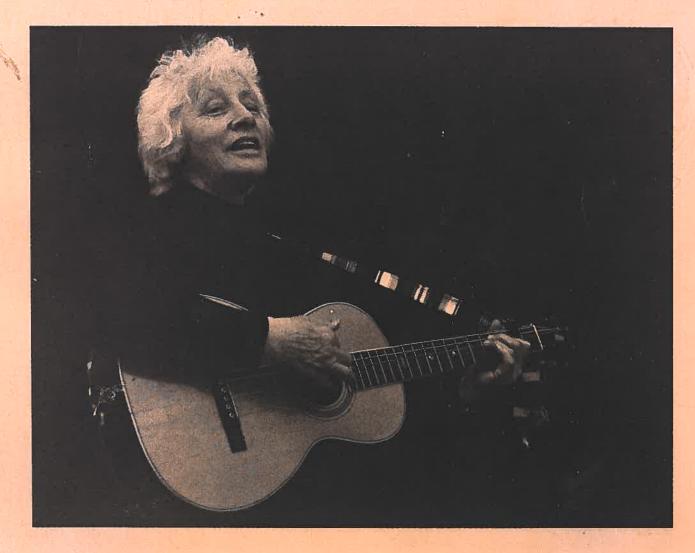
The Malvina Reynolds Songbook



Including Little Boxes, What Have They Done to The Rain,
Turn Around, Morningtown Ride, The Little Mouse,
We Hate to See Them Go.

4th Edition, revised and enlarged

\$7.00

The Malvina Reynolds Songbook



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4th edition

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The Albatross



I also wear the albatross,
The bird of guilt I bear,
I shafted my best buddy
In a moment of despair,
And the guilt is always with me
In my dreams and everywhere.
Poor old sailor
Who shot the gentle bird.

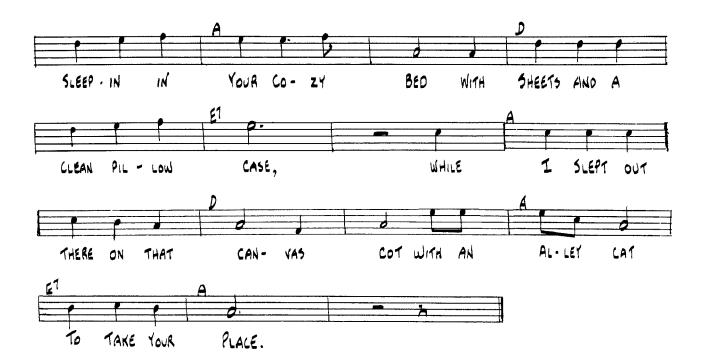
Yet those that kill their thousands
With napalm in the street,
They live a good respected life
And sleep an easy sleep,
And they'd never shoot an albatross,
It isn't good to eat.
Poor old sailor
Who shot the gentle bird.

So never kill a gooney bird Or knife your loving kin, And never burn a single soul, Be sure it's more than ten, And never do a stick-up But gouge the world of men, And leave bad dreams to sailors Who kill the gentle bird.



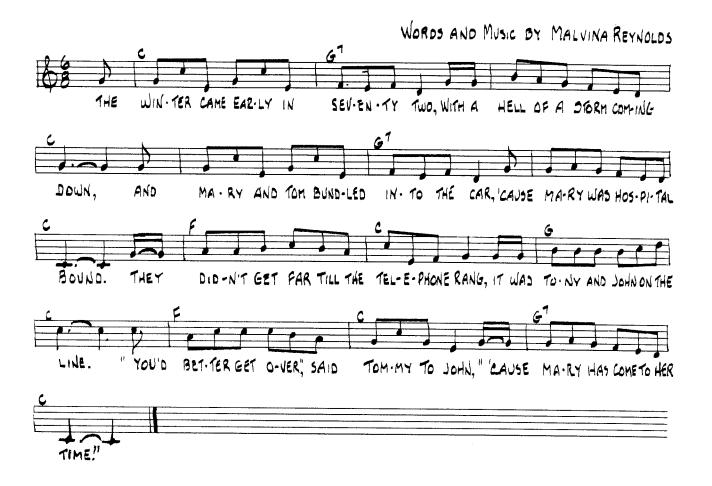
Backyard Blues







The Ballad of Robban's First Ride



A tree it has fallen athwart of the road,
And we're stuck here and cannot get by."
So our two British stalwarts start driving again
Right into the hurricane's eye.
They drove till they came to the Marlboro hill
And they helped Mary over the log,
They couldn't turn round so they had to back down,
It was nearly a mile to the road.

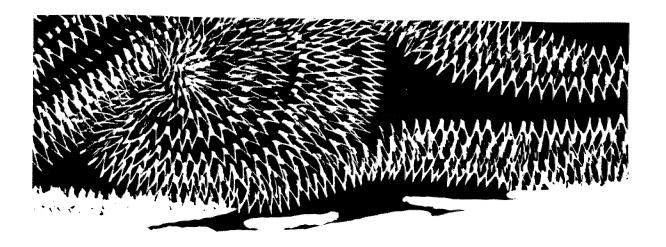
They leaned on the horn and they drove like the wind. "You bastards get out of the way!
Cause the Toleno baby of Mary and Tom Is due to be borning this day."
Said Mary, "I tell you the baby is here."
Said Tony, "Hold on for a bit.
Brattleboro is some two miles away
And the hospital's farther on yet."

But the head of the baby emerged into view,
And Tom took the shoulders in hand,
And Tony and John are as white as a sheet
And driving as fast as they can.
They wrapped the young creature in John's woolly coat
From his feet to his little round head,
And the baby said, "Ma, what you doing out here!
You ought to be home in your bed."

They pulled up the car at the hospital door And Tony he hardly could speak.
"There's a baby was born in the back of our car!" Said the nurse, "That's the third one this week." The doctor he was the philosopher type, And his thinking was easy and large.
"There's many a kid gets his first start in life In the back of a second-hand Dodge."

They rolled out the gurney and brought in the two, Both mother and child doing fine, When the nurse asked the question, "Whose baby is this?" All three of the men answered, "Mine!" Then Tony and John went on down to the pub To get them a jug of the brew, And they told all the folks who were drinking around The story I'm telling to you.

They told all the folks that were drinking around Of the babe that was born on the road, And they all drank a toast to the health of the child And the heroes who carried the load. Robban Anthony John who was born in the Dodge, That was the new baby's name, And the bartender set up the drinks on the house, And I hope you'll be doing the same.



The Battle of Maxton Field



The Indians, the Indians,
They are our natural foe,
They lure our girls with coke and pie
And take them to the show,
They wear blue jeans and leather coats,
But anyone can see
They are not real Americans
The like of you and me.

The heros left their stores and plows, Their pool-halls and their bars, And in their gallant hooded shirts They drove up in their cars, For in this grave emergency That mustered every soul, Who should appear to lead the fight But wizard Jimmy Kole!

Now as the cars were drawing in An ominous sound was heard, Was that an Indian battle cry Or just a gooney bird? Is that a gooney bird I see Or grandpa's fighting cock, Or is it a Lumbee war bonnet That comes from Chimney Rock?

Chorus

The headlights shone, the Klansmen stood In circle brave and fine,
When suddenly a whoop was heard
That curdled every spine,
An Indian youth with steely eyes,
Sauntered in alone,
He calmly drew his shootin' iron
And conked the microphone.

Another shot, the lights went out,
There was a moment's hush,
Then a hundred thousand Lumbee boys
Came screaming from the brush,
Well, maybe not a million quite
But surely more than four,
And the Klansmen shook from head to foot
And headed for the door.

The Lumbee Indians whooped and howled In the ancient Lumbee way, And the Klansmen melted off the ground Like snow on a sunny day, Our histories will long record This perilous advance, When many a Klansman left the field With buckshot in his pants.

Chorus

The coppers listened from afar,
They did not lift a gun,
They heard the noise, they said, "The boys
Are having a little fun."
But when they saw the nightshirt lads
Trooping down the road,
They knew that something went amiss,
The wrong switch had been throwed.

