



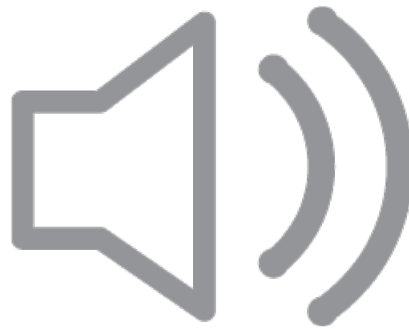
ALBUM [SONGS FOR CHILDREN TO SING, DANCE, AND PLAY](#)

Album Description

Here are some songs from the Library of Congress that are meant to be played, danced, and sung! Often passed through aural tradition, I recommend singing them in-person with your students to develop an understanding of the piece before listening to the often-fuzzy recording.

To learn more about each piece, find related primary source documents, obtain game and dance instructions, and more, please visit CarolynBennett.us.

INTERVIEW WITH IRENE WILLIAMS, ROME, MISSISSIPPI, OCTOBER 1940 (PART 1 OF 3)



AUDIO

Teaching Notes:

"Come Butter Come" begins around 2:00. In this recording, Irene Williams recalls the nurse, Little Emma, singing as she churned butter. It is part of the "Voices Remembering Slavery" collection.

[More teaching ideas on my website.](#)

Reference Link: https://www.loc.gov/item/afc1940003_afs04011a/

Contributor Names: Lomax, John A. (John Avery), 1867-1948 (Interviewer)

Lomax, Ruby T. (Ruby Terrill) (Interviewer)

Williams, Irene (Interviewee)

Created / Published: Rome, Mississippi, 1940

Subject Headings: - Hymns, English

- African American women--Religious life

- Work songs--Mississippi

- Slave narratives--Mississippi

- Keep Your Lamp A Trimmed (Song)

- Come Butter Come (Song)

- Baptism--Songs and music

- Women slaves--Mississippi

- Freedmen--Mississippi

- Interviews



- Songs
- United States -- Mississippi -- Sunflower County -- Rome

Genre: Interviews

Field recordings

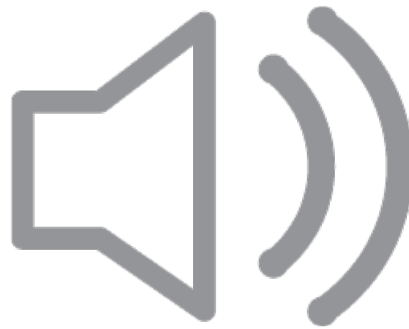
Songs

Notes: - Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax, Rome, Mississippi, 1940.

Repository: American Folklife Center

Digital Id: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afc1940003_afs04011a

INTERVIEW WITH IRENE WILLIAMS, ROME, MISSISSIPPI, OCTOBER 1940 (PART 3 OF 3)



AUDIO

Teaching Notes:

Jay Bird Singing occurs toward the beginning of this recording; Drink Water occurs later on. This recording is part of the "Voices Remembering Slavery" collection.

Find movement instructions and teaching ideas for [Drink Water](#) and [Jay Bird Singing](#) on my website.

Reference Link: https://www.loc.gov/item/afc1940003_afs04018a/

Contributor Names: Lomax, John A. (John Avery), 1867-1948 (Interviewer)

Lomax, Ruby T. (Ruby Terrill) (Interviewer)

Williams, Irene (Interviewee)

Taylor, Mrs. (Interviewer)

Created / Published: Rome, Mississippi, 1940

Subject Headings: - Slave narratives--Mississippi

- Freedmen--Mississippi

- African Americans--Mississippi--Music

- Ole Lady Goose (Song)

- Jay Bird Singing (Song)

- Ring Go Round (Song)

- Drink Water (Song)

- African American children's games--Mississippi

- Play-party--Mississippi



- Field recordings
- Songs
- United States -- Mississippi -- Sunflower County -- Rome

Genre: Interviews

Field recordings

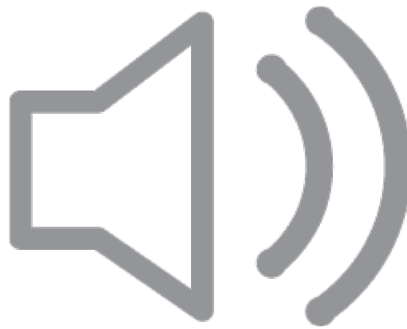
Songs

Notes: - Recorded by John A. and Ruby T. Lomax, Rome, Mississippi, 1940.

