# Theodore Bikel: A Folksinger's Choice

- Haul Away Joe
- Damsel of 19 Years Old
- Dance to Your Daddy
- Vicar of Bray
- Charladies Ball
- Trooper and the Maid
- Tail Toddle
- Away with Rum

- Highland Muster Roll
- Wallaby Stew
- Co-Operative Cookies
- Springhill Mine Disaster
- Limerick Rake
- The 42nd
- Calton Weaver
- Come Away Melinda
ABOUT THE SONGS

SIDE ONE
HAUL AWAY JOE is a sea-going lullaby chantey which was sung by sailors as they heaved ropes to properly set the sails. Through the use of multiple recording techniques, Theo sings two versions.

DAMSEL OF 19 YEARS OLD proves once again that all is not as it appears in the first verse.

VIGAR OF BRAY is an 18th century broadside ballad which "exposes" political opposition.

CHARLADIES BALL started out as one verse attributed to Dominic Blast, Theo and Walter Rain have added the other two verses.

TROOPER AND THE MAID (Child ballad #799) is a cousin to numerous other similar songs with a similar theme, that of a soldier who leaves a young maid but with the avowed intention of returning. This vigorous Scottish version is highly popular. Theo sings both voices.

TAIL TOGGLE is reputed to have been written by Robert Burns and was included in his Merry Messes of Caldey. A proscribed collection of bawdy which has appeared in several clandestine editions. If you don't catch the full meaning due to difficulty with the dialect, try again.

AWAY WITH RUM is a salute to the activities of the Salvation Army. Although the origin of the song is somewhat obscure, numerous individuals have added verses as it has been passed from singer to singer.

SIDE TWO
HIGHLAND MUSTER ROLL is a Jacobite song that probably came into existence around 1688. The Jacobites were adherents of the exiled branch of the House of Stuart, who attempted to restore James II [in Latin Jacob] to the English throne. Each of the clan shots is readily identifiable in the following song.

WALLABY STEW is a song Theo learned on a recent singing tour of Australia. A wallaby is a small kangaroo, about the size of a rabbit.

CO OPERATIVE COOKIES is a children's street song from the slums of Glasgow. It advertises, in quaint commentary and the cooperative store that funneled throughout Britain. And as if to further their irreverence, the wee Scot lads who have composed literally hundreds of such verses have borrowed both the tune and the last line from "Mary Mc Scull Bushell, one of the best-known songs is the repertoire of the universally revered Scottish music Hall performer, the late Sir Harry Lauder.

SPRINGHILL MINE DISASTER immortalizes a 1958 tragedy in Nova Scotia. This incident received prominent coverage on both Canadian and British television and inspired even MacColl and Peggy Seeger to write the song.

LIMERICK RAKE is a winning Irish song in the first person. This irresistible rake could have come right out of Tom Jones and the "exploration" in the last to last verse would certainly have pleased Fielding.

The 42ND sings the praises of one of Scotland's most famous regiments, the Black Watch. Glasgow is one of the Scottish cities where soldiers are barked as the English soldiers are sent to other parts of the world and the docks of the Broomlaw have seen the arrival and departure of generations of Highland regiments in their homesome kilts uniforms. The song sings both voices.

CALTON WEAVER the city of Calton (long since absorbed by Glasgow) was famed for its linen mills and two-fisted drinkers. Here, the qualities of whiskey are compared to a fine woman. The reputation of Scotch whiskey or Scottish women seems to suffer thereby.

COME AWAY MELINDA was written for Fred Halleman and Fran Mickoff. It is one of Theo's most requested songs in concert.

WALTER RAJ arranged the following selections:

HAUL AWAY JOE, Damsel of 19 Years Old, Dance to Your Daddy, VIGAR OF BRAY, Charmant Rag, Tail Toggle, Away With Rum, Highland Muster Roll, Wallaby Stew, Limerick Rake, The 42ND and Calton Weaver.

assisting musicians—WALTER RAJ, guitar; DICK ROSMINSKI, guitar; JIM McMURRIN, banjo; RUSSELL SAYAKUS and LYLE RITZ, bass; BOB CRESS, accordion; and RICHARD SCHULZE, recording assistant.

production supervisor—JAC HOLZMAN

recording director—MARK ABRAMSON

engineering—MASTERTONE RECORDING STUDIO, INC.

NEW YORK CITY

cover design—WILLIAM S. HARVEY

cover photo—ROWLAND SCHERMAN

Mr. Bikel and the Producer would like to thank Mr. Ken Goldstein for his help in researching some of the songs included on this album.

THEODORE BIKEL

A folksinger's choice

WITH ARRANGEMENTS BY WALTER RAJ

As the titles will indicate, all the songs in this album are in English, or at any rate in the Anglo-Saxon idiom, a departure from the international or 'foreign' aspect of my previous recordings. However, it is not as radical a change as it might be assumed. For one thing, this recording is still 'international'] containing as it does some 6 Scottish, 4 Irish, 3 contemporary American and some other songs ranging from Northumbrian to Australian. Some are sung in 'straight' English, some in regional accents. Some will be reassuringly familiar by being intelligible, others will sound as foreign as any Bantu chant. It's an international album alright.

As of the time of this writing I have lived in English-speaking countries for the better part of my life, some 19 years to be exact. I am at least as close to Anglo-Saxon folklore as I am to Russian or Hebrew. Many of the songs on this recording I have known and sung for years; others are recent additions to an expanding songbag. As in all other idioms, I try to approximate the authentic sound as far as I can, subject to my personal limitations. Naturally I am neither a Scot nor an Irishman; but then I am not a Russian or a Frenchman either, and God's wrath did not descend on me for singing French or Russian songs. I believe that affection for the songs one sings mitigates against not having been born into ten nations at once. To be curious enough about one's neighbor so as to want to sing his songs does create a bond of respect. I have felt it when Pete Seeger sang Indonesian or Spanish; or when Miriam Makeba sang in Yiddish. I trust Peter O'Flynn and Angus McPherson—whatever they are—may feel similarly about me.

THEODORE BIKEL

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THEODORE BIKEL
A FOLKSINGER'S CHOICE

1. Haul Away Joe 3:20
2. Damsel of 19 Years Old 1:48
3. Dance to Your Daddy 1:51
4. Vicar of Bray 4:08
5. Charladies Ball (Behan-Bikel-Raim, Nina Music BMI) 1:45
6. Trooper and the Maid 2:58
7. Tail Toddle 1:10
8. Away with Rum 2:30
THEODORE BIKE
A FOLKSINGER'S CHOICE

1. HIGHLAND MUSTER ROLL  2:35
2. WALLABY STEW      2:10
3. CO-OPERATIVE COOKIES  :55
4. SPRINGHILL MINE DISASTER (MacColl-Seeger, Storm King Music ASCAP)  3:45
5. LIMERICK RAKE      3:07
6. THE 42ND          2:10
7. CALTON WEAVER     2:44
8. COME AWAY MELINDA (Minkoff-Hellerman, Appleseed Music ASCAP)  2:20