Smithsonian Folkways

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings
Center for Folklife Programs & Cultural Studies
955 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Suite 2600
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20560

E-mail, folkways@aol.com
World Wide Web Address,
http://www.si.edu/folkways

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1846–1996
Smithsonian

Songs, Stories, Rhymes
& Chants for Christmas,
Kwanza, Hanukkah,
Chinese New Year
& St. Patrick's Day
ELLA JENKINS  Holiday Times

With the boys and girls from the Harold Washington Elementary School of Chicago, and Guy Guilbert, Catherine Hall, and Jerry Kinsella
SF 45041

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Introduction

As far back as I can remember, holiday times were always very special, particularly the winter holidays—the holidays we have chosen to celebrate in this album. Of course these are only a sprinkling of winter holidays celebrated by people around the world. Many cultures have celebrations around December and January, but Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza are those most frequently celebrated in the United States.

In my family, Christmas was the biggest holiday. It truly was a time of excitement and anticipation, a time of building snow sculpture, a time of ice skating, of new presents, and a time of "sledding." We would run with our sleds and flop on our stomachs. It was so much fun! At that time, girls were discouraged from participating, but I enjoyed it.

Christmas was a time for sharing—giving gifts and receiving some, too. There were lots of surprises. One of my special gifts was a harmonica. There were many, many "thank-you's" and there was visiting from house to house and much good food. As a special dessert treat Mother sometimes made snow ice-cream. Church bells rang and folks sang and sang.

Today, holiday times are with me every day when serving children. Their enthusiastic responses to my songs, chants, rhythms, rhymes, dances, stories, and games fill me with glee and gratitude. They stimulate me to work harder for them and to share more creative experiences with them.

When I sing with children, I am always grateful to the teachers, parents, guardians, foster grandparents, librarians, and the older brothers and sisters who daily keep the children's creative voices flowing. I celebrate their achievements by including some of the children of the Harold Washington Elementary School of Chicago on this recording—as I have included many school children over the years.

The children, their parents, the principal, and some teachers made the sacrifice to come into school during a holiday week to participate in this recording. Through this recording, many people will come to know them not only in the U.S. but throughout the world. Many of the parents who were watching during the recording session were very proud of their children's hard work with the project.

Ella Jenkins 1996

1. Holiday Times - Chimes and Vocals
( Words and music by Ella Jenkins/Elbem Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Ella Jenkins, voice and chimes

Holiday times are here, are here
Holiday times can bring good cheer.
Holiday times can make folks sing.
Holiday times can make bells ring.

2. Night Before Christmas
Ella Jenkins, vocal

It was the night before Christmas/And all through the house/Not a person was stirring/Only a mouse.

Hickory dickory dock/The mouse ran up the clock/The clock struck one/The mouse ran down/Hickory dickory dock.

Tick tock, Tick tock.
Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?
Everyone? Everyone?
Christmas bells are ringing. Christmas bells are ringing.
Ding dong ding. Ding dong ding.
(Repeat verse)
3. Santa Claus is Coming
(Words and music by Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie, EMI Feist Catalogue Inc./Haven Gillespie Music, ASCAP)
Elia Jenkins, Catherine Hall, and all the children,
JaVell Williams, solo

You better watch out, you better not cry
You better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town.

Making a list, checking it twice
He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice
Santa Claus is coming to town.

He knows when you are sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows when you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake.

Oh, you better watch out, you better not cry
You better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town.
(Repeat last two verses)

4. It's Christmas Time
(Words and music by Elia Jenkins/Ellbern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Catherine Hall, Elia Jenkins

Christmas time, it's Christmas time
Christmas day is here.
Christmas time, it's Christmas time It's another year.
(Repeat)

Say a rhyme, say a rhyme
Christmas day is here.
Say a rhyme, say a rhyme
Say it nice and clear.
(Repeat)
La la la la la la, la la la la
La la la la la la.
La la la la la la, la la la la
La la la la la la.

Sound the chimes, sound the chimes
Christmas day is here.
Sound the chimes, sound the chimes
To all far and near.
(Repeat)
Rum pum pum pum pum, rum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum pum.
Rum pum pum pum pum, rum pum pum, Rum pum pum pum pum.