Repository: American Folklife Center

Digital Id: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afc1940003_afs04018a

EL RATON Y EL GATO



AUDIO

Teaching Notes:

This group of children is led by teacher Dalia Soto at one of America's earliest bilingual public schools: The San Carlos Institute of Key West, funded in part by the Cuban government. [Find instructions for the rambunctious, fun game, a transcription, and teaching ideas at my website.](#) Many Latino cultures have a version of a cat-and-mouse song and game, though they differ greatly.

Reference Link: <https://www.loc.gov/item/flwpa000103/>

Contributor Names: Kennedy, Stetson (Collector)

Cook, Robert Harrison (Collector)

Unidentified children (Performer)

Soto, Dalia (Performer)

Created / Published: Key West, Florida

Subject Headings: - Children's songs

- Cuban Americans

- Cuban-Americans--Music

- Songs

- United States -- Florida -- Monroe County -- Key West

Genre: Songs

Notes: - Sarris children

- Schoolchildren

- Sung by students at the San Carlos Institute, a grammar school in Key West owned and operated by the



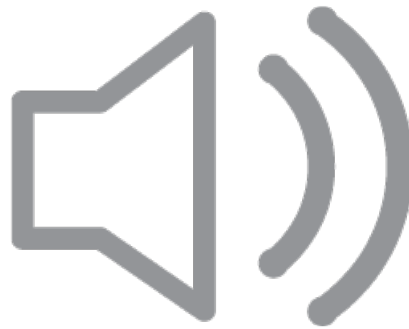
- Performance Note: "El raton y el gato" (vocals) performed by Dalia Soto, and unidentified schoolchildren at San Carlos Institute, Key West, Florida, on January 22, 1940.

- Performers referred to elsewhere as unidentified schoolchildren

Repository: American Folklife Center

Digital Id: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afcflwpa.3385a1>

MARY WAS A REDBIRD



AUDIO

Teaching Notes:

I like to use this song to become acquainted with a new group of students. It provides an opportunity to learn names and to celebrate a visual characteristic each student is proud of. For teaching ideas, field notes, and photographs of Henry and 8-year-old Ruby Lee in 1940, and a photograph of Ruby Lee celebrating her 70th wedding anniversary in 2017, [visit my website](https://www.loc.gov/item/lomaxbib000298/).

Reference Link: <https://www.loc.gov/item/lomaxbib000298/>

Contributor Names: Lomax, John A. (John Avery), 1867-1948 (Collector)

Lomax, Ruby T. (Ruby Terrill) (Collector)

Truvillion, Henry (Performer)

Truvillion, Ruby Lee (Performer)

Created / Published: between Newton and Burkeville, Texas, May 18, 1939

Genre: Music

Songs

Children's songs

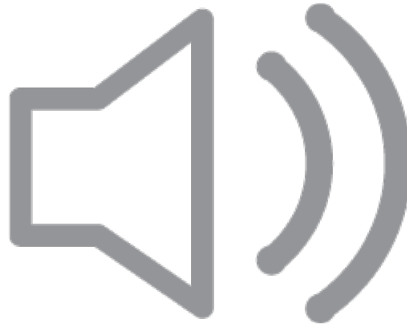
Notes: - Venue: Farmhouse of Henry Truvillion

- Performance Note: "Mary was a Redbird" performed by Henry Truvillion and Ruby Lee Truvillion (vocals) at Farmhouse of Henry Truvillion, between Newton and Burkeville, Texas, on May 18, 1939.

Repository: American Folklife Center

Digital Id: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afc39.2662b1>

PEEP SQUIRREL



AUDIO

Teaching Notes:

I recommend singing Hettie Godfrey's version, shared on my website from a non-digitized Lomax field note at the Library of Congress. It has all the fun movement of the recorded version, with none of the grisly squirrel hunting! This song is valuable for teaching little ones movement modalities and gross motor control.

[For a game description and teaching ideas, visit my website.](#)

Reference Link: <https://www.loc.gov/item/lomaxbib000448/>

Contributor Names: Lomax, John A. (John Avery), 1867-1948 (Collector)

Lomax, Ruby T. (Ruby Terrill) (Collector)

Lewis, Celina (Performer)

Created / Published: Livingston, Alabama, May 29, 1939

Genre: Music

Songs

Children's songs

Notes: - Venue: On porch of home of Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Tartt

- Performer referred to elsewhere as Aunt Celina Lewis

- Collector's genre note: "play-party motion song; a game for chasing"

- Performance Note: "Peep Squirrel" performed by Celina Lewis (vocals) at On porch of home of Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Tartt, Livingston, Alabama, on May 29, 1939.

