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



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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