

PACIFIC RIM DULCIMER PROJECT



On August 15, 1975 approximately 100 people gathered together on the Washington Coast to explore modes and dulcimerie—your instrument was your admission to a weekend of yourself. This was the beginning of a concept for an annual Kindred Gathering that each year moved to a new setting. The first, hosted by Robert and Albert, was held on the southwest tip of the Olympic Rain Forest. Five of the six people on this album met there.

The following August, Bonnie ran the logistics and the Kindred Gathering was held at 8500 feet in the northeast Colorado Rocky Mountains. As Michael and Michael were making plans to have the 3rd Annual in Northern California, and while Neal speculated from the wings to "go international" (British Columbia) for the 4th, Laura Benson, herself a dulcimer player, from Biscuit City Records contacted Bonnie about doing some kind of a dulcimer anthology. As a result, Albert journeyed from New Orleans, Robert from the Virgin Islands, Neal from New York, and Michael and Michael from central California to Bonnie's house outside of Boulder, Colorado. Most of the month was spent at Biscuit City's Denver studio.

The consequence is an enjoyable and highly eclectic album that crosses many musical and cultural traditions. Here is the dulcimer, diversely interpreted by six outstanding musicians.

ALBERT d'OSSCHÉ has troubadored throughout the United States and Europe, building and playing dulcimers for the last eight years. He was born in 1947 during the worst hurricane to hit New Orleans in thirty years; educated in California, New England and North Carolina, and now makes his home in the Pacific Northwest. Albert is co-author of *In Search of the Wild Dulcimer*, published by Random House/Vintage and AAMSCO/Oak.

MICHAEL RUGG, co-founder of *Capri-Taurus Dulcimers*, has been traveling and playing the instrument since 1969. He traveled the California craft fair circuit for seven years as well as performing in a trio, *Hubert's Hotshots*. Michael was born in 1946 in Oakland and now lives with his wife, Sandy, in Felton, California where they also operate a lutherie and retail music store.

NEAL HELLMAN was born in New York in 1948 and educated in Brooklyn and Virginia. He lives with his wife, Sally, and son, Shiloh, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Neal has played the

dulcimer for four years and with Sally has written three books: *Life is like a Mountain Dulcimer*, published by The Richmond Corporation, N.Y.C.; *The Dulcimer Songbook*, Oak Publications; and *The Richard Fariña Dulcimer Book*, available from Gourd Music, 8th Floor, 17 W.60th St., N.Y., N.Y., 10023.

BONNIE CAROL was born in Texas in 1946 on the world's largest ranch, Kingsville, Texas. She was educated in Texas, Colorado and Oregon and now makes her home in Wallstreet, Colorado where she operates *Bonnie Carol Dulcimer Co.* She has built and played dulcimer for five years and is currently finishing an instruction and song book for the instrument.

MICHAEL HUBBERT has been infatuated with all kinds of instruments for most of his twenty-eight years, performing musical and theatrical bits for the past sixteen years. He is also a builder and played with *Hubert's Hotshots*, but still couldn't get on the *Gong Show* with his hurdy gurdy. Michael was born in Los Angeles and now resides in central California.

ROBERT FORCE is an itinerate who has played and built dulcimer for nine years, plying minstrelsy throughout forty-four states and eight nations. He was born near Seattle, Washington in 1948. Robert was named the 1971 *Tennessee Central Highlands Dulcimer Champion* and is co-author of *In Search of the Wild Dulcimer*. His home is in Royal City, Washington.

Thanks to Connie, Beth, Cedar, Kitty, Steve and especially Max Krimmel who fed us at odd hours and quietly endured the dulcimeria.

The folks at Biscuit City Records would like to thank Bonnie Carol for her help in making this project possible. She took our basic idea, brought together diverse energies from far away places, pushed and pulled, and made it all happen.— Laura Benson

Dulcimer tablature, guitar chords, and vocal arrangements for these songs are available from Capri-Taurus Dulcimers, Box 153, Felton, California 95018.