Repository: American Folklife Center

Digitized by eGangotri, 2011. Digitized by eGangotri, 2011.

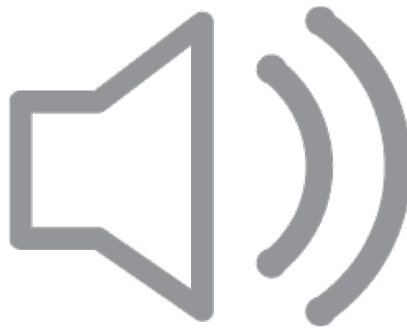


POPULAR FOLK GAMES AND DANCES

Teaching Notes:

This anthology contains many folk games and dances used by educators at the beginning of the 20th century. Each piece has clear notation and dance/game instructions. [More information available on my website.](#)

SEÑORA SANTANA



AUDIO

Teaching Notes:

This song traveled north from Key West with Cuban-American workers who followed the cigar industry to Ybor City, FL. [On my website, find a transcription and discover what this song reveals about America's melting pot and the experiences of a migrant cultural community.](#)

Reference Link: <https://www.loc.gov/item/flwpa000218/>

Contributor Names: Kennedy, Stetson (Collector)

Cook, Robert Harrison (Collector)

Kennedy, Stetson (Speaker)

Pollato, Adelpha (Speaker)

Pollato, Adelpha (Performer)

Created / Published: Ybor City, Florida

Subject Headings: - Lullabies

- Children's songs

- Cuban Americans

- Cuban-Americans--Music

- Songs

- United States -- Florida -- Hillsborough County -- Ybor City

Genre: Songs

Notes: - Ybor City, now a neighborhood within Tampa, was settled in 1886 by Cuban cigar manufacturers under the leadership of Vicente Martínez de Ybor. The cigar companies moved from Key West to avoid

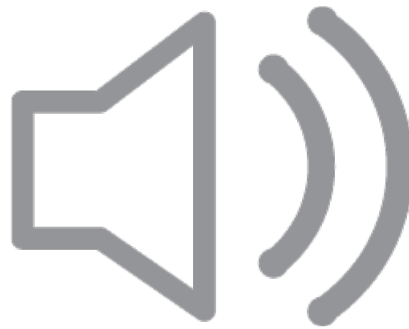


- A story about a child who had an apple and lost it; someone tried to give him another, but he wanted the one which he had lost.
- The singer, Adelpha Pollato, learned the song as a child in Key West, Florida.
- Performance Note: "Señora Santana" (vocals) performed by Adelpha Pollato at Ybor City, Florida, on August 27, 1939.

Repository: American Folklife Center

Digital Id: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afcflwpa.3536a4>

SWEET BABE O' MINE



AUDIO

Teaching Notes:

[Visit my website for a transcription, a choral arrangement, and the story of how this song led one adolescent to discover self-confidence and share her perspective with the world.](#)

Reference Link: <https://www.loc.gov/item/lomaxbib000256/>

Contributor Names: Lomax, John A. (John Avery), 1867-1948 (Collector)

Lomax, Ruby T. (Ruby Terrill) (Collector)

Maltox, Margie (Performer)

Created / Published: near Newton, Texas, May 16, 1939

Genre: Music

Songs

Children's songs

Lullabies

Notes: - Location also known as Liberty Hill

- Performer referred to elsewhere as Margie Mattox

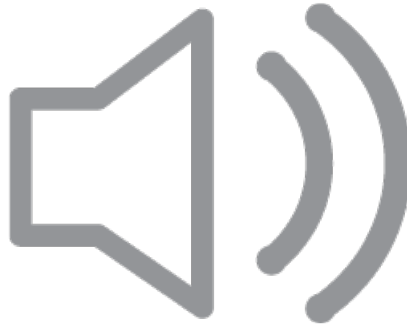
- Venue: Liberty High School: coat closet

- Performance Note: "Sweet Babe o' Mine" performed by Margie Maltox (vocals) at Liberty High School: coat closet, near Newton, Texas, on May 16, 1939.

Repository: American Folklife Center

Digital Id: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afc339.2653a2>

THIS LITTLE LIGHT O' MINE



AUDIO

Teaching Notes:

There have been countless versions of this song, and each one tells a unique story of the singer's perspective and experiences. [On my website](#), find a collection of materials you can use to help students think like an ethnographer as they investigate diverse primary sources. Or, view [my webinar](#) (password Library123!) to engage in an online learning experience.

