

Trad American Songs String Band Favourites Book 4 for the Slow Jam Session

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Buffalo Girls

**As I was walking down the street,
Down the street, down the street,
A pretty little gal I chanced to meet,
Oh, she was fair to see.**

Chorus:

*Oh, Buffalo Gals, won't you come out tonight,
Come out tonight, come out tonight.
Buffalo Gals, won't you come out tonight
And dance by the light of the moon.*

**I stopped her and we had a talk,
Had a talk, had a talk,
Her feet took up the whole sidewalk
And left no room for me. Ch.**

**I asked her if she'd have a dance,
Have a dance, have a dance,
I thought that I might have a chance
To shake a foot with her. Ch.**

**I danced with a gal with a hole in her stockin',
And her heel kept a-knockin', and her toes kept a-rockin'
I danced with a gal with a hole in her stockin'
And we danced by the light of the moon. Ch.**

California Blues

**Well I'm gonna California where they sleep out every night
Well I'm gonna California where they sleep out every night
I'm a leaving you papa 'cos you know you don't treat me right.
(Oh de lay hey hey, Oh de lay ee ay Oh de lay ee oh.) x2**

**Well let me tell you something papa that you don't know
Well let me tell you something papa that you don't know
I'm a do right mama and got a home everywhere I go.
(Oh de lay hey hey, Oh de lay ee ay Oh de lay ee oh.) x2**

**So if the house catches fire and there ain't no water around
So if the house catches fire and there ain't no water around
Just put my trunk out the window and let the house burn on
down.
(Oh de lay hey hey, Oh de lay ee ay Oh de lay ee oh.) x2**

**Now if that's your papa, you'd better tie him to your side
Now if that's your papa, you'd better tie him to your side
'Cos if he flags my train I'm sure gonna let him ride.
(Oh de lay hey hey, Oh de lay ee ay Oh de lay ee oh.) x2**

**Got the California blues and I'm sure gonna leave you here
Got the California blues and I'm sure gonna leave you here
I may ride your blinds but I ain't got no railroad Bill
(Oh de lay hey hey, Oh de lay ee ay Oh de lay ee oh.) x2**

Dear Companion

Chorus:

*Have you seen my dear companion
He was all this world to me
They say he's gone to a far off country
And that he cares no more for me.*

**Do you remember the day last summer
The sun so high, the sky so blue
And all the birds they sang so sweetly,
The day I gave my love to you? Ch.**

**Oh when the dark falls on the mountain
And all the world has gone to sleep
I will go down to the bedrock waters
And there I'll lay me down and weep. Ch.**

**I wish I was some sparrow flying
I'd fly to a high and lonesome place
There join the bluebirds in their crying
Remembering you and your dear face. Ch.**

Don't let your deal go down

**Been all around this whole wide world
Way down to in Memphis Tennessee
Any old place I hang my hat
Seems like home to me.**

Chorus:

*Don't let your deal go down
Don't let your deal go down
Don't let your deal go down
Till your last gold dollar is gone*

**When I left my love behind
She's standing in the door
She threwed her little arms around my neck
'Sweet daddy please don't go.' Ch.**

**Who's gonna shoe your pretty little feet?
Who's gonna glove your hand?
And who's gonna kiss your ruby lips
Who's gonna be your man? Ch.**

**Papa will shoe my pretty little feet,
Mama will glove my hand,
You can kiss my rosy lips
When you get back again. Ch.**

**Where did you get them high-heel shoes
And that dress you wear so fine?
Got my shoes from a railroad man.
Dress from a driver in the mine. Ch.**

Free Little Bird

Chorus:

*I'm a free little bird as I can be, I can be,
I'm a free little bird as I can be
Gonna build my nest in a weeping willow tree
Where the bad boys cannot bother me.*

**Oh I'll never build my nest on the ground, on the ground
Oh I'll never build my nest on the ground
Gonna build my nest in the weeping willow tree
Where the bad boys cannot bother me. Ch.**

**I'll never steal honey from a bee, from a bee
I'll never steal honey from a bee
But I'll steal me a kiss from my sweet darling's lips
And then fly far away out to sea. Ch.**

**I'll ruffle my feathers when I please, when I please
I'll ruffle my feathers when I please
But I'll build my nest in the weeping willow tree
Where the bad boys cannot bother me. Ch.**

**Carry me home little birdie, carry me home, carry me home
Carry me home little birdie, carry me home
Carry me home to my wife, she's the joy of my life
Carry me home little birdie carry me home. Ch.**

Going down the road feeling bad

Chorus:

I'm going down the road feeling bad.

