

Peggy Seeger – Songs of Love and Politics (The Folkways Years 1955 – 1992)

Written by bluelover

Monday, 12 September 2011 18:36 - Last Updated Monday, 22 May 2017 16:37

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1 *Pretty Saro* Traditional 3:41 2 *Lady, What Do You All Day?* Traditional 3:42 3 *Broomfield Hill* Seeger, Traditional 2:52 4 *The Squire and the Colic* Traditional 4:09 5 *Jellon Graeme* Seeger, Traditional 5:32 6 *Going to the West* Traditional 3:47 7 *Jane Jane* Traditional 1:29 8 *When I Was Single* Traditional 2:52 9 *The Wedding Dress Song* Traditional 2:05 10 *Freight Train* Cotten 2:46 11 *Song of Myself* Seeger 4:08 [play](#) 12 *First Time I Saw Your Face* MacColl 2:23 13 *My Son* Seeger 4:05 14 *Song for Calum* Seeger 2:24 15 *Little Girl Child* Seeger 3:36

[play](#)

16 *Gonna Be an Engineer* Seeger 4:28 17 *Song of Choice* Seeger 3:45 18 *Talking Wheelchair Blues* Small 3:34 19 *Nobody Knew She Was There* MacColl 3:00 20 *Thoughts of Time* Seeger 3:24 21 *Gardens of Flowers* Scott, Seeger 3:28

Personnel: Neill MacColl - Guitar Irene Scott - Vocals Barbara Seeger - Clapping, Handclapping, Vocals Mike Seeger - Mandolin, Vocals Peggy Seeger - Arranger, Autoharp, Banjo, Dulcimer, Guitar, Liner Notes, Vocals Penny Seeger - Clapping, Dulcimer, Handclapping, Vocals.

As a title, The Folkways Years is something of a misnomer for this compilation album because it is a broader collection, in which recordings made by Peggy Seeger for Folkways Records constitute less than half of the 21 selections, along with eight previously unreleased, mostly live recordings made in the 1980s, three tracks licensed from Rounder Records, and a sample from Seeger's upcoming new album. Taken together, the recordings constitute a musical autobiography that traces her interest in traditional folk music: her original, feminist songs such as "Lady, What Do You Do All Day?" and "Gonna Be an Engineer," songs associated with her husband Ewan MacColl, including "First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," which he wrote for her, and songs she wrote for each of her children. In her self-deprecating liner notes, Seeger confesses that for most of her life she has been unable to bear the sound of her recordings, which may explain why she has drawn so little from her large body of work with Folkways. Her thin voice can be an acquired taste, though her talent for songwriting overcomes the limitations of her performing ability. ---William Ruhlmann, allmusic.com

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"Fortunately, Peggy Seeger is one of the compilers of this album. The result is that this retrospective is one of the jewels in the S/F [Smithsonian/Folkways] catalog. Eight of the 21 cuts have never been released at all. These, as well as the other previously released songs cover the gamut of styles. As the title succinctly states, these are songs of love and politics . . . Songs of Love and Politics is a wonderful introduction to Peggy Seeger for those of you who are not familiar with her work and a delight to those love her work." ---Don Jacobsen, KVMR Radio

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