Christmas time it's Christmas time
Christmas day is here.
Christmas time, it's Christmas time
It's another year.
(Repeat)

5. Holiday Times
(Words and music by Elia Jenkins/Ellbern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Guy Guilbert and children

Holiday times are here, are here.
Holiday times can bring good cheer.
Holiday times can make folks sing,
Holiday times can make bells ring.
(Repeat song)

Chorus: Holiday times are here, are here.
Holiday times can bring good cheer.
Holiday times can make folks sing,
Holiday times can make bells ring.
(Repeat song)

6. Jingle Bells
Children, vocals, Guy Guilbert, guitar; Jerry Kinella, pipe organ instrumental

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
(Repeat)

Dashing through the snow,
On a one-horse open sleigh.
Over the hills we go,
Laughing all the way, HA HA HA!

Bells on bobtails ring,
Making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing,
A sleighing song tonight.

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
(Repeat)

Organ instrumental

(Repeat)

7. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
(Words and music by Johnny Marks/St. Nicholas Music, ASCAP)
Catherine Hall, guitar and vocals

Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
Had a very shiny nose.
And if you ever saw it,
You would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer,
Used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Rudolph,
Join in any reindeer games.
Then one foggy Christmas Eve,
Santa came to say,
"Rudolph with your nose so bright,
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then how the reindeer loved him,
As they shouted out with glee,
"Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,
You'll go down in history!"
(Repeat song)

8. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
Guy Guilbert, guitar and vocals; children

We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
And a happy New Year.
(Repeat)
9. Gung Hay Fat Choy
(Words by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Ella Jenkins

In Chicago there is always a big celebration in the winter for the Chinese New Year. The Chinese observe the lunar calendar. Often I go down to Chinatown at Chinese New Year. It is very colorfully decorated. They have a parade with a dragon and music. I had an opportunity to go to China, too. I heard beautiful music with lots of drumming, and percussion. You can hear a little on this track.

Dragons and fireworks greeted this baby boy. Born in the year of the rooster, gung hay fat choy! Gung hay fat choy! Gung hay fat choy! Happy New Year!

10. Special Chinese Years
(Words by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Ella Jenkins

I was born in 1924, the year of the rat. And there are more. The year of the ox, the year of the tiger, and also there is the year of the hare. There is a year of the dragon, and a year of the serpent. And of course, there's the year of the horse. There's a year of the ram, the year of the monkey, the year of the rooster, the year of the dog, and just one more; there's a year of the boar.

11. St. Patrick's Day Jig [instrumental]
(Arranged by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Catherine Hall, flute

In Chicago, there is always a parade on Saint Patrick's Day. Celebrants wear green clothes, and they put green vegetable dye in the river and it turns green. There are drums and flute playing; people dance jig, sing folk music, and play bagpipes. They also serve combed beet and cabbage. Many Irish people who live in Chicago celebrate this holiday; I sometimes wear green and call myself O'Jenkins. The flute and harmonica add to the Irish flavor of the music. When the flute plays, the children should join in by clapping their hands.

12. Danny Boy Jig [instrumental]
(Ella Jenkins, harmonica)
(Arranged by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Pub. Co., ASCAP)

13. My Little Blue Dreidel
(Words and music by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Catherine Hall, guitar and vocals; Ella Jenkins, vocals

For many years I worked with the Jewish Community Center in Chicago. After working there a long time, I decided to write a song called "Little Blue Dreidel" because people always gave me dreidels, and my favorite one is my blue one.

My little blue dreidel, Spins morning, night, and noon. And each time it spins, It spins a happy tune.


14. Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel
(Ella Jenkins)

I sing this song a cappella (without any instruments) because that is how I learned it from the children at the "J." "J" is a short form for Jewish Community Center. After working at the Center for five years, you say I work at the Jewish Community Center. After working there 10 years, they say, "I work at the JCC." After 15 years you say, "I'll meet you at the J."

I have a little dreidel. I made it out of clay. And when it's dry and ready, A dreidel I shall play.

Chorus: Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay. And when it's dry and ready, A dreidel I shall play.

