

Balance and Sing Store Update ~ Fall 2015

Singing Family of the Cumberlands

by *Jean Ritchie*

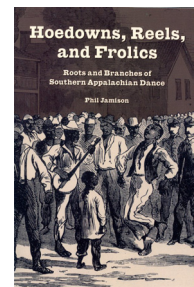


The “singing family” is the author’s parents, Balis and Abigail Ritchie, and their fourteen children, in Viper, Kentucky, deep in the Cumberland Mountains. Jean, the youngest, grew up to be a world renowned folksinger, but all the Ritchies sang—when they worked, when they prayed, when they rejoiced, even when tragedy struck. The book is an appealing account of family life and a treasury of American folklore and folksong. Foremost among the family traditions were British folksongs brought from England by James Ritchie in 1768. Even in a region noted for its wealth of songs, the Ritchies’ inheritance was exceptional. Forty-two of the family’s songs are woven through the narrative, complete with words and often musical scores. Each song evokes a memory for Jean—hoeing corn, stirring off molasses, telling ghost stories, singing a dying baby to its eternal rest. Songs lightened the burden of poverty and brought the family joy and solace. (Illustrated by Maurice Sendak.) \$20

Hoedowns, Frolics and Reels: Roots and Branches of Southern Appalachian Dance

by *Phil Jamison*

From cakewalks to clogging, a new history of a vital American art form. Old-time musician and flatfoot dancer Phil Jamison journeys into the past and surveys the present to tell the story behind the square dances, step dances, reels, and other forms of dance of southern Appalachia. He argues that these distinctive folk dances are not the unaltered jigs and reels of the early British settlers, but hybrids that developed over time by adopting and incorporating elements from other popular forms. He traces the forms from their European, African American, and Native American roots to the modern day, reinterpreting an essential aspect of Appalachian culture. (See Tony Parkes’ review in this newsletter, p. 12.) \$28



The Goldcrest Collection (book)

by *Joseph Pimentel*

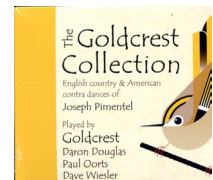


Twenty-one of Joseph’s contras and English country dances with accompanying tunes. Dances include: Appin’s Dance, A Balanced Tern, *Beautyberry*, *Blackbird Pie*, *Bluebonnets*, *Changeling Intuition*, *Come with Voices Singing*, *Dance of a Lifetime*, *The Farmer’s Joy*, A Health to All Good Dancers, *Hotpoint Special*, *Mile of Smiles*, *Mr. Hamilton’s Inauguration*, *Mr. Legge’s Initiation*, *Mr. Millstone’s Inauguration*, *Peace and Joy*, *Ramsay Chase*, *Sasna’s Swing*, *The Treasure of the Big Woods*, *Westaire Court*, *Whip-poor-will*. (Tunes for the italicized titles are on the companion CD.) Book \$12

The Goldcrest Collection (CD)

by *Goldcrest* (Daron Douglas, Paul Oorts and Dave Wiesler)

A collection of twelve English country dances, and four contras from the book, *The Goldcrest Collection*. Composers represented include: Adam Broome (*The Farmer’s Joy*), Daron Douglas (*Yellow Song*, *Winter Oranges*), Debbie Jackson (*Bluebonnets*, *Mr. Hamilton’s Inauguration*, *Westaire Court*), Turlough O’Carolan (*Baptist Johnson*), and Dave Wiesler (*Castlewall*, *Floating Ground*, *Come with Voices Singing*, *Yonder*, *Year by Year*, *Zone Nine*, *Mile of Smiles*, *Lovely Lane*, *Mr. Millstone’s Inauguration*, *Peace and Joy*, *Lamp on the River*). CD \$16



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