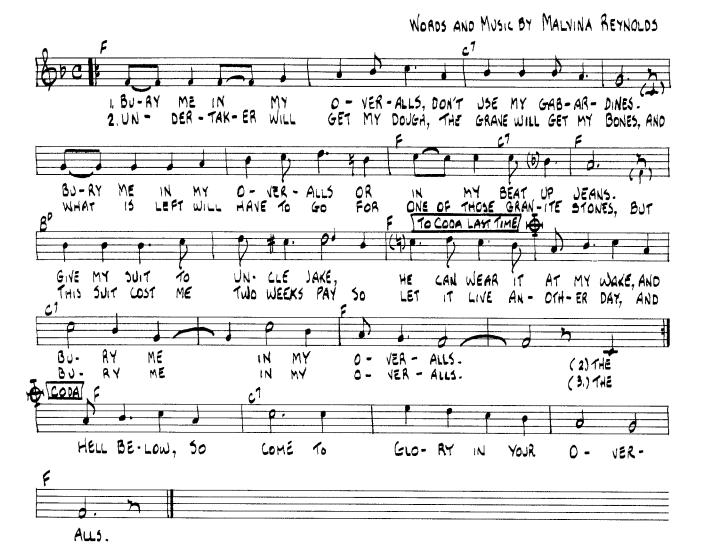
When the coppers reached the battlefield, They saw no single soul; In Pembroke Town, the Indians Were hanging Jimmy Kole, Not James himself, for he had fled With his shirt-tail waving free, But all the joyful Lumbee boys, They hanged his effigy.

Last chorus:

Oh the Klan,
Oh the Klan,
They've hung their little nightshirts
in the can,
If you want to see them run,
Shoot a pistol toward the sun,
And give an Indian war whoop like a
joyful Lumbee man.



Bury Me In My Overalls



The grave it is a quiet place,
There is no labor there,
And I will rest more easy
In the clothes I always wear,
This suit was made for warmer climes,
Holidays and happy times,
So bury me in my overalls.

I gave a hand to clear the land And make the cities rise, I helped to bring the harvest in And lay the railroad ties, I boomed about from east to west, It's time I had a little rest, So bury me in my overalls.

And when I get to heaven
Where they tally work and sin,
They'll open up those pearly gates
And holler, "Come on in!
A workin stiff like you, we know,
Has had his share of hell below,
So come to glory in your overalls!"

The Cement Octopus



Who knows how the monster started to grow that way, Its parents are frightened, they wish it would go away, But the taxes keep coming, they have to be spent On the big bulldozers and tanks of cement, Oh, stand by me and protect that tree From the freeway misery.

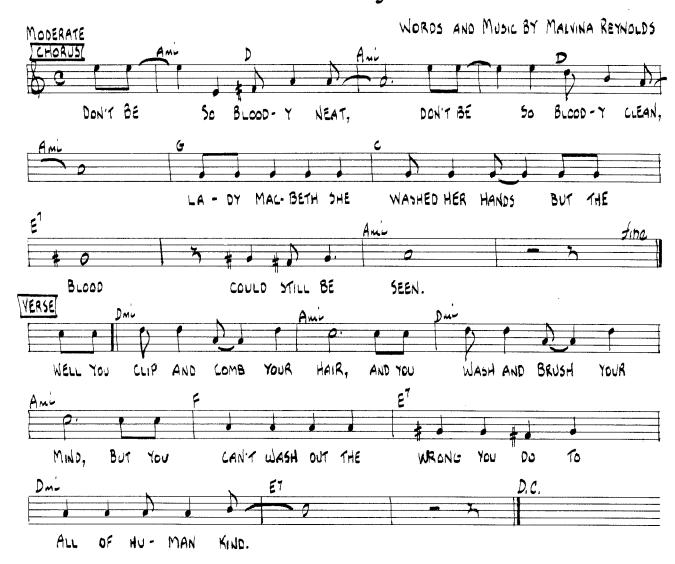
That octopus grows like a science-fiction blight, The Bay and the Ferry Building are out of sight, The trees that stood for a thousand years, We watch them falling through our tears, Oh, stand by me and protect that tree From the freeway misery.

Old John MacLaren won't take this lying down, We can hear his spirit move in the sandy ground, He built this Eden on the duney plain, Now they're making it a concrete desert again, Oh, stand by me and protect that tree From the freeway misery.

The men on the highways need those jobs, we know, Let's put them to work planting new trees to grow, Building new parks where kids can play, Pushing that cement monster away, Oh, stand by me and protect that tree From the freeway misery.



The Bloody Neat



They say we can wade in the water To wash our sins away, But the blood you shed turns the ocean red Tho you wash till judgement day.

Chorus

Well the plowman plows the field, And he's dust from head to toe, But the man at the desk who deals in death, His hands are white as snow.

Chorus

Daddy's in the Jail



Mama is working, Oh yes.
Mama is working, Oh yes.
Fifty a week and seven plates,
Worry's at the door and that makes eight, Oh yes.

Daddy's in the jail, Oh yes.
Daddy's in the jail, Oh yes.
I ask my mama the reason why,
Doesn't know the answer, all she does is cry,
Oh yes.

Wrote to my Daddy, Oh yes.
Wrote to my Daddy, Oh yes.
Asked my Daddy, the answer came back,
They put me into jail cause my skin is black,
Oh yes.

Daddy's in the jail, Oh yes.
Daddy's in the jail, Oh yes.
They call him a panther, but that can't be,
Panther's in the forest, running free, Oh yes.

The Day the Freeway Froze



Well, the cars began to stop,
But the ramps kept feeding slow,
And a little V W superbug
Was winged by a Dynaflow.
And some of them could have made it,
Going out on a ramp marked "In",
But nobody does the like of that
Because that is a cardinal sin.

Meantime down in town,
At the Spring Street underpass,
A couple of trucks collided
And one had a load of gas.
It could have been a holocaust
Cause no one could turn about,
But the engines got up on the cloverleaf
And they put that fire out.

Chorus

Mr. Gorbach sat at his wheel,
A hungry man was he,
And up ahead was an unmanned truck
From Momma's Bakery.
He opened the drawer marked "D"
And found doughnuts glazed and plain,
And he pulled real hard and the drawer flew out,
And the doughnuts fell like rain.

Well, the people jumped around
And the doughnuts soon were gone,
And Stanley Hackett he had ten,
But coffee he had none.
Then somebody found a truck
That was full of cows and steers,
And he opened the doors, and the cattle strolled
Among the lanes and piers.

Chorus

A Bekins van was stalled,
And some ladies worked amain,
And they set themselves up in housekeeping
In the Harbor outbound lane,
And a truck load of brassieres
Was very quickly gone,
When they all cried "Viva Havana!"
And tied the arm bands on.

The greatest find of all
Was a wagonload of rum,
It was all dealt out with a generous hand
To whoever wanted some,
And a couple of guys they ran along
With car tops for their track,
Wearing "Save the Bay" sandwich boards
Which they carried front and back.

It was seven hours, they say,
Till the jam began to go.
The last lost car was towed away
After eighty hours or so.
Three thousand ice cream bars were sold
To the sound of the auto horn,
Twenty three people died that day,
And three little babes were born.

Chorus:

On the day the freeway froze In Los Angeles, USA, What an affair! I wish I'd been there On the day The Freeway froze.

