Pennies from Heaven

This will be an occasional feature reporting the results of various grassroots fundraising initiatives on behalf of CSTM. They all come from the Calgary area this time. Last June, the proceeds of the Pine Grove Music Camping Weekend totalled $125 (the largest in the four-year history of the event). More recently, GWL's benefit house concert in October brought in $55, and the sale of Entertainment 2000 coupon books (largely organized by Lois Genge) brought in $199.

A number of individuals made substantial donations to CSTM, but some of them (including the most generous) wished to be anonymous, so we'll respect that wish. Do any readers have thoughts on whether we should be reporting donors unless they choose anonymity?

We'd like to urge members in other parts of the country to support CSTM through appropriate fundraising enterprises—and tell us about the results!

Letters

If you're making any comments in the Bulletin on the current Sing Out!, Bruce Phillips' account of the situation when I collected "Lovin' You" from Luigi del Puppo in Nelson, BC, is somewhat garbled. He says I collected the song from both Luigi and Tino Chumlovich. I never met Tino; Luigi told me he was co-author when they were in prison together, and doing some music. The song must have been written in the late 60s, for I recorded Luigi on August 13, 1970; the tune suggests to me that it is a spin-off from "Snowbird."

Here's the way he sang it, pretty much the way Hilda and I do it today:

Well I look at my brown suitcase
And I think of all the places that I been;
The railroad yards, the prison guards,
And the dumpy little towns that I been in.
The whisperin' of the people
As they watch every move that I go through—
I remember all these things
But mostly I remember lovin' you.

Chorus I remember lovin' you
Out of all the girls I knew—
Yes, and I've had quite a few,
But I remember lovin' you.

Now the Indians smell, so the people tell,
When we're huddled in the boxcar from the rain.
Flashin' lights that cut the night,
And the railroad bull that kicked me off the train.
When the north wind blows and the winter's cold
I huddle in the corner till I'm blue—
I remember all these things
But mostly I remember lovin' you.

(Luigi sang the chorus twice for his finale.

Luigi's presentation has a raunchy tone, which is completely absent from Phillips' version. When you check out his version in SO!, you see he has transformed this raw expression of crude sentiment to something suggesting a voice coming from behind a cardboard Chocolate Soldier decorating the stage of a delightful musical.

Phillips's last stanza is very good, but despite this I don't feel his three stanzas go with his "back when the world was new," and "I think you loved me too."

At last year's Vancouver Folk Music Festival, I met a guy who, on my telling him the story with a sung sample of the original, appeared to have a heavy "heart hurt" relieved. He had had a love relationship immersed in Phillips's take on the song—it was "their song." Somehow the ghost which still haunted him was exorcised when he saw how contrived the reworked "Lovin' You" is—the song, alas, which had cast a spell on him.

Phil Thomas
Vancouver, BC

Thank you for sending us the Bulletin [33.3] containing the review of our Louis Boudreault production. I would like to comment on what the reviewer said regarding the French version of the liner notes... that the French translation of the notes is shockingly poor and full of spelling errors. In fact, there was no "French translation": the liner notes were from a typed manuscript from Louis Boudreault himself. His notes were then translated into English. I can't guarantee that no spelling errors crept in during the typesetting process, but the notes were actually written by Mr. Boudreault.

Vivian T. Williams
Voyager Recordings and Publications
Seattle, Washington

I have been trying to contact the Rare Cuts Music Club mentioned in your December '98 issue interview with Max Ferguson [32.4, p.3]... My calls do not go through and a recording tells me this number is out of service. Is there another company I can contact for hard-to-get recordings from the British Isles?

Beth Crawley
c/o Kootenay Fish Hatchery
Ft. Steele, BC

[I gave Beth information on two UK companies I found out...]

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