I'm going down the road feeling bad.

I'm going down the road feeling bad, bad, bad

And I ain't gonna be treated this away.

I'm going where the climate suits my clothes.

I'm going where the climate suits my clothes.

I'm going where the climate suits my clothes, clothes, clothes

And I ain't gonna be treated this away. Ch.

I'm going where the water tastes like wine.

I'm going where the water tastes like wine.

I'm going where the water tastes like wine, wine, wine

And I ain't gonna be treated this away. Ch.

I'm going where the chilly winds don't blow.

I'm going where the chilly winds don't blow.

I'm going where those chilly winds don't blow, blow, blow

And I ain't gonna be treated this away. Ch.

I'm going to the jailhouse on my knees

Ten dollar shoes hurt my feet

Ten dollar shoes suit me fine

Goodbye Miss Lisa Jane

Come here Lisa, listen to me,
You ain't the girl you promised to be
Didn't you say you'd always be true.
Saw you out riding with Mr Brown
Now I'm the laughing stock of the town
People said to never trust you.

Draw up your hand babe, I'm gonna go
I was a good man when I had the dough. So...

Chorus:

*Goodbye Miss Lisa, I'm going to leave you
You know, I know, I'm the fella with the dough, dough, dough,
dough
Sing a little song as you travel along, travel along
Bid me good day baby I'm on my way,
Goodbye Miss Lisa Jane.*

Give me here back my gold watch and chain,
Give me the umbrella 'cos it might rain
Give me the clothes that I paid for too,
Driving the truck now, give me those things,
Give me here back my diamond ring
Get Mr Brown to dress you all up new.

Draw up your hand babe, I'm gonna go
I was a good man when I had the dough. So... Ch.

Hello Stranger

Chorus:

*Hello stranger, put your loving hands in mine,
Hello stranger, put your loving hands in mine,
You are a stranger and you're a pal of mine.*

**Get up my boy, let a working girl lay down
Get up my boy, let a working girl lay down
You're a rambler, but you're all out and down. Ch.**

**Every time I, ride 64th street car
Every time I, ride 64th street car
I can see my baby peeping through the bar. Ch.**

**He bowed his head, he waved both hands at me x2
I'm prison bound, longing to be free. Ch.**

**Oh I'll see you, when your troubles are like mine x2
Oh I'll see you, when you haven't got a dime. Ch.**

**Weeping like a willow, moaning like a dove x2
There's a man up the country, that I really love. Ch.**

Keep on the Sunny Side of life

**There's a dark and a troubled side of life;
There's a bright and a sunny side, too;
Tho' we meet with the darkness and strife,
The sunny side we also may view.**

Chorus:

***Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life;
It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way,
If we keep on the sunny side of life.***

**Though the storm in its fury break today,
Crushing hopes that we cherished so dear,
Storm and cloud will in time pass away,
The sun again will shine bright and clear. Ch.**

**Let us greet with a song of hope each day,
Though the moments be cloudy or fair;
Let us trust in our friends always,
Who keepeth everyone in their care. Ch.**

Long Lost Lover Blues

I lost my true lover,
She's gone away to stay
I wish some day some police would call
And bring her back to me.

Chorus:

*I wish I had wings like an aeroplane
I would fly to the heavens above
I wish I had wings like a little blue bird
I would fly to the one that I love.
Oh yo... odel ay yoohoo, oh yo...odel ay yoohoo
Oh yo...odel ay ee ay ee yoo-hoo
Oh yo...odel ay yoohoo, oh yo...odel ay yoohoo
Oh yo...odel ay ee ay ee oo.*

Now I'm going back to that South Sea Isle
Gonna lay out on the sand
Spend all day in that tropical sun
Maybe there I'll find my woman. Ch.