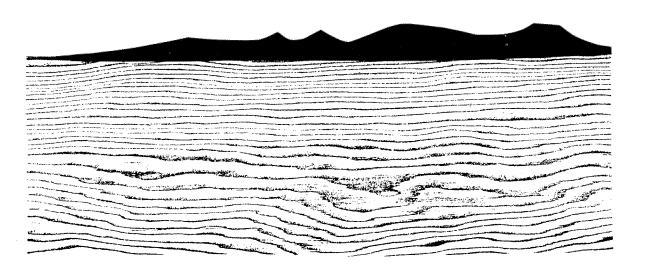
The Desert



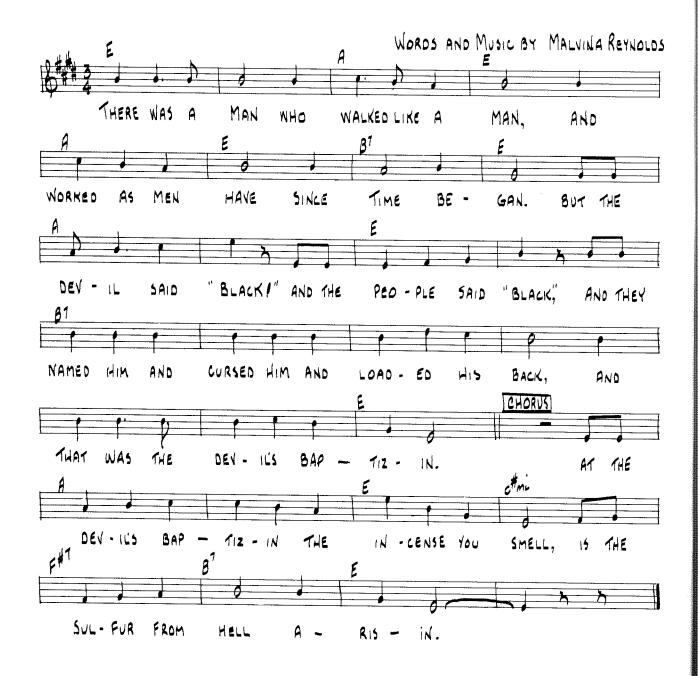
I sing of the desert, the bushes are brave, On the hot sandy plain, They root and survive Without sprinkler or rain.

I sing of the desert, the snakes and the toads, They're used to the clime. If they keep off the roads They live a long time. I sing of the desert, the nights are so clear, The air is so still, You can reach for a star Whenever you will.

I sing of the desert, it's ample and wide, And that's where I'll stay, And that's where I'll hide, And that's where I'll bide, Till the tide of the cities passes away.



The Devil's Baptizin



A woman there was with a mind of her own Said the world needed changing before it was done, But the Devil said "Red!"
And they branded her head,
And her children went hungry for comfort and bread,
And that was the Devil's baptizin.

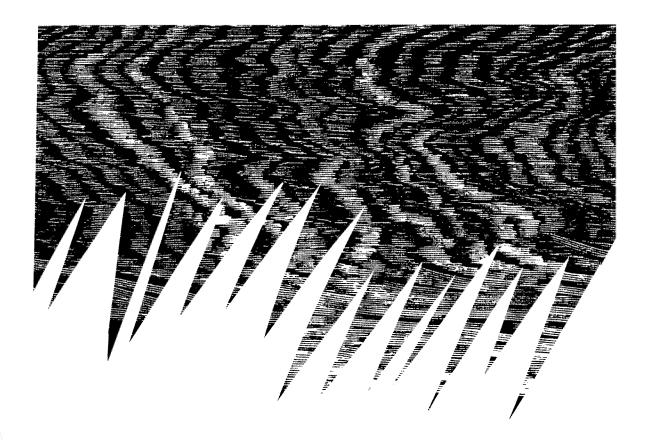
Chorus

There was a love that was clear as the day.
And a babe like a flower that grows from the clay.
But the Devil said "Sin!"
And the people came in,
And they offered the woman for sale to the men.
And that was the Devil's baptizin.

Chorus

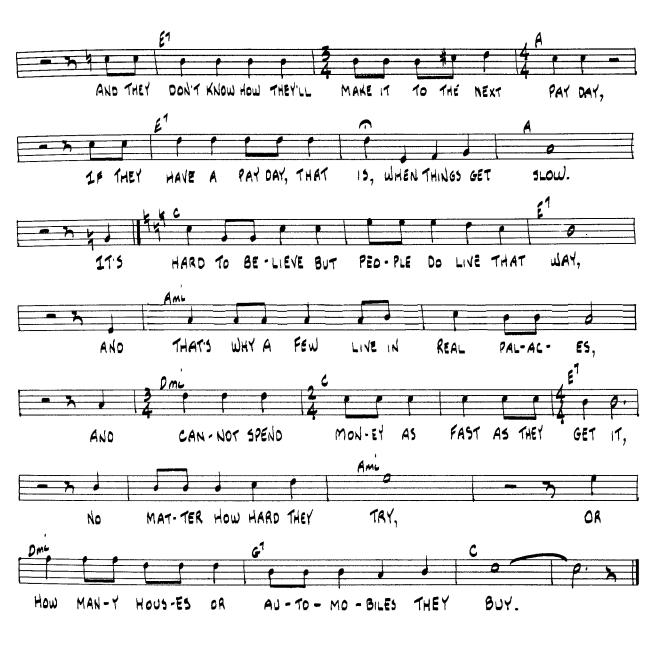
There was a child who walked all alone,
And reached for the bread and rejected the stone.
But the Devil said "Crime!"
And the kid served his time,
And he came out of prison all covered with slime,
And that was the Devil's baptizin.

At the Devil's baptizin the incense you smell Is the sulfur from Hell Arisin.



Dialectic

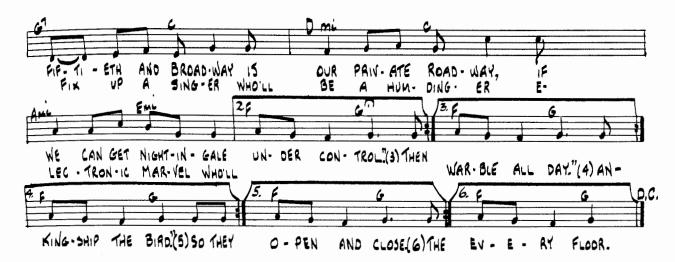






The Emperor's Nightingale

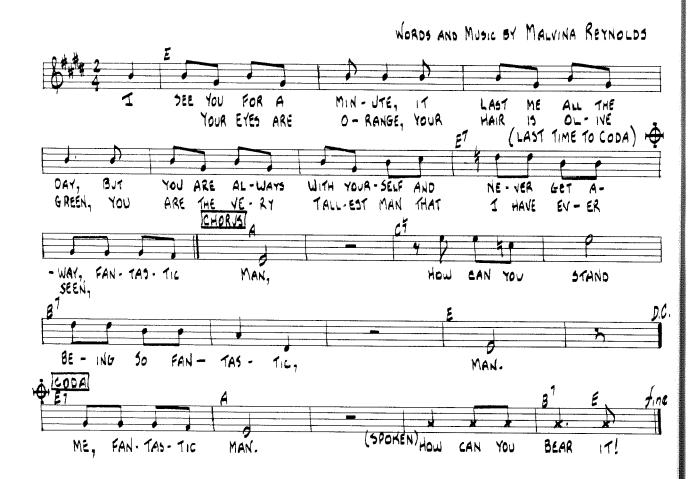




- 4. Another one said, "That's a dandy promotion, A handier notion I seldom have heard. We'll make one real classy, with platinum chassis, Oh brother, won't we give His Kingship the bird!"
- 5. So they fixed up a chirp that was really a wonder, With woofers and tweeters, transistors and those, And the whole bit was rolled in a body all golden, With emerald eyes that could open and close.
- 6. The king thanked them kindly, the court was enchanted, They were instantly granted a million or more. 'Twas easy as nothing, you just pressed a button And music came rolling on every floor.



Fantastic Man



Your plastic Stetson
Sits on your hair,
About to lift its glory wings
And fly away somewhere,
Chorus

Your hair goes northward, Your beard goes east and west, The noble Jack of Diamonds Is emblazoned on your vest, Chorus Your laugh comes rolling
On down the Avenue,
The rattle of the traffic
Simply can't compete with you,
Chorus

I'm pleased to see you, I'm pleased to go, I pass your corner And I always say Hello, Chorus

You are a wonder That's wonderful to see, I sometimes wonder What do you think of me, Fantastic Man, (spoken) How can you bear it!