I have a little dreidel. I made it out of clay. And when it's dry and ready, A dreidel I shall play.

Chorus: Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay. And when it's dry and ready, A dreidel I shall play.

15. Harmonica for Hanukkah
(Words and music by Ella Jenkins/Ellbern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Ella Jenkins and all the children

Every time I met with the children at the Jewish Community Center I would bring another instrument. One day I brought a harmonica. When I blew it, one child thought it was a horn and another thought it was a whistle. Finally one child said "I know what it is! It's a Hanukkah." That inspired me to write this song. When I asked some school children if anyone knew what Hanukkah was, one child said it is a very important African American holiday. The main thing is that children from different cultures can learn about each other's holidays.

I know lots of boys Who got electric toys, But I got a harmonica for Hanukkah. I got a harmonica for Hanukkah.

Some got two-wheel bikes, Some got flying kites, But I got a harmonica for Hanukkah. I got a harmonica for Hanukkah.

I'm not complaining. I'm not complaining. 'Cause I know some boys and girls Didn't get anything.

I know some little girls Who got rabbits and squirrels, But I got a harmonica for Hanukkah. I got a harmonica for Hanukkah.
18. Little Gifts
(Words and music by Ella Jenkins/Ellern Music Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Darlisa Meaden, JoVell Williams, with Ella Jenkins

Whether it is Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Christmas time there is a lot of gift-giving and receiving. I always feel that the size of the gift doesn’t matter; what matters is the giving. During the last couple of years I have been carrying around a little blue bag filled with little gifts that I open and show the children. I call the bag my “instant dialogue with children.” They are always interested in what I have in it. I take out each item one at a time and ask the children if they know what it is. They get really excited and involved trying to guess what each item is. Sometimes I ring a bell and ask all the children to call out together what it is. I have a copper bell of Sama (it is from India and is used on the doorpost). Or I have a little book about insects, and the children can look at the different ones. Or I have a straw basket from the Cherokee nation, or the word “harmonica.” The main idea is to trigger curiosity. I also have a little bird that sings beautifully, I made rhymes about all the little gifts in my blue bag. Sometimes when I bring out a spinning top, the kids will say, “It’s a spinner.” The children can work on learning these words that are in my little blue bag.

I have a little bell (2X)/That rings cheerfully. (2X)
I have a little bird (2X)/That sings prettily. (2X)
I have a little book (2X)/That I read every day. (2X)
I have a little comb (2X)/That I keep tucked away. (2X)
I have a little harmonica (2X)/That plays a happy tune. (2X)
I have a little key (2X)/That I must use at noon. (2X)
I have a little toy lock (2X)/That looks very real. (2X)
I have a little pig (2X)/That makes a gigantic squeal. (2X)
I have a little screwdriver (2X)/It’s my own special tool. (2X)
I have a little spinning top (2X)/I sometimes take to school. (2X)
I have a little teddy bear (2X)/Who comes from New York. (2X)
He dances and sings (2X)/And eats with a little fork (2X)
I have a little dog (2X)/Who is very dear to me. (2X)
I have a little straw basket (2X)/Made by a Cherokee. (2X)

17. Here We Go Looby Loo
Ella Jenkins, voice and harmonica

This is a traditional children’s song/dance that has been around a long time and could be used as part of any holiday celebration.

Girls and boys, here’s a dance that I’m sure that a lot of you know. It’s called “Here We Go Looby Loo” and I’m going to play the melody on my harmonica. I think that you’ll catch on to the dance right away:

You put your right hand in, You take your right hand out.
You give your right hand a shake, shake, shake
And turn yourself about
And here we go looby loo,
Here we go looby loo.

8
19. Damper Song
(Arranged by Ella Jenkins/Ellern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Ella Jenkins and children

It is nice to be in a cozy place during winter holidays. People are always doing something with their fireplaces, trying to get warm and hoping the smoke isn't coming down. I used to sing this song when I was working at children's camps. I use my hands with gestures to explain pushing and pulling the damper in and out and also motions showing how the smoke goes up the chimney.

Oh, you push the damper in/And you pull the damper out/And the smoke goes out the chimney just the same.

