

OLD SONGS
& BOTHY BALLADS



HURRAH
BOYS
HURRAH!

Many of the finest traditional singers in the country gather in May each year for the Fife Traditional Singing Festival – a weekend of concerts and workshops held near Collesie in the rural heart the ancient kingdom of Fife.

Recorded in May 2010, the CD opens with **Jeff Warner** from New Hampshire – a singer with an extensive repertoire of old songs from the New England states, **Phyllis Martin** from Dalbeattie with songs learned from local Galloway tradition, **Geordie Murison** from Stonehaven and the noted traditional singer **Sheila Stewart** from Blairgowrie. Singers from south of the border include **Jill Pidd** from Yorkshire, the distinctive voice and repertoire of **Terry Conway** from Allandale and a duet from **Chris Coe** and **Annie Dearman**. Scotland's bothy ballad tradition is represented by **Joe Aitken** from Kirriemuir. **Jimmy Hutchison**, originally from Skye and now living in Newburgh and **Pete Shephard** from nearby Balmalcolm both include classics from the Scots ballad repertoire and the CD closes with the great **MacPherson's Farewell** from Aberdeen singer **Danny Couper** from Aberdeen.

1: THE BANKS OF SACRAMENTO • **Jeff Warner** 2.42

It was in the year eighteen hundred and forty nine,

To me hoo dah, to me hoo dah,

It was in the year eighteen hundred and forty nine,

To me hoo dah, hoo day day.

We left New York in the month of May,

To me hoo dah, to me hoo dah,

And we ended up in Frisco Bay,

To me hoo dah, hoo day day.

Chorus:

And it's ho, boys ho, to Californ-I-O,

Well, there's plenty of gold, so I've been told,

On the banks of the Sacramento.

2: THE NUTTING GIRL • **Phyllis Martin** 2.21

There was a jolly ploooboy, a-plooin up his land,

He whistled and he sang all day to make the valleys sound,

Singin tarry doodle aye, doodle aye, doodle aye,

Tarry doodle aye ae,

Tarry doodle aye, doodle aye, doodle aye,

Tarry doodle aye ae.

3: FOREMAN AT DRUM • **Geordie Murison** 2.44

Ae Martinmas term the grieve fae the Drum,

Tappit me on the shouder, he spiered gin I'd come,

Tae wark his first pair for a winter half year,

Wi a big cleekit horse and a ringle ee'd meer.

4: THE TWA BROTHERS • **Sheila Stewart** 4.56

Two pretty boys were a-going tae the school,

And one evening coming home;

Said IWilliam tae John, "Can you throw a stone,

Or can you play at a ball,

Or can you play at a ball?"

5: CAPPY THE DOG • **Terry Conway** 4.29

In a town near Newcastle a pitman did dwell,

With his wife called Peg, a tom cat and hissel,

A dog called Cappy, he doted upon,

Because it was left him by great Uncle Tom.

And his name was Cappy, famous aud Cappy,

Cappy, the dog, tally ho, tally ho.

6: THE LOSS OF THE ROYAL GEORGE • **Chris Coe**
& **Annie Dearman** 3.16

As we set sail from the rock of Gibraltar,

As we set sail for sweet Dublin Bay,

Little did we think of our sad misfortune,

A-sleeping in the briny sea,

Oh little did we think of our sad misfortune,

A-sleeping in the briny sea.

7: LORD LOVEL • **Jimmy Hutchison** 5.48

Lord Lovel he stood at his stable door,

He was clapping his milk-white steed,

And by there cam Lady Nancy Belle,

A-wishing her lover God speed,

A-wishing her lover God speed.

8: THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME • **Jill Pidd** 2.18

When first I made my mind up that a soldier I would be,

The girl that I was going with came round and says to me,

"I've had me picture taken, but if we are to part,

Promise me you'll always wear me photo next to your heart."

9: BARNYARDS O DELGATY • Joe Aitken 3.49

In New Deer parish I was born,

A child o youth tae Methlick came;

And gin ye'll no believe ma word,

The session clerk'll tell the same.

Linten adie, touran adie, Linten adie tooran ae,

Linten louran, louran, louran, the barnyards o Delgaty.

10: HURRAH BOYS HURRAH • Jeff Warner 2.49

I cannot listen to your words, the land's too far and wide,

Go seek some happy northern girl to be your loving bride;

My brothers they were soldiers, the youngest of the three,

Was slain while fighting at the side of General Fitzhugh Lee.

Hurrah! Hurrah! For the sunny south I say,

Three cheers for the southern girls,

And the boy who wore the grey.

11: BOBBY BLUE • Phyllis Martin 2.21

Stay awa frae the windae Bobby Blue,

Stay awa frae the windae Bobby Blue;

For the wind and the rain they will bring your faither hame,

Stay awa frae the windae Bobby Blue.

12: THE BLEACHED MUTCH • Geordie Murison 4.43

Jock Tamson he bade along wi his mither,

Peer body, he hadnae ony ither,

Tae hear her spik o her darlin son,

You'd think nursin bairns had new begun.

Wi a toora lay, toora lay,

Laddie fa loora, loora lay.

13: JOHNNIE O GRAIDIE • Peter Shephard 4.36

Johannie arose on a May, May morn,

He called for water tae wash his hands;

Saying, "Lowse tae me ma twa grude hounds,

That lie bound in iron bands, bands,

That lie bound in iron bands."

14: BETSY BELLE • Sheila Stewart 3.52

Oh ma name is Betsy Belle in the Overgate I dwell,

Nae doot ye'll wonder what I'm daein here;

But if ye wait a wee, sure ma tale I'll tell tae thee,

It's a tale nae doot ye'll think it's very queer.

15: DOLLI-AH • Terry Conway 2.22

Fresh I cum frae Sandgate Steet, Dol-li, dol-li,

My best friends for to meet, Dol-li-a.

Dol-li the dillen dol, Dol-li, dol-li,

Dol-li the dillen dol, Dol-li-a.

16: THE DEADLY WARS • Jimmy Hutchison 2.53

Oh when wild wars deidly blasts are blawn,

And gentle peace returnin,

Left many's a pair bairn faitherless,

And many a widow mournin.

17: BONNIE LADDIE YE GANG BY ME • Jill Pidd 4.40

Oh it happened on a day in the merry month of May,

I went out tae meet me bonnie lad, he promised to come this way;

I went out tae meet me bonnie lad and he promised to come this way,

But me bonnie laddie never yet cam by me.

18: MACPHERSON'S FAREWEE • Danny Couper & Carol Anderson 7.53

Fareweel ye dungeons dark and strong,

Fareweel, farewel tae ye;

MacPherson's time it'll nae be long,

On yonder gallows tree.

Sae wantonly, sae rantinly, sae wantonly gaed he,

He played a tune and he danced around,

Aye below the gallows tree.

CELEBRATING FIFE: The East of Scotland Traditional Song Group is pleased to thank Fife Council for the financial support given under the Fife Council's Celebrating Fife 2010 programme towards the guests and programme events of the Fife Traditional Singing Festival of 2010.

CREDITS: Thanks to all the singers who have given free use of their recordings to the East of Scotland Traditional Song Group. *Recorded* by Tom Spiers. *Photograph* by Doc Rowe. *Design & transcriptions* by Peter Shephard. All songs traditional arranged by the singer except where noted.

Full song texts are at www.springthyme.co.uk/ah10

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