God Bless the Grass



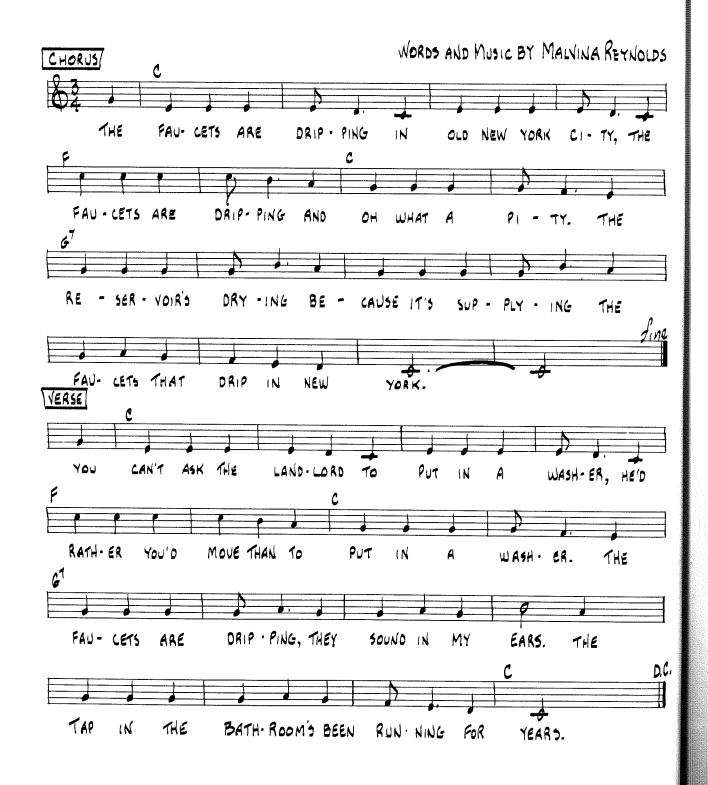
God bless the truth that fights toward the sun, They roll the lies over it and think that it is done. It moves through the ground and reaches for the air, And after a while it is growing everywhere, And God bless the grass.

God bless the grass that grows through cement. It's green and it's tender and it's easily bent, But after a while it lifts up its head, For the grass is living and the stone is dead, And God bless the grass.

God bless the grass that's gentle and low, Its roots they are deep and its will is to grow. And God bless the truth, the friend of the poor, And the wild grass growing at the poor man's door, And God bless the grass.



The Faucets Are Dripping



There's a wild streak of green in the sink in the kitchen, It comes from the rill trickling out of the plumbing, The streams from the mountains, the pools from the lea All run from my faucet and down to the sea.

Chorus

You can't ask the landlord to put in a washer, You can't ask the landlord to mend the old stairs, He takes in the rents and he lives in Miami, Where faucets don't drip and there's sun everywheres. Chorus

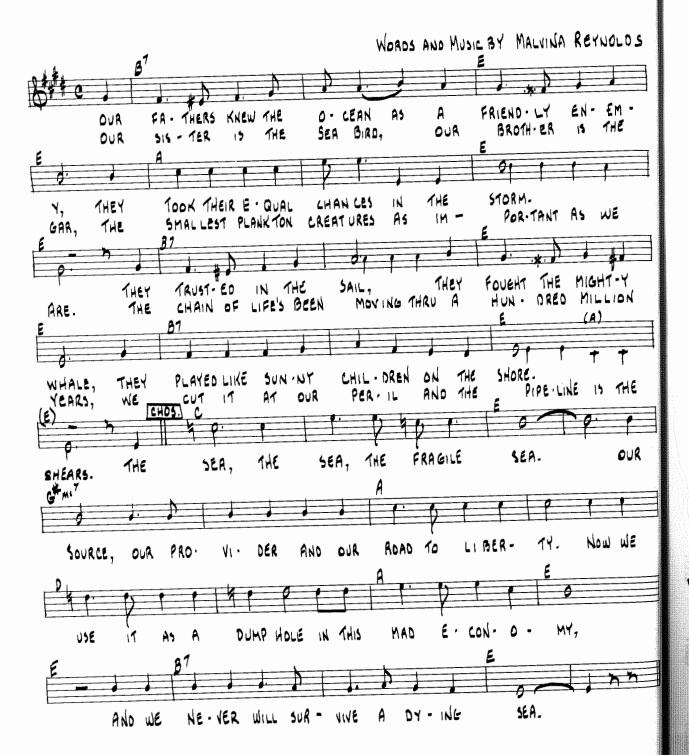
The faucets are dripping, the landlord's content,
With every new tenant he raises the rent,
The buildings can crumble, the tenants can cry,
There's a shortage of housing, you'll live there or die.
Chorus

They're building some buildings and fine city centers, It's sure working hell with the low-income renters, They're jammed into rooms with the rat and the fly Where the faucets all drip and the floor's never dry.

Chorus



The Fragile Sea



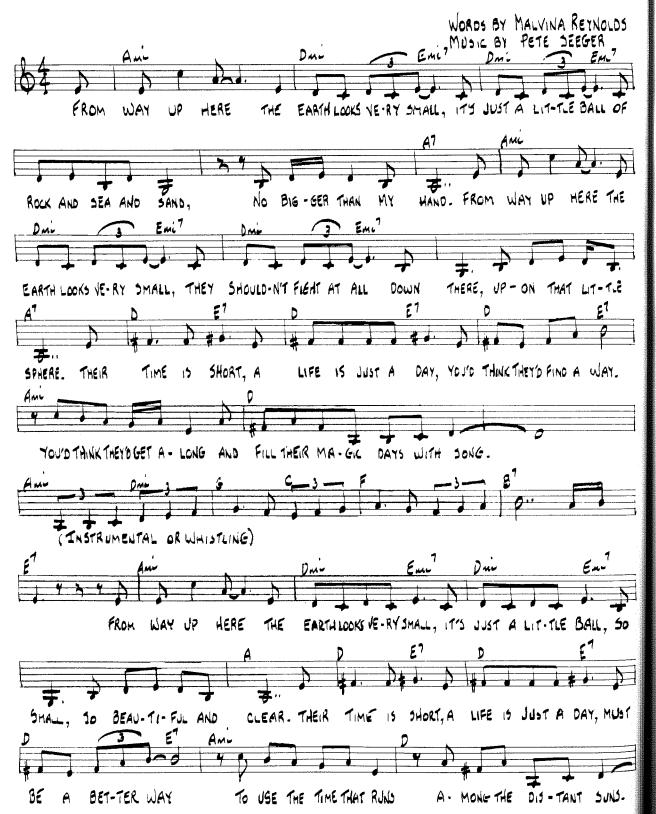
Do you see the seagull dead in his integument of tar Who was once a soaring creature of the sky? It's the oil company that's now the ruler of the sea That makes ocean and its children fail and die. Chorus

Have you seen the crystal waters of the North Canadian coast? That's how this planet's oceans used to be. With our muscle and our brain we must make it so again, For we never will survive a dying sea.

The sea, the sea, the fragile sea, Our source, our provider and our road to liberty, Now we use it as a dump hole for this mad economy, And we never will survive a dying sea.