I love that sweet, sweet baby girl
From her head down to her knees
What a happy, happy time it will be
When long lost lovers do meet. Ch.

As sure as the birds in the sky above
Life ain't worth living for me
If I ain't got no loving baby now
I'll hang myself from the old oak tree. Ch.

Milwaukee Blues

**One Tuesday morning and it looked like rain
Around the curve came a passenger train
On the blinds sat old Bill Jones
A good old hobo and he's trying to get home
*Trying to get home, he's trying to get home
He's a good old hobo and he's trying to get home.***

**Way down in Georgia on a tramp
The roads are getting muddy and the leaves are getting damp
I've got to catch a freight train to leave this town
'Cause they don't 'low no hobos a hanging around
*Hanging around, hanging around
They don't 'low no hobos a hanging around.***

**I left Atlanta one morning 'fore day
The brakeman said you'll have to pay
I got no money but I'll pawn you my shoes,
I want to go west, I've got the Milwaukee Blues.
*The Milwaukee Blues, got the Milwaukee Blues
I want to go west, I've got the Milwaukee Blues.***

**Old Bill Jones said before he died
There's two more roads he'd like to ride
Firemen said what can it be
The Southern Pacific and the Sante Fe.
*The Sante Fe, yes the Sante Fe
The Southern Pacific and the Sante Fe.***

My Dixie Darling

Chorus:

*My Dixie darling, listen to the song I sing
Beneath a silvery moon with a banjo right in tune
My heart is ever true, I love no one but you
My Dixie darling, my Dixie queen.*

**Way down below the Mason Dixie line,
There's where the honeysuckles are entwined
There's where the southern winds are blowing,
There's where the daisies growing
The girls of the north in their gay finery,
Twirling around in society
Singing songs of Dixie Darling where I long to be. Ch.**

**I like whiskey and I like gin,
I like the horses when they win
Gambling at Kentucky races,
I've met lots of handsome faces
But there is one thing I will bet,
My Dixie man is the handsomest yet
There is no one half as swell as my Dixie queen. Ch.**

**I'm going to marry, settle down,
Settle down in a southern town
Buy myself a small homestead,
Live in peace until I'm dead
There is no one half as swell,
Listen again I must tell
There is no one half as swell as my Dixie queen. Ch.**

**Going down south for to have a good time
See my girl in old Caroline
Drink my booze and do as I please
All those girls I long to squeeze
Singing songs of Dixie Darling
That's where I long to be going
Down where the jelly roll's growing, With my Dixie queen. Ch**

My Home's Across the Blue Ridge Mountains

Chorus:

***My home's across the Blue Ridge mountains
My home's across the Blue Ridge mountains
My home's across the Blue Ridge mountains
For I never expect to see you any more.***

**How can I keep from crying
How can I keep from crying
How can I keep from crying
For I never expect to see you any more. Ch.**

**Oh how I hate to leave you. x3
For I never expect to see you any more. Ch**

**Goodbye my dearest darling x3
For I never expect to see you any more. Ch**

Peach Picking Time in Georgia

**When it's peach picking time in Georgia
Apple picking time in Tennessee
Cotton picking time in Mississippi
Everybody picks on me.
When it's round up time in Texas
The cowboys make whoopee
But down in old Alabama
It's girl picking time for me. Yodel ay ee oh, olay ee oh, olay ee**

**There's bluegrass down in Kentucky
Virginia's where they do the swing
Carolina now I'm coming
To you to spend the spring.
Arkansas I hear you calling
I know I'll see you soon
There's where I'll do a little picking
Underneath the Ozark moon. Yodel ay ee oh, olay ee oh, olay ee**

**Now when hard times overtake you
I hope they don't get me
For I've got a sweetie waiting
For me down in Tennessee
I know I'm going to see her
I hope it won't be long
There's where we'll pick a little cabin
And call it our own mountain home.
Yodel ay ee oh, olay ee oh, olay ee**

**Now when the pickers pick the cotton
I'll pick a wedding ring
We'll go to town to pick a little gown
For the wedding in the spring.
I hope the preacher knows his business
I know he can't fool me
When it's peach picking time in Georgia
It's gal picking time for me. Yodel ay ee oh, olay ee oh, olay ee**

Red Apple Juice

Well I ain't got no use,
Well I ain't got no use for your red apple juice,
Ain't got no sugar baby now;
Ain't got no honey baby now.

