

# CDSS Sings: A Timeless Song Remains

by Lorraine Lee Hammond

This song complements Kathy Westra's beautiful tribute to Caroline Paton on the following pages.

By 1975, Sandy and Caroline Paton had established Folk-Legacy recording company and moved to Sharon, Connecticut. They were interviewed at the time, and that interview opens with a verse of *Watch the Stars*. The interview is now available online as part of the Historic Films Stock Footage Archive. Using the phrase "Folk Legacy interview 1975" will pull up the clip on YouTube via most search engines.

The couple sang their version of the Georgia Sea Island-derived, "Watch the Stars". I offer it here both because of the connection with the Patons and Folk-Legacy, and to introduce a song that feels timeless, and exists in many versions as it remains in oral tradition. I have given simple notation here as a guide to the basic song.

The group Ranky Tanky, whose music has strong Georgia Sea Island roots, has recorded *Watch that Star*, a striking version of the song. You will find it on YouTube as well, and I highly recommend it.

## Watch the Stars, See How They Fly

Traditional song from the Georgia Sea Islands  
- transcription based on the version sung by Caroline and Sandy Paton

Watch the stars, see how they fly

Watch the moon see how it climbs, the

moon climbs high as the stars pas - on by, watch the

stars, see how they fly

Watch the stars, see how they fly.

Watch the moon see how it climbs.

The moon climbs high

As the stars pass on by,

Watch the stars, see how they fly.