-and-take-part-immediately" record. Children at school, home, or at a center can, after a little listening, become members of the workshop. The children sang freely and were very lively. I had a marvelous time blending my voice with theirs.

You might, by listening, supply your own particular harmonies. Choral directors and vocal teachers might also find in this album some less structured songs for vocal exercise.

Ella Jenkins is an extremely well-known artist who has been entertaining, inspiring, and educating children and adults through her performances and recordings for many years. Since her first record, *Call and Response* (1957), Ella has released 29 albums and two videos on Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. The classic *You'll Sing a Song and I'll Sing a Song* is the best-selling record in the history of Folkways Records. Over the years, Ella has traveled and performed unceasingly. She has received dozens of awards and appeared on television with Mr. Rogers and Barney. She has her own publishing company, Elli-Bern Publishing, and is a member of ASCAP.

The Songs

I asked the workshop participants which songs they wanted to include in the album. The following are their choices:

1. On a Holiday
   
   Ella: Hi ho! Away we go/Hi ho! Away. (2x)

   Hi ho! Away we go/On a holiday. (2x)

   You, I, and everyone,/We're going away. (2x)

   You, I, and everyone,/On a holiday. (2x)

   Children sing all.

   Huh the two verses.

   Everyone repeat the first verse.

2. Carry Me Ackee

   (Mike Heidel, Bongos)

   Ackee is a fruit that grows in Jamaica. Linstead is an open-air market in a Jamaican city of the same name. A quartee is something like a penny.

   Ella: Carry me ackee to Linstead market, Not a quartee would sell. (2x)

   Children sing chorus: Oh! A quartee... (2x)

   Ella: Everybody feel 'em, feel 'em Not a quartee would sell. (2x)

   Chorus
4. You Look So Sweet

Just bringing things up to date for the children.

**Ella:** You look so sweet, walking down the street. (2x)

Baby, you look fine
Baby, I'm glad you're mine,

I'm so glad you're mine.

**Children:** repeat verse

**Ella and children:** repeat (4x)

I'm so glad you're mine . . .

5. This Train

This is the third time I've recorded this song.
Each time it's different.

**Ella and child:** This train is bound for glory.

(3x)

Children, get on board.

**Children join:** No more weeping and a-wailing. (3x)

Children, get on board.

This train has no strangers. (3x)

Children, get on board.

6. Freight Train Blues

*(Ella Jenkins, Harmonica)*

Just fond memories of my Uncle Flood.

7. Go, Aquanetta, Go

*(Kathy Mullen, Guitar)*

Kathy Mullen wrote this originally about her grandmother. During the workshop she changed the name to Aquanetta, who was one of the workshop participants.

**Kathy:** I went to her house the other night

Saw Aquanetta boppin' and rockin' twice.
8. Lord, Lord, Lord

(LUCIA JOHNSON, KAZOO; SOLOS BY TAMARA AND DENISE; DUET BY ROXANNE AND CHRISTOPHER.)

Try your kazooos on this number.

**Chorus:** I'm singing; Lord, Lord, Lord./ You sure been good to me, Lord. (3x)

You did what the world could not do.

(Kazoo repeats the tune.)

You fed me when I was hungry, Lord, Lord, Lord. (3x)

You did what the world could not do.

**Chorus**

(Kazoo repeats the tune.)

You stopped my tongue from swearing, Lord, Lord, Lord. (3x)

Well, you did what the world could not do.

**Chorus**

(Kazoo repeats the tune.)

You saved me from my sins, Lord, Lord, Lord. (3x)

Well, you did what the world could not do.

**Chorus**

(Kazoo repeats the tune.)

Oh, you did what the world could not do. (3x)

9. All Night, All Day

Everybody just join in!

**Chorus:** All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord
All night, all day, angels watching over me.

If I could I surely would
Angels watching over me, my Lord.

Stand on the rock where Moses stood
Angels watching over me.

**Chorus**

I haven't been to heaven but I've been told/Angels watching over me, my Lord.

Streets up there are paved with gold
Angels watching over me.

**Chorus (2x)**

Angels watching over me. (3x)

10. Don't You Do Me Wrong

(AQUANETTA WHITE, KAREN CATCHINGS, AND HEATHER MCCREATH, RHYTHM STICKS)

**Chorus:**

**Ella:** Don’t you do me wrong (3x)

I've been a-working on your chain gang much too long.

If I could I surely would
Angels watching over me, my Lord.

Stand on the rock where Moses stood
Angels watching over me.

**Chorus**

I haven't been to heaven but I've been told/Angels watching over me, my Lord.

Streets up there are paved with gold
Angels watching over me.

**Chorus (2x)**

Angels watching over me. (3x)

11. Blue Walking

Chalk this one up to the Girl Scouts. I first heard it at Juniper Knoll Girl Scout Camp. Hmm . . .

**Spoken:** This is a true story about a dog who has lost his master and he is roving the hills to find him.

**Chorus:** Blue walking, Blue walking,
Blue, are you walking these hills tonight? (2x)

**Ella:** Take your ball and chain. (3x)

All I want is that northbound train.

**Chorus**

**Ella:** You can't stop me now. (3x)

And I got no time to lift your plow.