Ain't got no use,
Ain't got no use for your red rocking chair,
Ain't got no sugar baby there;
Ain't got no honey baby there. Tune:

(Who'll rock the cradle)x2 and who'll sing a song,
Who'll rock the cradle when I'm gone?
Who'll rock the cradle when I'm gone?

(Done all I could do)x2 to try and live with you,
Send you back to your mama some old day.
Send you back to your mama some old day. Tune:

(It's all I can do)x2 it's all I can say,
Give it to your mama next pay day.
Give it to your mama next pay day.

(Gonna hitch up my pony)x2 and saddle up my mare
Gonna find a fair deal in this world somewhere
Gonna find a fair deal in this world somewhere. Tune:

(Well it ain't hard to stumble)x2 when you got no place to fall
I got no place in this world at all,
I got no place in this world at all.

(I'm a stranger here)x2 and a stranger everywhere
I'd go home but I'm a stranger there
I'd go home but I'm a stranger there. Tune:

Sail Away Ladies

Ain't no use to sit and cry,
Sail away, ladies, sail away.
You'll be an angel by and by,
Sail away, ladies, sail away,

Chorus:

*Don't you rock 'em dad-dy-o,
Don't you rock 'em dad-dy-o,
Don't you rock 'em dad-dy-o,
Don't you rock 'em dad-dy-o.*

I've got a home in Tennessee, sail away, ladies, sail away.
That's the place I wanna be, sail away, ladies, sail away. Ch.

If ever I get my new house done, sail....
I'll give the old one to my son, sail.... Ch.

Come along, boys, and go with me, sail....
We'll go down to Tennessee, sail.... Ch.

Ever I get my new house done, sail....
Love you, pretty girls, one by one, sail.... Ch.

Hush, little baby, don't you cry, sail....
You'll be an angel by and by, sail.... Ch.

Sally Ann

**Ever see a muskrat Sally Ann
Dragging his slick tail through the sand
Pickin a banjo Sally Ann
I'm gonna marry you Sally Ann.**

Chorus:

*I'm gonna marry you Sal, Sal
I'm gonna marry you Sally Ann
I'm gonna marry you Sal, Sal
I'm gonna marry you Sally Ann.*

**Make my living in Sandy Land
Make my living in Sandy Land
Make my living in Sandy Land
Make my living in Sandy Land. Ch.**

**Going to the Wedding Sally Ann
Going to the Wedding Sally Ann
Sift that meal and save your bran
I'm going home with Sally Ann. Ch**

**Shake that little foot Sally Ann
Shake that little foot Sally Ann
Great big wedding up Sally Ann
I'm going home with Sally Ann. Ch.**

**Pass me the brandy Sally Ann
Pass me the brandy Sally Ann
I'm going away with Sally Ann
Great big wedding up Sally Ann. Ch.**

**Whose going to dance with Sally Ann?
Whose going to hold her trembling hand?
When that fiddler takes the stand
Whose going to dance with Sally Ann? Ch.**

Sweet Sunny South

Chorus:

*Take me back to the place where I first saw the light
To that sweet sunny south take me home
Where the mockingbird sings me to sleep every night
Oh why was I tempted to roam?*

**I think with regret of the dear home I left
Of the warm hearts that sheltered me there
Of wife and of children of whom I'm bereft
Of the old place again do I sigh. Ch.**

**Take me back to the place where the orange trees grow
To my plot in the evergreen shade
Where the flowers from the river's green margins did grow
And spread their sweet scent through the glade. Ch.**

**Take me back let me see what is left that I know
Could it be that the old house is gone
Dear friends from my childhood indeed must be few
And I must face death all alone. Ch.**

**The path to our cottage they say has grown green
And the place is quite lonely around
I know that the smiles and the forms I once knew
Now lie 'neath the cold mossy ground. Ch.**