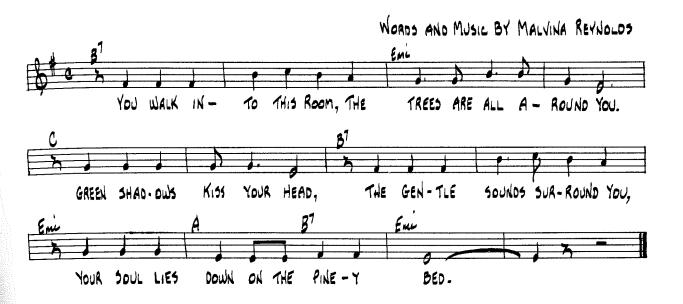
From Way Up Here







Green Shadows

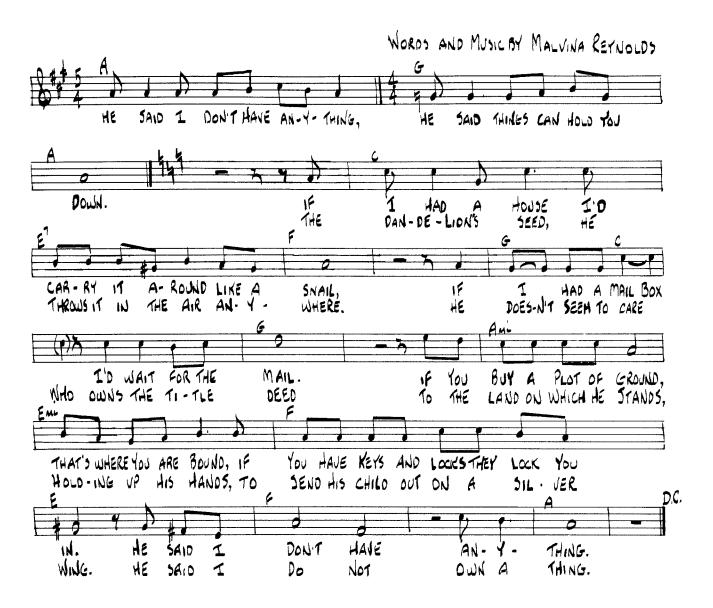


The walls are random walls, You do not feel them press you, Green shadows touch your eyes, Their silent welcomes bless you, Your dreams come singing from the skies.

You are no longer one
But all that breathes beside you,
You are the craggy bark,
The leaves that move and hide you,
Green shadows and the rising dark.

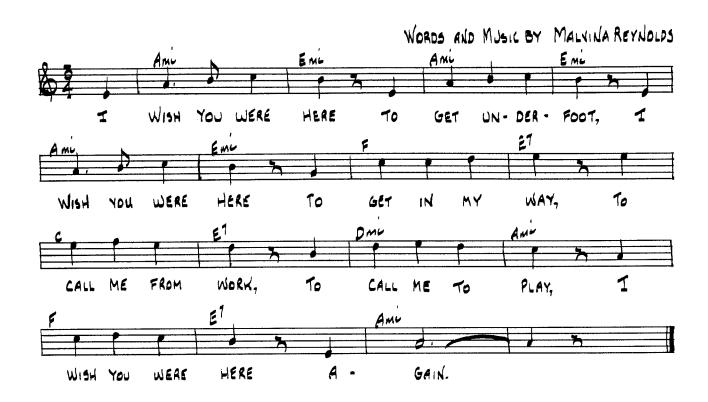
You walk into this room
The trees are all around you,
This is a living day,
No hostile sounds will wound you,
The chain saw's cry is far away.

I Don't Have Anything





I Wish You Were Here

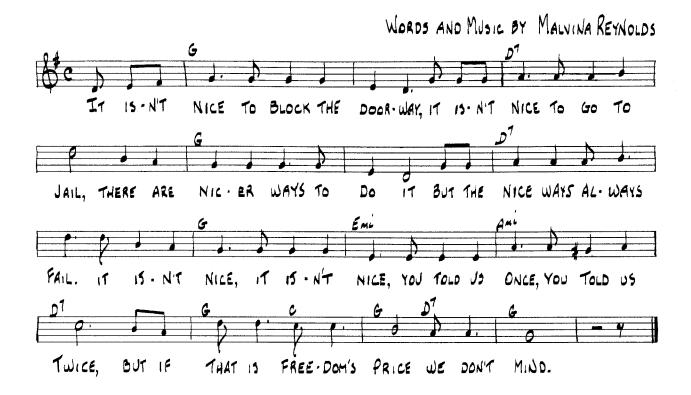


Oh what did I do that had to be done, And what did I read that had to be read, When I might have turned to watch you instead, I wish you were here again.

The monuments rise, the monuments fall, The papers are signed and turn into chaff, But I can recall the sound of your laugh, I wish you were here again.

I wish you were here to get underfoot, I wish you were here to get in my way, To call me from work, to call me to play, I wish you were here again.

It Isn't Nice



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It isn't nice to carry banners
Or to sit in on the floor,
Or to shout our cry of Freedom
At the hotel and the store,
It isn't nice, it isn't nice,
You told us once, you told us twice,
But if that is Freedom's price,
We don't mind.

We have tried negotiations
And the three-man picket line,
Mr. Charlie didn't see us,
And he might as well be blind.
Now our new ways aren't nice
When we deal with men of ice,
But if that is Freedom's price,
We don't mind.

How about those years of lynchings And the shot in Evers' back? Did you say it wasn't proper, Did you stand out on the track? You were quiet just like mice, Now you say we aren't nice, But if that is Freedom's price, We don't mind.

It isn't nice to block the doorway, It isn't nice to go to jail, There are nicer ways to do it But the nice ways always fail. It isn't nice, it isn't nice, But thanks for your advice, Cause if that is Freedom's price, We don't mind.



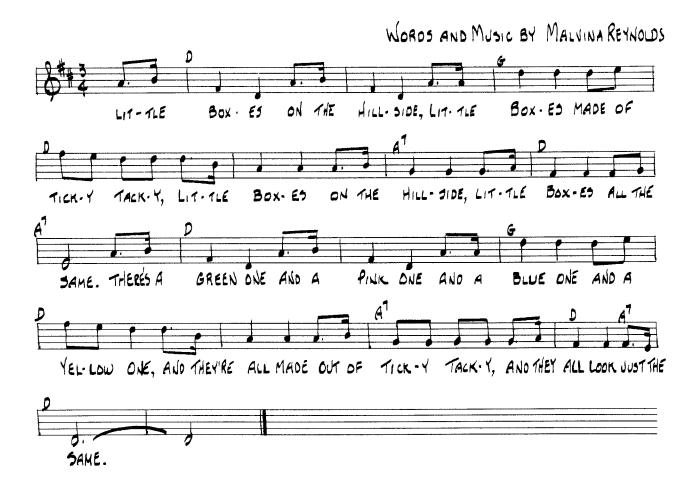
Let Them Eat Cake



- 2. Let them eat cake,
 So they feed us on lies,
 Icky with color
 They dazzle the eyes.
 They sound and they sound
 As though something's been said,
 But the questions we're asking
 Keep rolling around in our head.
- 3. Let them eat cake,
 Said Marie Antoinette,
 So they feed us on twinkies
 While they eat the meat,
 They stuff us with plastic
 They tell us it's great,
 And we gag at the colored pollution
 They put on the plate.
- 4. Let them eat cake
 From the frozen food bin,
 A concoction of nothing
 With air beaten in,
 We eat and are hungry,
 Their word is a lie,
 And if we leave their heads on
 We'll die.