**Chorus**

**Ella:** You're gonna miss me when I'm gone.

(3x)

And everywhere I go, I'm sure gonna sing this song.

**Chorus**

I've been a-working on your chain gang much too long. (3x)
12. I Like Animals

Ella: I like animals, yes I do. I like the animals in the zoo.

(Repeat with children.)

Ella: I like giraffes and lions too. I like the animals in the zoo.

(Repeat with children.)

Ella: I like parrots and owls that Ahoooloo. I like the animals in the zoo.

(Repeat with children.)

Ella: I like koala bears and kangaroos. I like the animals in the zoo.

(Repeat with children.)

Ella: I like animals, how about you? I like the animals in the zoo.

(Repeat with children.)

Ella and children: I like animals, yes I do. I like the animals in the zoo. (2x)

Discography

- And One and Two (1990) Reissue of F-7544 from 1971. SFV-45016
- Call and Response (1990) Reissue of F-7638 from 1957. SFV-45030
- Come Dance by the Ocean (1991) SFV-45014
- Ella Jenkins and a Union of Friends Pulling Together (1999) SFV-45046
- For the Family (1991) VHS, 27 minutes. SFW-48002 (Video)
- Jambo and Other Call and Response Songs and Chants (1990) Reissue of F-7661 from 1974. SFV-45017
- Live at the Smithsonian (1991) VHS, 28 minutes. SFV-48001 (Video)
- Multicultural Children’s Songs (1995) SFV-45045
- Play Your Instruments and Make a Pretty Sound (1990) Reissue of F-7665 from 1968. SFV-45018
- Rhythm and Game Songs for the Little Ones (1991) Reissue of F-7680 from 1964. SFV-45027
- Songs and Rhythms from Near and Far (1997) Reissue of F-7655 from 1964. SFV-45033
- Songs Children Love to Sing: Celebrating 40 Years of Recordings (1996) SFV-45042
- This Is Rhythm (1990) Reissue of F-7652 from 1961. SFV-45028
- This Is Rhythm (BOOK) (1993) SFV-45028-BK (BOOK-ND)
- We Are America’s Children (1990) Reissue of F-7666 from 1976. SFV-45006
- You’ll Sing a Song and I’ll Sing a Song (1989) Reissue of F-7664 from 1966. SFV-45010
ABOUT SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS

Folkways Records was founded by Moses Asch in 1948 to document music, spoken word, instruction, and sounds from around the world. In the ensuing decades, New York City-based Folkways became one of the largest independent record labels in the world, reaching a total of nearly 2,200 albums that were always kept in print.

The Smithsonian Institution acquired Folkways from the Moses Asch estate in 1987 to ensure that the sounds and genius of the artists would be preserved for future generations. All Folkways recordings are available on high-quality audio cassettes or on special order on CD. Each recording is packed in a special box along with the original LP liner notes.

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings was formed to continue the Folkways tradition of releasing significant recordings with high-quality documentation. It produces new titles, reissues of historic recordings from Folkways and other record labels, and in collaboration with other companies, also produces instructional videotapes and recordings to accompany published books and other educational projects.

The Smithsonian Folkways, Folkways, Cook, Paredon, Monitor, Fast Folk, and Dyer-Bennet record labels are administered by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. They are one of the means through which the Center supports the work of traditional artists and expresses its commitment to cultural diversity, education, and increased understanding.
The purpose of the Adopt-A-Tape Program is to preserve the unique recordings and documentation released on the Folkways Records label over the past fifty years. By adopting one or more recordings, your tax-deductible donation contributes to the digitization of the 2,168 master tapes, album covers, and liner notes, thus preserving the Folkways collection and ensuring its accessibility in the future.

To adopt an original Folkways tape, send your check for $250.00 (per title) payable to: Smithsonian Folkways Recordings/Adopt-A-Tape, 955 I'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7300, Washington, DC 20560-0933. Please include your name, address, phone, and e-mail address.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.si.edu/folkways/adopt.htm or e-mail adopt@folkways.si.edu or write to D.A. Sonneborn, assistant director at the address above.
Ella Jenkins

Seasons For Singing

From a Summer Music Workshop at St. Paul's Church, Chicago, Illinois


1. On a Holiday 1:35
2. Carry Me Ackee 2:53
3. Tee-kah-nees 2:02
4. You Look So Sweet 2:25
5. This Train 2:13
6. Freight Train Blues 2:48
7. Go, Aquanetta, Go 2:18
8. Lord, Lord, Lord 3:09
9. All Night, All Day 1:49
10. Don’t You Do Me Wrong 2:49
11. Blue Walking 2:47
12. I Like Animals 2:42

Ella Jenkins thinks that people should sing in every season, and this recording can help us all do just that. Here is a lively sing-along, recorded at a summer program in Chicago, Illinois, in 1969. Enthusiastic children join world-famous performer Ella Jenkins on twelve wonderful songs in a variety of styles, from traditional spirituals to Caribbean, blues, and rock ‘n’ roll. The recording features Ella Jenkins’s baritone ukulele, drums, harmonica, guitar, and rhythm sticks. 30 minutes, notes, and lyrics. Especially suited for children 3 - 9 years old, their parents, teachers, and playmates.