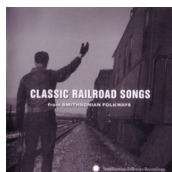


Classic Railroad Songs from Smithsonian Folkways (2006)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 11 November 2011 19:32 - Last Updated Friday, 13 July 2012 15:48

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101 An excerpt from "Rail Dynamics" n/a 0:24 102 Train 45 The New Lost City Ramblers 2:18 103 Kassie Jones Furry Lewis 2:56 104 Jay Gould's Daughter Pete Seeger 2:38 105 Railroad Bill Walt Robertson 2:08 106 Linin' Track Lead Belly 1:15 107 Freight Train Elizabeth Cotten 2:43 108 Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill Cisco Houston 2:30 109 Zack, the Mormon Engineer L. M. Hilton 2:02 110 Lost Train Blues The Virginia Mountain Boys 2:57 111 The FFV Annie Watson 3:52 112 He's Coming to Us Dead The New Lost City Ramblers 3:15 113 The Train That Carried My Girl from Town Doc Watson 2:18 114 Rock Island Line Lead Belly 2:03 115 Lonesome Train Sonny Terry, Woody Guthrie, and Cisco Houston 3:31 116 John Henry Woody Guthrie and Cisco Houston 2:42 117 The Wreck of the Number Nine Rosalie Sorrels 1:36 118 Freight Train Blues Brownie McGhee 3:36 119 The New Market Wreck Mike Seeger 3:39 120 Jerry, Go Oil That Car Harry "Haywire Mac" McClintock 2:37 121 Way Out in Idaho Rosalie Sorrels 3:34 122 Old John Henry Died on the Mountain Henry Grady Terrell 1:55 123 Casey Jones John D. Mounce 0:20 124 Wreck of the Old 97 Ernest V. Stoneman 2:51 125 Midnight Special Lead Belly 2:03 126 Wabash Cannonball Doc Watson 3:17 127 Lost Train Blues Vernon Sutphin 1:13 128 New River Train Iron Mountain String Band 4:26 129 Excerpt from "Three Little Engines and 33 Cars" n/a 0:25

Personnel: Mike Seeger (vocals, guitar, banjo, autoharp); Tracy Schwarz (vocals, guitar, fiddle); Doc Watson (vocals, guitar, harmonica); Cisco Houston, Elizabeth Cotten, Furry Lewis, Walt Robertson, Leadbelly, Woody Guthrie, Brownie McGhee (vocals, guitar); Eric Davidson, Pete Seeger (vocals, banjo); Henry Grady Terrell (vocals, percussion); Rosalie Sorrels, Annie Watson (vocals); John Cohen (guitar, banjo); Bobby Harrison (guitar); Ivor Melton (mandolin); Caleb Finch, Glen Neaves (fiddle); Vernon L. Sutphin, Sonny Terry, John D. Mounce (harmonica). Compiled by Jeff Place

As 19th-century America expanded, so too did the "ribbons of iron" that crisscrossed the vast landscape and sparked the imagination of music-makers. Work songs, ballads recounting riveting exploits, and instrumental echoes of the once familiar sounds of the steam locomotive have enshrined the railroad in our musical memory. Classic Railroad Songs mines the Smithsonian Folkways archives to create this tribute to a favorite American source of inspiration. --- folkways.si.edu

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Smithsonian Folkways ninth installment of its popular Classic Series chronicles the golden age of the American railroad. Classic Railroad Songs from Smithsonian Folkways picks up where 2004's Classic Maritime Music collection left off, unearthing previously unheard of gems from their archives along with classics from some of the genre's finest practitioners. Twenty-one of these remarkable folk songs, field recordings, tall tales, and work songs appear on CD for the first time, from the crisp a cappella "F.F.V.," performed by Annie Watson (mother of Doc Watson), to Cisco Houston's rousing "Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill" from his 1968 Sings American Folk Songs anthology. Compiled by Grammy Winner Jeff Place, Classic Railroad Songs is enriched by rare photos from the Library of Congress and there are detailed liner notes for each and every one of the 29 cuts which provide a glimpse into the hobo lifestyle of legendary characters like Harry McClintock, Leadbelly, and Furry Lewis -- the latter lost a leg in 1917 in a railway accident. --- James Christopher Monger

There's probably not a folksinger alive who doesn't have some sort of strange fascination with the railroads. At the beginning of the 20th century, thousands of workers hit the iron road in search of jobs and a better life for themselves and the folks back home. From that period came some of the most timeless songs in American folk music, and Smithsonian Folkways managed to gather an incredible catalog of songs and artists for their recent release, Classic Railroad Songs. --- Kim Ruehl, About.com Guide

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