Pleasant Ohio: Songs of Ohio's History Accompanied by Mountain Dulcimer

Elizabeth A. Salt
Otterbein University, esalt@otterbein.edu

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SIDE A

1. Iroquois Lullaby • 0:45
   Members of several of the tribes of the Iroquois
   Confederacy lived in the Ohio area during the late
   1600's and 1700's. The Iroquois who migrated to
   Ohio and chose to settle there became known as
   Mingos. This traditional Iroquois lullaby was sung
   by women to calm their babies.

2. Farewell to the Warriors • 1:00
   Several Chippewa villages were present in northern
   Ohio during the 1700's. This traditional Chippewa
   song was sung by the women as the men of the
   village departed for battle.

3. Pleasant Ohio • 2:40
   This traditional song of the settlement era of the late
   1700's describes the beauty and abundance of the
   land and encourages Easterners to "move out west"
   to Ohio.

4. Perry's Victory • 3:38
   This traditional ballad tells the story of the decisive
   American victory in the Battle of Lake Erie —
   which was the turning point of the War of 1812.
   Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry commanded the
   Lawrence and several other American ships, and the
   Americans were victorious due largely to the fact that
   the wind shifted in their favor during the course of
   the battle.

5. Shawneetown • 2:12
   This song describes a trip down the Ohio River on a
   keelboat. The keelboats were among the earliest
   commercial vessels on the river and were in use
   until around 1820.

6. On the Banks of the Ohio • 2:07
   Written and sung by the Nightingale Serenaders,
   a group which performed on the steamboats, this
   lively song presents a pleasant picture of life on a
   small farm along the Ohio River during the 1820's.

7. The Old Skipper • 1:55
   (tune: Whiskey Waltz, words Pearl R. Nye)
   The Ohio and Erie Canal, which ran from
   Cleveland to Portsmouth, was completed in 1832.
   This song describes the start of a trip on the canal
   and mentions some of the cargoes that were
   typically carried by the nineteenth century Ohio
   canalboats.

8. Last Trip in the Fall • 1:51
   (tune: Between Me and the Wall,
   words Pearl R. Nye)
   This song describes a canalboat crew's hurried effort
   to reach Cleveland before the Ohio and Erie Canal
   was closed and drained for the winter.

9. Old Tippecanoe • 2:51
   This campaign song from the presidential election of
   1840 encourages voters to choose William Henry
   Harrison, a retired military officer and Ohioan, over his
   opponent, New York farmer Martin van Buren.

SIDE B

1. The Wyandotte Farewell Song • 2:22
   (tune: Fare Ye Well, Imnishilen, words James Rankin)
   In 1842, the United States government forced the
   Wyandot Indians who lived in the area of Upper
   Sandusky to leave their farms and homes and move to
   reservations west of the Mississippi River. This song
   describes their sadness at their forced removal.

2. Simple Gifts • 3:35
   The Shakers, a religious group that lived communally
   and practiced celibacy, reached the peak of their growth
   in the late 1840's. Four Shaker villages were located in
   Ohio at that time.

3. Darling Nelly Gray • 3:20
   (words and music by Benjamin R. Hanby)
   This song, written in 1856, tells the tragic story of the
   forced separation of runaway slave Joseph Selby and his
   sweetheart Nelly Gray, who had been sold to a new
   owner in Georgia. It is based upon an actual historical
   incident and was sung to dramatize the evil of slavery
   and to promote underground railroad activity and the
   abolitionist movement in Ohio.

   (tune Here's Your Mule, C.D. Benson; words anon.)
   Morgan's Raiders, a Confederate cavalry, terrorized rural
   southern and eastern Ohio during July of 1863. This
   song describes General John Morgan's capture by Union
   forces, his incarceration in the Ohio state penitentiary,
   and his subsequent escape from prison.

5. Red Iron Ore • 3:21
   By the 1880's, manufacturing had become an important
   part of the Ohio economy. Iron ore from the Lake
   Superior region provided the raw material for many of
   Ohio's growing industries. This song describes the
   journey of an ore boat from Chicago to Escanaba,
   Michigan, where the iron ore was loaded, and then on to
   its final destination of Cleveland.

6. The Hills of Ohio • 2:01
   (words and music by Alexander Auld)
   A great deal of beauty can still be found in twentieth
   century Ohio. This song expresses a heartfelt love of
   Ohio which knows no barriers of time.

   Due to the fact that many of the songs were learned
   through the oral tradition, slight variations may occur in
   tunes and words from the printed forms of the songs as
   they appear in Buckeye Heritage. On several of the longer
   songs, some verses have been omitted. Tunes not
   attributed to an author are traditional. All arrangements
   for mountain dulcimer are by Elizabeth Anne Salt.