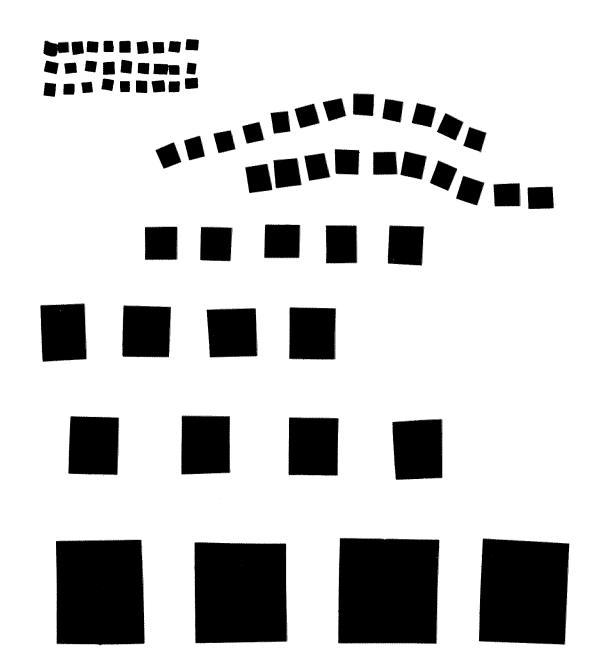


Little Boxes



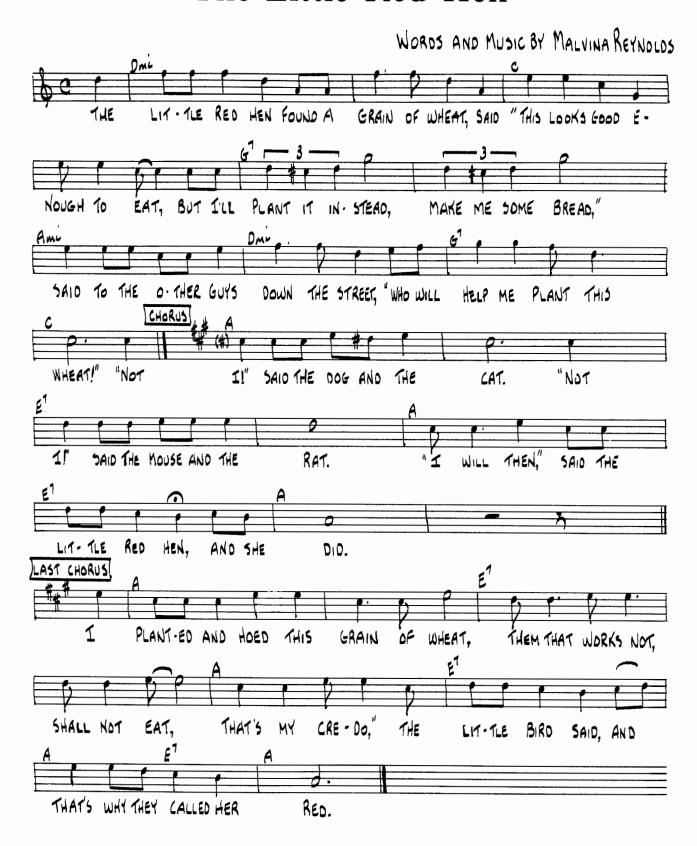
And the people in the houses
All went to the university,
Where they were put in boxes
And they came out all the same,
And there's doctors and lawyers,
And business executives,
And they're all made out of ticky tacky,
And they all look just the same.

And they all play on the golf course And drink their martinis dry, And they all have pretty children And the children go to school, And the children go to summer camp, And then to the university Where they are put in boxes And they come out all the same. And the boys go into business
And marry and raise a family
In boxes made of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.
There's a green one and a pink one
And a blue one and a yellow one,
And they're all made out of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.



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The Little Red Hen



Well the sun shone bright, the rain it blew, The grain of wheat it grew and grew, It began to sprout, headed out, Till it was ripe enough. Said, "Who will help me harvest this stuff?"

Chorus

She lugged it to the miller to grind to flour, Cause the others would offer her no manpower, And at baking time they all declined To help her with the job; They were a dog gone no-good mob.

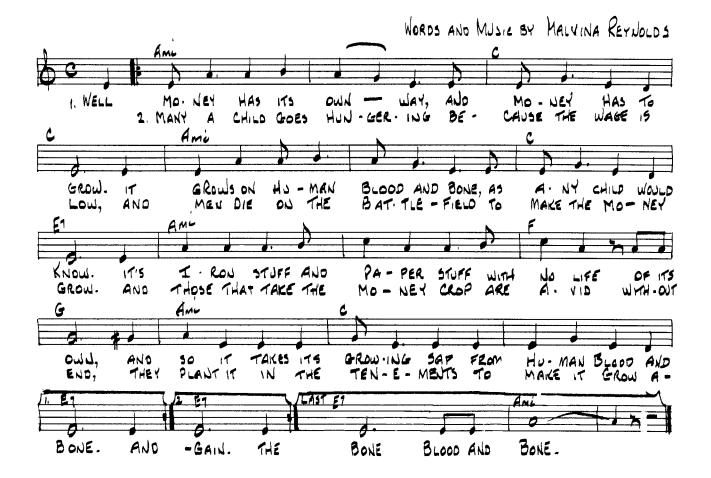
Chorus

The bread looked good and smelled so fine The gang came running and fell in line; "We'll do our part with all our heart To help you eat this chow!" She said, "I do not need you now.

"I planted and hoed this grain of wheat. Them that works not, shall not eat, That's my credo," the little bird said, And that's why they called her Red.



The Money Crop



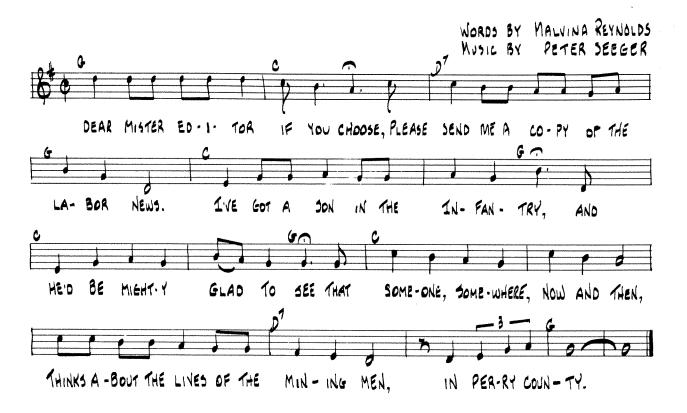
3. The little that they leave for us, It cannot be a seed, We spend it on the shoddy clothes And every daily need, We spend it in a minute, In an hour it is gone, To find its way to grow again On human blood and bone, Blood and bone.



Magic Penny



Mrs. Clara Sullivan's Letter



In Perry County and thereabout We miners simply had to go out. It was long hours, substandard pay, Then they took our contract away. Fourteen months is a mighty long time To face the goons from the picket line In Perry County.

I'm twenty-six years a miner's wife, There's nothing harder than a miner's life. But there's no better man than a mining man. They gave that money, yours and mine, Couldn't find better in all this land. The deal they get is a rotten deal. Mountain greens and gravy meal, In Perry County.

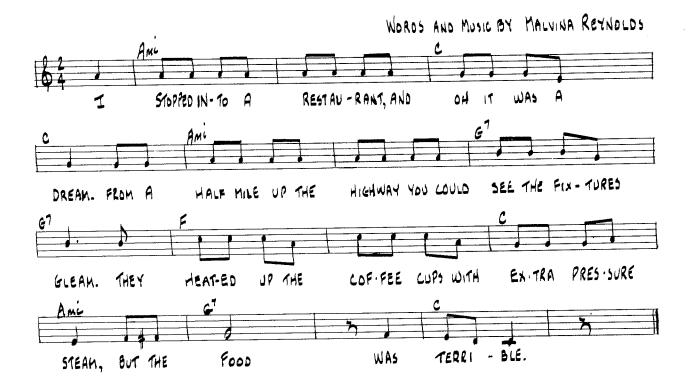
We live in barns that the rain comes in While operators live high as sin, Ride Cadillac cars and drink like a fool While our kids lack clothes to go to school. Sheriff Combs he has it fine, He runs the law and owns a mine In Perry County.

What operator would go dig coal For even fifty a day on the mine pay-roll! Why, after work my man comes in With his wet clothes frozen to his skin, Been digging coal so the world can run And operators can have their fun In Perry County.

When folks sent money to the Hazard Press To help the strikers in distress, To the scabs who crossed the picket line, And the state militia and the F.B.I. Just look on while miners die In Perry County.

I believe the truth will out some day That we're fighting for jobs at decent pay. We're just tired of doing without, And that's what the strike is all about. And it helps to know that folks like you Are telling the story straight and true. About Perry County.

The New Restaurant



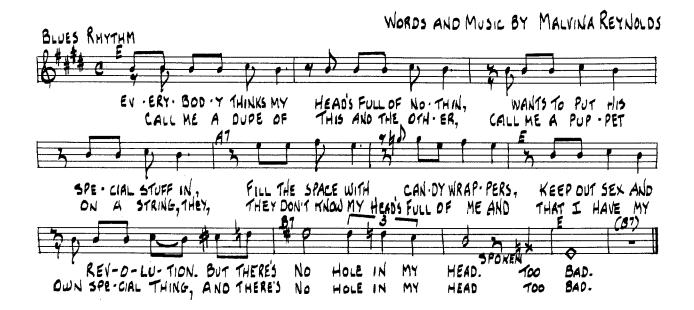
The waitresses were charming, they had such lovely eyes, Their smiles all matched exactly and their uniforms likewise, Their hair was piled as sweetly as the topping on the pies, But the food was terrible.