**But yet I return to the place of my birth
Where the children have played 'round the door
Where they gathered wild blossoms that grew 'round the path
Twill echo their footsteps no more. Ch.**

**Take me back to the place where my little ones sleep
Where poor massa lies buried close by
O'er the graves of my loved ones I long for to weep
And rest there among them when I die. Ch.**

Waterbound

**There's chickens crowing in the old plowfield
There's chickens crowing in the old plowfield
There's chickens crowing in the old plowfield
Down in North Carolina.**

Chorus:

***Waterbound, and I can't get home
Waterbound, and I can't get home
Waterbound, and I can't get home 234
Down in North Carolina***

Solo:

**Now the old man's mad, and I don't care (3)
Because I love his daughter. Ch & solo.**

**If he don't give her up, then we're gonna run away (3x)
Way down in North Carolina. Ch & solo.**

**Well, Nick and Charlie left to go home (3x)
Before that water rises. Ch & solo.**

**Dance all night and don't go home (3x)
Just stay with me till morning. Ch & solo.**

**Well, me and Sam and Dave's going home (3x)
Before that water rises. Ch & solo.**

**Water's wide and I can't get across (3x)
Riding on my old gray horse. Ch & solo.**

**Boat's up the river but it won't come down(3x)
I believe that I'm waterbound. Ch & solo.**

**I'll go down to the river and I'll sit right down(3x)
Jump in that river and drown Ch & solo.**

Way down the Old Plank Road

**Rather be in Richmond, with all the hail and rain
Than to be in Georgia boys, wearin' that ball and chain**

Chorus:

Won't get drunk no more

Won't get drunk no more

Won't get drunk no more

Way down the Old Plank Road

**I went down to Mobile, got on the gravel train
Very next thing they heard of me, had on that ball and chain.
Ch.**

**Doney oh dear Doney, what makes you treat me so
Caused me to wear that ball and chain, now my ankle's sore.
Ch.**

**Knoxville is a pretty place, Memphis is a beauty
Wanta see them pretty girls, hop to Chattanooga. Ch.**

**I'm going to build me a scaffold, on some mountain high
So I can see my Doney girl, as she goes riding by. Ch.**

**My wife died on Friday night, Saturday she was buried
Sunday was my courting day, Monday I got married. Ch.**

**Eighteen pounds of meat a week, whiskey here to sell
How can a young man stay at home, pretty girls look so well?
Ch.**

White House Blues

**Look here, you rascal, you see what you've done
You shot my husband and I've got your gun.
I'm carrying you back, to Washington**

**McKinley he hollered, McKinley he squalled
Doc said "McKinley I can't find the cause
You're bound to die, you're bound to die."
Tune**

**He jumped on his horse, he pulled on his mane
Said, "Listen you horse you gotta outrun this train
From Buffalo to Washington."**

**The doc came a-running, he took off his specs
Said "Mr Mckinley better cash in your checks
You've bound to die, you're bound to die."
Tune**

**Yonder comes the train, she's coming down the line
Blowing in every station Mr. McKinley's a-dying
It's hard times, it's hard times.**

**Well, Roosevelt's in the White House, doing his best
McKinley's in the graveyard taking his rest
He's gone, for a long time.
Tune**

Wild Bill Jones

**As I went down for to take a little walk
I came upon that Wild Bill Jones
He was a walking and a talking by my true lover's side
And I bid him to leave her alone**

Chorus:

***So pass around that old long necked bottle
And we'll all go on a spree
For today was the last of that Wild Bill Jones
And tomorrow will be the last of me***

**He said my age is twenty-one
Too old to be controlled
I pulled my revolver from my side
And I destroyed that poor boy's soul. Ch.**

**He reeled and he staggered, and he fell to the ground
And then he gave one dying moan
He wrapped his arms around my little girl's neck
Saying honey won't you take me home? Ch.**

**So put them handcuffs on me boys
And lead me to that freight car gate
I have no friends or relations there
No-one for to go my bail. Ch.**

**They sent me to prison for twenty long years
This poor boy longs to be free
But Wild Bill Jones and that long-necked bottle
Have been the ruin of me. Ch.**