Oh, you push the damper in/And you pull the damper out/And the smoke goes out the chimney just the same.

Just the same, just the same, Oh, the smoke goes out the chimney just the same.

Oh, you push the damper in/And you pull the damper out/And the smoke goes out the chimney just the same.

Well, you push the damper in/And you pull the damper out/And the smoke goes out the chimney just the same.

And you push the damper in/And you pull the damper out/And the smoke goes out the chimney just the same.

(Repeat verses)

20. Orest from the Forest
(Words and music by Ella Jenkins/Ellern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Ella Jenkins and children

Orest Szpur frequently does substitute teaching in the Chicago school system. When we first met, he introduced himself as "Orest from the Forest." That sounded very poetic to me, and I was immediately inspired to write a short poem about this enthusiastic teacher.

Boys and girls, here's a rhyme about a nice person you might like to know. He's Orest from the Forest:

Sometimes when I go to bed at night,
The shadows on the walls form a very scary sight.
Then Orest from the Forest rushes right in
Making everything all right again.

Orest from the Forest protects girls and boys.
He brings in lots of laughter and gives them many joys.

Orest from the Forest is a mystery.
He delivers good deeds and all for free.
You can never quite see him, but he's always there.
You can never quite hear him, but you can feel his loving care.

Now girls and boys, I'll read this rhyme again, but this time, when I say "Orest from the Forest," you repeat it loudly:

(Repeat song)

21. Red Monkey [Instrumental]
Jerry KinseIla, pipe organ

This is an old, old song that Jerry KinseIla plays when he wants to get fancy. It's a good song to show off your skills. The organ uses a lot of air that blows through the big organ pipes. You can hear the air rushing to the pipes in the background as he plays.

22. Over the River...
Tiffany Johnson with Ella Jenkins

Bernadelle Richter shared this with me. You know people used to go visit one another in sleighs. Even at Thanksgiving it was cold and there might be snow. A little girl reads this rhyme. I especially like it because you can imagine being in a sleigh going through the snow-covered woods. That's a beautiful image for children to imagine and draw.

Over the river
And through the woods,
To Grandmother's house we go.

The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifting snow.

23. Harmonica Happiness [Instrumental]
(Music by Ella Jenkins/Ellern Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Ella Jenkins, harmonica

If you've heard other records of mine, you'll notice that I've played the harmonica many times. I learned to play from my Uncle Flood. His real name was Floyd but I called him Flood. I was very happy to get a harmonica for Christmas, and I learned to play seated on the floor at his feet. I keep a harmonica in my purse and take it out from time to time just to play for myself. It can be happy or sad, but for me it has always been a happy sound. Years ago the famous harmonica player, Larry Eller, played for me, and afterwards I gave him a harmonica. He gave me a grey box with his name on it. Inside was a tiny harmonica with his name engraved on it. I still have it.
24. Winters I Used to Know
(Words by Ella Jenkins; Ellborn Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Ella Jenkins
Here I am just looking back to my childhood and the winters I remember.

Sliding sleds, slipping through the snow
Ice skaters, speeding, twirling to and fro.
Listening to stories of long, long ago
Are the kind of winters I used to know.

Frostbitten fingers from wearing gloves too thin
Icicles forming on my eyebrows and chin.
It was fun to be out in the ice and cold
But much wiser to go in from the fast-mounting snow.
From the kind of winters I used to know.

25. Dark Winter Day
Zvin Smith and Shannon Mitchell with Ella Jenkins
(Words and music by Shirley Gistler)
A friend of mine, Shirley Gistler, wrote this song.
She is a retired dancer and musician. Two girls recite the words, and invite you into a warm house on a cold winter day.

Dark winter days, Winter winds, Cold, cold snow.
Hurry! Come in! To the warm room

To the fire glow, Dark winter days, Winter winds, Cold, cold snow.

26. Holiday Times
(Words and music by Ella Jenkins/Ellborn Pub. Co., ASCAP)
Catherine Hall, flute; Ella Jenkins voice; Jerry Kinella, pipe organ

Here we are, trying to follow the theme of "Holiday Times" so children can hear it on different instruments and in the words to songs.