Reference Link: <https://www.loc.gov/item/lomaxbib000628/>

Contributor Names: Lomax, John A. (John Avery), 1867-1948 (Collector)

Lomax, Ruby T. (Ruby Terrill) (Collector)

McMurray, Doris (Performer)

Created / Published: near Huntsville, Texas, May 14, 1939

Genre: Music

Songs

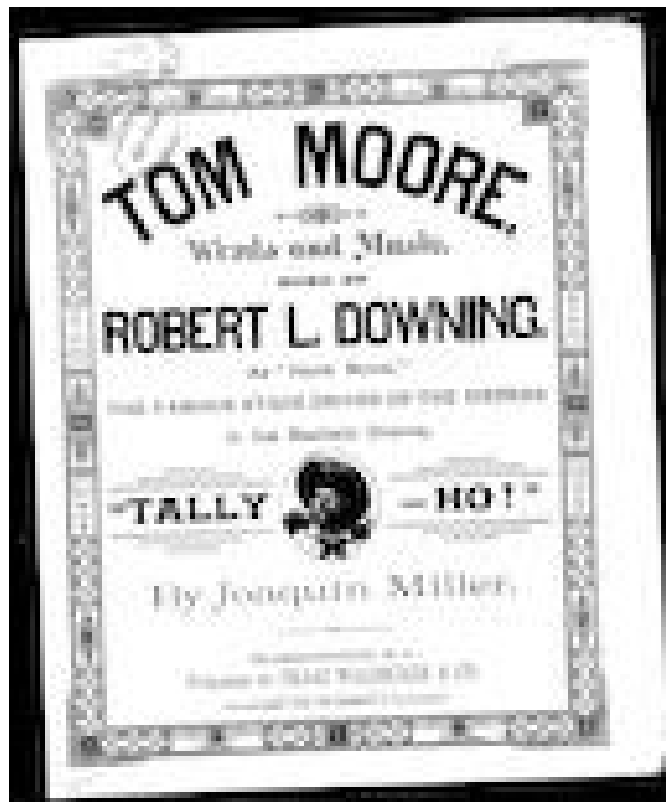
Religious songs

Notes: - Venue: Goree State Farm

- Performance Note: "This Little Light o' Mine" performed by Doris McMurray (vocals) at Goree State Farm, near Huntsville, Texas, on May 14, 1939.

Repository: American Folklife Center

Digital Id: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afc39.2648b1>



Teaching Notes:

This counting-backwards song is reminiscent of the ever-popular "99 Bottles of *Pop* On The Wall." [On my website, I've paired the song with an adapted Trinidadian counting game](#) for active learning.

Reference Link: <http://www.loc.gov/item/sm1885.14993/>

Contributor Names: Miller, Joaquin.

Created / Published: Waldecker, Franz & Co., Washington, D. C, 1885, monographic.

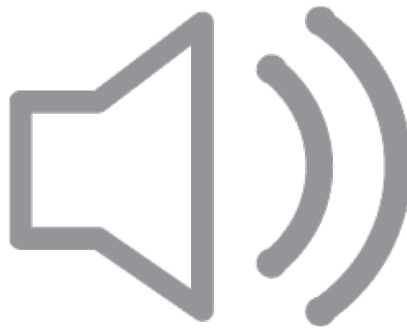
Genre: sheet music

Notes: - From: Music Copyright Deposits, 1870-1885 (Microfilm M 3500)

- Also available through the Library of Congress Web Site as facsimile page images. (additional physical form)

Repository: Library of Congress. Music Division.

TURN OVER



AUDIO

Teaching Notes:

Another counting-backwards song! [I suggest pairing this song with a movement-based activity that encourages students to notice musical form to make predictions and build active listening skills.](#)

Reference Link: <https://www.loc.gov/item/lomaxbib000002/>

Contributor Names: Wood, Ray (Performer)

Lomax, John A. (John Avery), 1867-1948 (Collector)

Lomax, Ruby T. (Ruby Terrill) (Collector)

Created / Published: Houston, Texas, April 13, 1939

Genre: Music

Songs

Children's songs

Notes: - Collector's genre note: "American Mother Goose jingles"

- Venue: Room under ramp of storage garage

- Performance Note: "Turn Over" performed by Ray Wood (vocals) in room under ramp of storage garage, Houston, Texas, on April 13, 1939.

Repository: American Folklife Center

Digital Id: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/afcss39.2595b2>