The decor was a symphony in brown and gold and white, The silver and the crockery would fill you with delight, The menu was a masterpiece, so witty and so bright, But the food was terrible.

They must have spent a fortune on the furniture and such, On the place mats and the napkins, just like linen to the touch, So the budget for the kitchen really wasn't very much, And the food was terrible.

Another generation will forget the taste of meat, Of tomatoes from the garden and of bread that's made of wheat, And they'll never even notice, when it's plastic that they eat, That the food is terrible.

No Hole In My Head



I have lived since early childhood
Figuring out what's going on, I,
I know what hurts, I know what's easy,
When to stand and when to run,
And there's no hole in my head.
Too bad.

So please stop shouting in my ear, there's Something I want to listen to, there's A kind of birdsong up somewhere, there's Feet walking the way I mean to go,
And there's no hole in my head.
Too bad.

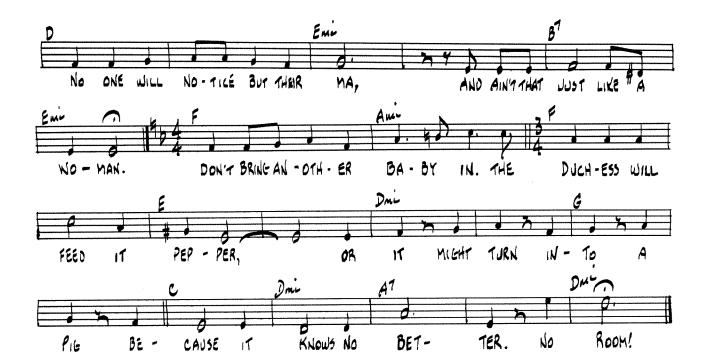
Repeat first verse



[©] Schroder Music Company 1965

No Room

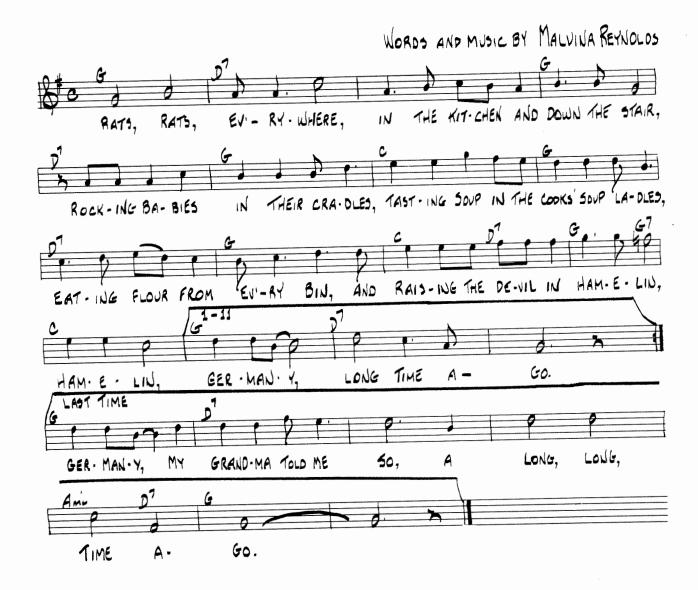




On the Rim of the World



The Pied Piper



Rats, rats, everywhere,
Wherever you looked, the rats were there,
Took a nap in Papa's shoes,
Sat in the living room and read the news,
What a condition that town was in,
Little old town of Hamelin,
Hamelin, Germany, long time ago.

Mayor and Council scratched their heads, Tossed and turned in their ratty beds, Passed a big appropriation To count the rats in the population, Solemnly resolved that it was sin For rats to live in Hamelin . . .

Little man knocked at the Mayor's door, No one had ever seen him before, Dressed in clothes of a gayer mood Than ever are seen in Hollywood, "If the Mayor will let me in I'll drive the rats from Hamelin . . ."

They hugged him, kissed him, patted his head; "What is your name?" the Mayor said.
"I'm the Pied Piper. I blow this horn,
And there never was a rat that ever was born
That could resist my merry din,
Not even the rats of Hamelin . . .

"Oh, blow your horn both far and wide, And save our city!" the mayor cried. "Whatever you ask, we will gladly pay, If you'll only drive these rats away. A couple of grand you will surely win If you get the rats out of Hamelin . . ."

A tweedley-dee and foodley-doh,
A little tune he started to blow,
It sounded like bacon, it sounded like cheese,
It sounded like kitcheny melodies,
The rats came out with a snicker and a grin
From all the houses of Hamelin . . .

They followed the music bright and gay, Over the hills and far away, The Hamelinians loudly cheered As the rat procession disappeared, And never a rat was seen again In the little old town of Hamelin . . .

The Piper waited, hat in hand,
To collect his fee for a couple of grand,
Mayor and Council scratched their pates,
"This is way above union rates!
For a tune on the flute or the violin
We only pay scale in Hamelin . . ."

Pied Piper said, "Okay,"
Put on his hat and turned away,
Started playing a couple of tunes
That sounded like candy and toy balloons,
Like merry-go-rounds in a jolly spin,
Calling the children of Hamelin . . .

The children came out into the street, Followed the Piper with dancing feet, Followed the music bright and gay Over the hills and far away, The town got quiet like it never had been Since the beginning of Hamelin . . .

In some country far away,
Some lads and lassies swing and sway,
And a gaudy Piper, old and gray,
Plays on his clarinet night and day,
While way back home their sorrowing kin
Mourn for the children of Hamelin,
Hamelin, Germany,
My grandma told me so,
A long, long time ago.

Quiet



I've made mistakes in the past, Things that I blush over yet, But I hardly ever regret Having been quiet.

I have a T.V. at home And I do truly enjoy it. I can just leave it alone And it's quiet.

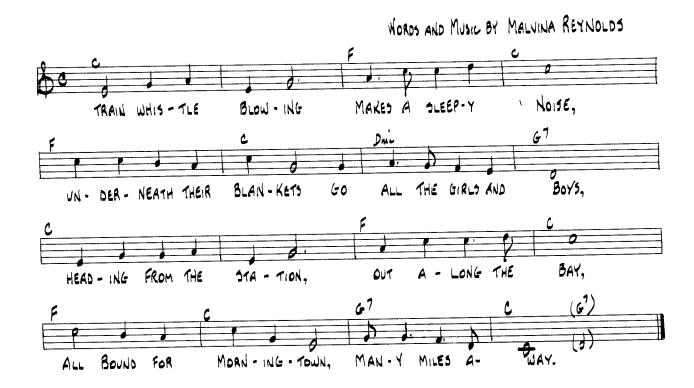
I'm not unsociable, no, People are fine in repose; Somehow my favorites are those Who are quiet.

Quiet's a wonderful sound, Sweeter than oboe or fiddle, Someday I'm going to be found in the middle Of quiet.

Sing me a song of the sea Soft as the breath of a breeze, Sing me to sleep and then please Keep quiet.



Morningtown Ride



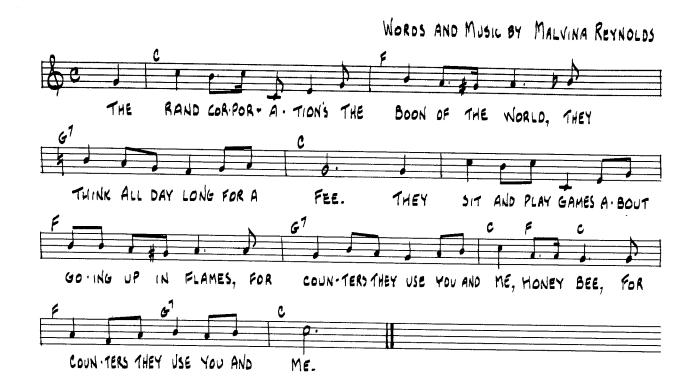
Sarah's at the engine, Tony rings the bell, John swings the lantern to show that all is well. Rocking, rolling, riding, out along the bay, All bound for Morningtown, many miles away.