PROGRAM SIDE ONE

PACK UP YOUR LIVER (© M. Rugg, Dusty Moose Music)

"You know I like liver!" — a comfortable tune to slip into and play all night. (Rugg — dulcimer; Hubbert — violin)

BEEN ALL AROUND THIS WORLD (Traditional)

An American traditional song — "It's not the hangin' that I mind, it's layin' in the ground so long". (Hellman — dulcimer & vocal; Ransom — guitar)

WELLYN (© Force-d'Ossché, Icy Penguin Music)

Hard-driving dulcimers for a laconic Connecticut afternoon. (Force — dulcimer; d'Ossché — dulcimer)

THE BLACK NAG (Traditional)

A galloping traditional English jig from the Eighteenth Century. (Hellman — dulcimer; Krimmel — autoharp).

LIVING IN THE COUNTRY (© P. Seeger, Fall River Music)

A caribbean calypso complete with maracas and guiro. (Carol — dulcimer; d'Ossché — maracas & guiro)

POKER FACE SMILE (© R. Force, Icy Penguin Music)

Aberdeen, Washington — gambling, losing, and winning something more valuable when the money was all gone. (Force — dulcimer & vocal; Carol — chorus; Benson — chorus)

FIRENZE: MELODY FOR RICHARD AND MIMI (© Force-d'Ossché, Icy Penguin Music)

A melody born in Florence, Italy — feet dangling out the fourth floor pension window. (Force — dulcimer; d'Ossché — dulcimer)

LOTUS EATER BLUES (© R. Scott, BMI)

Traveling through Japan with a friend, Taki, answering the question "What's that thing you're playing — what kind of music do you do?"

(Hellman — dulcimer & vocal; d'Ossché — dulcimer, dumbèk & chorus; Force — lead dulcimer, tamborine & chorus; Carol — chorus; Bull — electric bass)

THE PIG SONG (MARJORIE) (Traditional)

A traditional tune from Bonnie's childhood — the image of a medieval parade through time and places. (Carol — fingerpicked dulcimer & chorus; d'Ossché — beaten dulcimer, dumbèk, triangle, vocal & chorus; Force — strummed dulcimer, bell & chorus; Hubbert — chorus violin, frame drum & gong; Rugg — penny whistle & chorus)

PROGRAM SIDE TWO

CORNWALL (© A.d'Ossché, Icy Penguin Music)

West Cornwall, Connecticut — an etude for one of the last two covered bridges in the state. (d'Ossché — dulcimer)

HIGH RISK, HIGH GAIN (© B.Carol, Bonnie Carol Music)

"Sunshine from a passing storm" — Love is the answer — what was the question? (Carol — dulcimer & vocal; Hubbert — violin & vocal)

MOJO CLOCK (© M. Rugg, Dusty Moose Music)

A finger exercise that won the right to be a song. (Rugg — dulcimer; Hubbert — penny whistle)

JOELLEN (© B.Carol, Bonnie Carol Music)

A warm tune written after a warm visit from a friend. (Carol — dulcimer)

C'EST L'AVIRON QUI NOUS MENE EN HAUT (Traditional)

"It is the oar that impels us on" — a French-Canadian trapper's tune about canoes and love. (Hellman — dulcimer)

ANANTA (© A. d'Ossché, Icy Penguin Music)

A song of peace for a child of peace. (d'Ossché — dulcimer & vocal)

TRALEE JAIL (Traditional)

Saint Brendan sailed from Tralee, Ireland for the New World circa 600 A.D.. The jail was probably even there then. (Rugg — dulcimer; Hubbert — mandolin)

SING SAILOR (© R. Force, Icy Penguin Music)

Sitting on the front stoop in Washington, D.C., the heart a thousand miles at sea. (Force — dulcimer & vocal)

SWEDISH FIDDLE TUNE (Traditional)

A traditional Swedish tune cartwheeling through anthem and pennants. (Rugg — dulcimer; Hubbert — mandolin)

PARTING GLASS (Traditional)

A song from Irish tradition — "Of all the comrades that I've had, they've wished me one more day to stay". (Hubbert — dulcimer & vocal)

ALSO FEATURED ON THIS ALBUM ARE: JIM RANSOM — GUITAR; MAX KRIMMEL — AUTOHARP; LAURA BENSON — CHORUS VOCAL; N. C. BULL — ELECTRIC BASS

Executive Producer: Jim Ransom; Produced by Laura Benson; Engineered & recorded by N. C. Bull & Ty Atherholt; Mixed by Jim Ransom, N. C. Bull, Robert Force, Albert d'Ossché & Ty Atherholt; Front & rear cover photographs by Laura Benson; Cover layout by Allen Ransom; Recorded during March of 1977 at Biscuit City Sound Recording Studios;

