

# REVIEW

*Raffi: SINGABLE SONGS and MORE SINGABLE SONGS (Troubador Records, TR 002-C1 and TR 004).*

When you are a pre-schooler who wants to collect records like big kids, there is only one Canada-wide star—Raffi (wonder why he doesn't sell posters: he'd really clean up!).

Both "Singable Songs" and "More Singable Songs" (hereafter known as SS and MSS), are a lesson to those of us who aspire to entertain pre-schoolers. They are deceptively simple, both in presentation and accompaniment, and the kids love them.



THE SKYE COLLECTION is an authentic 19th century compilation of over 400 Scottish strathspeys and reels. Although out of print for over 50 years, its notoriety among Cape Breton fiddlers, pipers and piano players demands this timely release. The volume offered is spiral bound and, in all respects, of the highest quality available.

Watch for it at concerts, festivals and select retailers or order direct at \$14.95 ppd. (in North America) from:

SKYE COLLECTION  
P.O. Box 30  
Whitney Pier P.S.  
Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada  
B1N 3B1

P.S. We welcome any correspondence regarding this and future publications.

Interview with four-year-old:  
ME: Do you have a favourite record?  
HER: (holding up two fingers) That many.  
ME: Want to show them to me?  
HER: Want to listen?

For the next forty minutes I sat on a bedroom floor, squished between a toy box and the bed with a kid on my knees, singing loudly and tunelessly in one ear, while Raffi, courtesy of the record player, accompanies her in my other ear (serves me right for not believing my own kids).

Both records are a mixture of good traditional, composed and adapted songs that appeal generally to four- and five-year-olds (six- and seven-year-olds do enjoy them but won't always admit it). I personally would like to see more real Canadian content, but that is being picky, as Raffi has a pleasing variety of songs.

6th Canadian National
Open Banjo Competition
Dates - July 19 & 19, 1980
Times - Friday Playdowns - 8 p.m. Saturday Finals - 8 p.m.
Admission - Friday - \$3.00 Saturday - \$5.00
Special Guest Stars - Rudy Meeks' Band
Free Workshops
Classes - 5-string, Tenor, Plectrum, Ladies, Under 16
Trophies and \$1,200.00 in Prize Money
Durham and District Community Centre, Durham, Ontario, Canada
Accommodation & Camping Available
Contact: Mr. Alan MacGillivray Box 216, Durham, Ontario, Canada. NOG 1R0

Raffi's low-key approach is non-threatening to the most timid child and the simplicity of his material makes every pre-schooler say they "know" his songs, even if they've never heard them before. MSS is more sophisticated musically than SS and slightly more relaxed. Raffi is joined by Ken Whitely on some tracks of both records and also by several children—not a trained school choir, thank God, but honest-to-goodness kids that sing well because they like the songs. The words of the songs are on the sturdy, fold-out cover and many songs can be used effectively by play school and kindergarten teachers as teaching points (i.e. "The Sharing Song" on SS or as a way of getting rid of the fidgets—"Shake My Sillies Out" on MSS).

Warning: presenting a pre-schooler with a Raffi record does not end with it being constantly played. The kids then drag you down to his next concert. At the end of each concert he sells his latest record. After you have lined up with five hundred other parental suckers, your child grabs the record off you, rips off the cellophane and launches her/himself into the mob around Raffi while he signs *every* record. Eventually you get home, exhausted, and guess who beats you to the record player?

When you've spawned several children, this scene is repeated ad nauseam. See you next time you're in Edmonton, Raffi.

*Andy Spalding*

**AUGUST 15, 16, 17 1980**



- Featured night concerts • Children's stage
- Four music stages • Camping nearby
- Acoustic area • Swimming
- Craft demonstrations, • 1.5 kilometer from City centre

For more information  
 Owen Sound Summerfolk Festival,  
 949 2nd Avenue East,  
 PO Box 521, N4K 5R1  
 Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada.

(519) 371-2995

Weekend Advance ... \$15.00