We have sung about only some of the winter holidays people celebrate. There are many others. Maybe you can write your own songs about those we have missed.

Holiday times are here, are here.
Holiday times can bring good cheer.
Holiday times can make folks sing.
Holiday times can make bells ring.

For over forty years Ella Jenkins has charmed children, parents, and teachers with her songs, stories, and rhythms. Her songs are shaped to stimulate children’s musical, motor, and intellectual skills, and they are from many lands in many languages. Ella’s songs and rhythms make learning about different people’s traditions accessible and fun.

Ella has recorded many albums for Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. They are listed below. You can ask for these recordings at your local record shop, order them by telephone by calling 1 (800) 410-9815, by faxing (301) 443-1819, or by mail through Smithsonian Folkways Recordings at 414 Hungerford Drive, Suite 444, Rockville, MD 20850.

To receive a Smithsonian Folkways Catalogue call (202) 287-3262.

African American Folk Songs and Rhythms
SF 45003 (CS) 1960 ages 6-11
Ella Jenkins and the Goodwill Spiritual Choir of Chicago celebrate the musical heritage of African Americans with rhythmic chants, work songs, and inspiring spirituals.

And One and Two
SF 45016 (CD, CS, LP) 1971 ages 2-5
Simple songs and rhythm exercises for young children.

Call and Response: Rhythmic Group Singing
SF 45030 (CS) 1957 ages 5-9
Ella celebrates the rich, complex rhythms of West African people and explores their influence on music in the Americas.

Come Dance by the Ocean
SF 45014 (CD, LP) 1991 ages 2-9
Songs about the world we live in — the oceans, lands, and cultural differences of its peoples.

Counting Games and Rhythms for the Little Ones
SF 45029 (LP, CS) 1964 ages 2-4
Nine familiar songs and chants provide a wonderful guide to help kids with basic number skills and simple math.

Early, Early Childhood Songs
SF 45015 (CD, CS, LP) 1982 ages 2-4
Ella performs classic songs that have been sung by generations of children. Their simple lyrics, repetitive phrases, and rhythmic quality make them a good first step into music for the very young. Booklet includes song lyrics and discography.
Growing Up with Ella Jenkins:
Rhythms, Songs and Rhymes
SF 45032 (CD, CS) 1976 ages 2-5
The children of the Mary Crane Day Care Center
join Ella in a twenty-song collection honoring this
historic Chicago School.

Holiday Times
SF 45041 (CD, CS) 1996 ages 5-11
An all-new recording, featuring 26 songs, poems,
and stories related to winter holidays, including
Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza, as well as
Chinese New Year and St. Patrick’s Day. Ella is
accompanyied by Guy Guibert (guitar and voice),
Catherine Hall (flute and voice), and Jerry Kinsella
(pipe organ) and children from the Harold
Washington Elementary School of Chicago.

Jambo and Other Call and
Response Songs and Chants
SF 45017 (CD, CS) 1974 ages 2-9
Twelve of Ella’s best call and response songs
recorded with “Voices in Training” of the Chicago
Children’s Choir.

Little Johnny Brown
SF 45026 (CS) 1983 ages 2-9
Heartwarming American, American Indian, and
Mexican folk songs recorded with children ages
five through ten from uptown Chicago.

Multicultural Songs for Children
SF 45045 (CD, CS, LP) 1995 ages 2-9
This anthology covers both multicultural and
intercultural themes. Ella compiled 23 tracks from
12 previous records. The accompanying booklet
includes lyrics and a discography, plus liner notes
and notes about the songs written by Ella.

My Street Begins at My House
SF 45005 (CD, LP, CS) 1971 ages 2-9
An imaginative and enthusiastic salute to a child’s
own neighborhood experience.

Nursery Rhymes: Rhyming and Remembering
SF 45019 (CD, LP, CS) 1974 ages 2-5
Twenty-two all-time favorite nursery rhymes with
Ella encouraging group participation by cuing
lyrics and activities while she sings.

Play Your Instruments and Make a Pretty Sound
SF 45018 (CD, LP, CS) 1968 ages 2-9
Wonderful songs designed to introduce musical
instruments to children. Includes a full Dixieland
jazz band.

Rhythm and Game Songs for the Little Ones
SF 45027 (CS) 1964 ages 2-4
Playful songs for young children with Ella
encouraging them to try the rhythms, tunes, and
activities while they sing.

Rhythms of Childhood
SF 45008 (CD, LP, CS) 1963 ages 2-9
Ella emphasizes the rhythms of nature, dance,
and traditional African chants and presents many
possibilities for teaching rhythm throughout
elementary school.

Seasons of Singing
SF 45031 (CS) 1970 ages 6-11
Recorded with the summer workshop of St. Paul’s
Church. Seasons features favorite songs, original
and traditional, from around the world.

Songs Children Love to Sing
SF 45042 (CD, CS) 1996 ages 2-9
An anthology of earlier recordings celebrates Ella
Jenkins’ children of recording for Folkways. Ella
Jenkins selected 17 songs that are especially popular
with children from the hundreds she has recorded for
Folkways since 1956.

Songs and Rhythms from Near and Far
SF 45033 (CS) 1964 ages 6-11
A musical journey to places like Greece,
Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Holland, Italy, Canada,
and the U. S. through the songs, dances, musical
sounds, and textures of these regions.

Songs, Rhythms, and Chants for the Dance
SF 45004 (CS) 1977 ages 6-11
Teaches children about the different activities and
professions of dance performance.

This-a-Way, That-a-Way
SF 45002 (CD, LP, CS) 1973 ages 2-9
Young children from Tennessee join Ella in this
wonderful collection of thirteen songs and chants.

This Is Rhythm
SF 45028 (CD, LP, CS) 1961 ages 2-9
Ella introduces basic rhythm instruments –
congas, rhythm sticks, maracas — to her listeners.

This Is Rhythm (Illustrated Songbook)
SF 45028-BK 1993
Each page is filled with lyrics and rhymes,
presented in varying shades of color to help
children. The accompanying record is softly to sing
and play. Teaches that rhythm is a basic element in
music, speech, and sounds in all cultures and
throughout the natural world.

Travellin’ with Ella Jenkins: A Bilingual Journey
SF 45009 (CD, LP, CS) 1979 ages 5-11
Songs from around the world sung by Ella and the
children of the Cross Cultural Family Center of San
Francisco.

We Are America’s Children
SF 45006 (CD, LP, CS) 1976 ages 9-11
Explores America’s diversity through powerful
music ranging from blues and spirituals to folk
and Native American songs.

You’ll Sing a Song and I’ll Sing a Song
SF 45010 (CD, LP, CS) 1966 ages 2-9
Ella’s best-selling record includes international
songs which encourage singing and rhythmic
participation. Recommended for early education
by Teachers Magazine.

VIDEOTAPES:

Live at the Smithsonian
SF 44001 (VHS) 1991 ages 2-9
Recorded with children from the Smithsonian
Institution Early Enrichment Center and geared
towards viewer participation.

Ella Jenkins for the Family
SF 44002 (VHS) 1991 ages 2-9
Eleven intimate performances which convey a
strong feeling of being one-on-one with Ella
Jenkins. Particularly effective for single-child
viewing.
Technical & Production:

Mike Konopka - Remote recording engineer
Daniel Stout - Engineer,
Chicago Recording Company
Hank Neuberger - Director,
Chicago Recording Company

Mastered by David Glasser at Airshow, Springfield, VA
Production supervised by Anthony Seeger and Amy Horowitz
Production coordinated by Mary Monsur and Michael Maloney
Edited by Peter Seitel and Carla Borden

Design and layout by Richard C. Montgomery

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About the Musicians and the Producer

Catherine Hall is a fine musician and singer whom I have known for a few years. She entertains both children and adults and conducts classes called "wiggle worms" for young children at the Old Town School of Music in Chicago. She appeared with me on Come Dance by the Ocean (Smithsonian Folkways SF 45014). She often sings to her own child, Julius.

Guy Guilbert has appeared on numerous albums with me. He helps keep my ukulele in tune. Through his musical career, he has done solo work, worked in trios, played backup for duets, and has created many popular advertising jingles. He is a very good friend.

Jerry Kinsella plays the pipe organ at the Edgebrook Community Church, which is where we recorded the organ selections. We welcomed the children to come on a field trip to learn about the pipe organ. Jerry Kinsella has been performing professionally in both popular and classical programs since he was sixteen, and has made frequent appearances as Assistant Organist on WGN-TV in Chicago. He has performed on some of the best theatre organs in the country, has played at many organ dedications, and has appeared with a variety of instrumental and choral ensembles. As President and co-founder of Church Music Service, a major pipe organ design and maintenance firm, Mr. Kinsella's activities include consultation, rebuilding and restoration of older instruments, and consultation on new organ design and selection. Having worked with several respected American and European organ builders, he has become much in demand for his organ voice.

We recorded the school children at Harold Washington Elementary School in a kindergarten classroom named after me. The kindergarten teacher, Clara Merchant, directed the younger children during the recording session, and Cassandra Ward Jefferson directed the older children. Special thanks to Mr. Timothy Bryant, assistant principal, for taking time out of his vacation to help with this recording. Thanks also to Dr. Lewis for her enthusiasm, optimism, and dedication to the growth and well-being of all students. The students and faculty of Harold Washington Elementary School are very proud that their school is named after the first and only African American mayor of the city of Chicago. They hope to carry on his good work.

Bernadelle Richter is my manager and the executive producer of this recording. Her photos appear on many of my albums. My favorite is the cover of Come Dance by the Ocean. She has given me much excellent guidance in my professional career and has encouraged me to travel throughout the world, which has enhanced my personal life as well as my career.

Thanks to my two engineers: Mike Konopka for the remote recording at the church and the school, and Daniel Stout for his excellent work in the studio.
ABOUT SMITHSONIAN FOLKWAYS

Folkways Records was founded by Moses Asch and Marian Distler 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 Asch estate in 1987 to ensure that the sounds and genius of the artists would be preserved for future generations. All Folkways recordings are now available on high-quality audio cassettes, each packed in a special box along with the original LP liner notes.

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The Smithsonian Folkways, Folkways, Cook, and Paredon record labels are administered by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife Programs & Cultural Studies. 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.

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ELLA JENKINS  Holiday Times

With the boys and girls from the Harold Washington Elementary School of Chicago, and Guy Guilbert, Catherine Hall, and Jerry Kinsella
SF 45041

1. Holiday Times 0:37
2. Night Before Christmas 1:02
3. Santa Claus Is Coming 1:02
4. It's Christmas Time 2:42
5. Holiday Times 1:12
6. Jingle Bells 3:08
7. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer 2:26
8. We Wish You a Merry Christmas 0:25
9. Gung Hay Fat Choy 0:14
10. Special Chinese Years 0:35
11. St. Patrick's Day Jig 1:27
12. Danny Boy Jig 2:02
13. My Little Blue Dreidel 0:26
14. Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel 1:52
15. Harmonica for Hanukkah 1:48
16. Kwanzaa Time 1:27
17. Here We Go Looby Loo 1:26
18. Little Gifts 1:47
19. Damper Song 1:39
20. Orest from the Forest 1:46
21. Red Monkey 1:09
22. Over the River 0:13
23. Harmonica Happiness 1:04
24. Winters I Used to Know 0:38
25. Dark Winter Day 0:16
26. Holiday Times 1:40

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Holiday Times, an all-new 1996 recording, features 26 songs, poems, and stories related to winter holidays, including Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza, as well as Chinese New Year and Saint Patrick's Day. Ella Jenkins is accompanied by Guy Guilbert (guitar and vocals), Catherine Hall (flute and vocals), Jerry Kinsella (pipe organ), and children from the Harold Washington Elementary School of Chicago. Booklet includes song texts and a list of Ella Jenkins Recordings. Recommended for children aged 5-11.

Smithsonian Folkways
Smithsonian Folkways Recordings
Center for Folklife Programs & Cultural Studies
955 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Suite 2600
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560

E-mail, folkways@aol.com
World Wide Web Address, http://www.si.edu/folkways