Maybe it is raining where our train will ride, But all the little travelers are snug and warm inside. Somewhere there is sunshine, somewhere there is day, Somewhere there is Morningtown, many miles away.



© Amadeo Music 1962

Rand Hymn



It's so nice to know we have Rand on our side, We'll always have good old Rand around; A zillion will be fried out, but in some neat hideout Rand will be safe under ground, praise the Lord, Rand will be safe under ground.

With a stroke of the pen, they can change us from men Into numbers that flash on the wall.

These brainy heroes transform us to zeros,
So who gives a damn if we fall, after all,
Who gives a damn if we fall.

Their superior genes will be safe behind screens, With the rest of our line doomed to die; We'll be all sorted out, past a shadow of doubt, By the all-wise electronic eye; bow down To the mighty electronic eye.

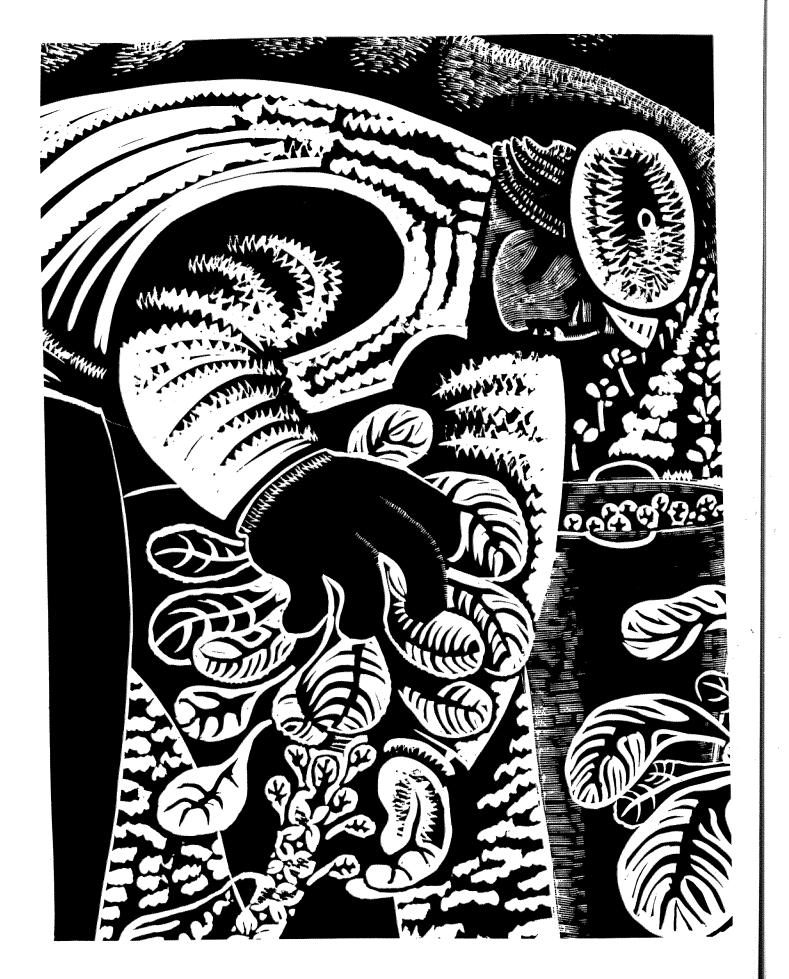
They will rescue us all from a fate worse than death, With a touch of the push-button hand; We'll be saved at one blow from the designated foe, But who's going to save us from Rand, dear Lord, Who's going to save us from Rand?

© Schroder Music Company 1961

Rosie Jane







Singin Jesus



Well, some men preach you a sermon, They want to save your soul, Listen to Singin Jesus, Preachin with the rock and roll. Some men preach you a sermon, Say give away your cloak and shoes, Listen to barefoot Jesus Preachin with the rhythm and blues.

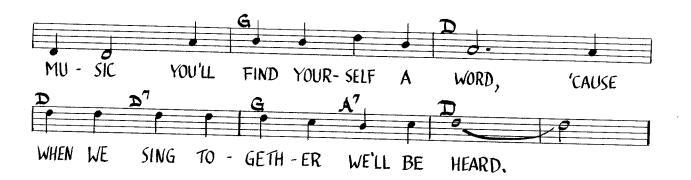
Chorus

And his song said, Men are brothers, And it rang out clear and great, And what the color of the brothers' skin He did not stipulate. Said, Stop your feudin and fightin, Kick those no-good wars, Beat your swords into ploughshares And your guns into steel guitars.

Chorus

Sing Along





Oh, when I need a raise in pay and have to tell my boss, If I go see him by myself I'm just a total loss, But if we go together I'll do my part right pretty, Cause I'm awf'ly nervous lonesome, but I make a fine committee.

Chorus

My congressman's important, he hobnobs with big biz, He soon forgets the rest of us who put him where he is. I'll just write him a letter to tell him what I need, With a hundred thousand signatures why even he can read.

Chorus

Oh, life is full of problems, the world's a funny place, I sometimes wonder why the heck I joined the human race, But when we work together, it seems right and true, I'm an awful nothing by myself, but I'm okay with you.

Chorus

Somewhere Between



On Monday I rail at my kinfolk,
On Tuesday I'm gentle and good,
On Wednesday I wonder, and count
every blunder,
And wish that I knew where I stood.

Chorus

If I could just peek at the record, I'd know if it's mucky or clean, I'd know if I'm destined for heaven or hell,
Or to float like a bird in between.



There'll Come A Time



Such adulteration will have hit the food,
You'll throw way the contents and eat the carton
if you want anything good.
And women will live on synthetic meals,
And they'll all be slender as synthetic eels.

Chorus

There'll come a time the kids will be so smart, They'll be able to recite their own psychoanalysis by heart, And they'll all be scientists by the time they're ten, And thank the Lord I won't have any children then.

Chorus

The cities will be so overpopulated,
We'll all be buried from the same apartment house where
we were created,
And if you take a trip to the

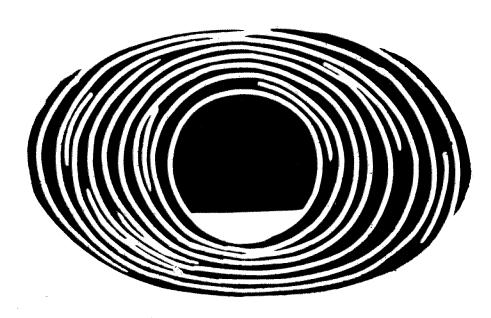
And if you take a trip to the country somewhere, You'll have to be innoculated against fresh air.

Chorus

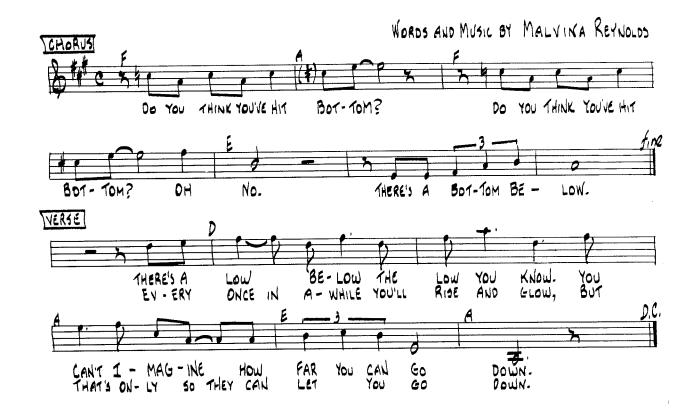
There'll come a time we'll lose our walking feet,
And food will all be predigested so we won't have to eat,
And children will be made in test-tubes, so we won't have
to wed,

And thank God by that time I will be dead.

There'll come a time,
Won't you be proud,
And by that time I'll be playing an unamplified
harp on an eighteenth century cloud.



There's A Bottom Below



You sit at a party
And watch the fun,
It don't touch you none
Cause you're off and gone,
Down.

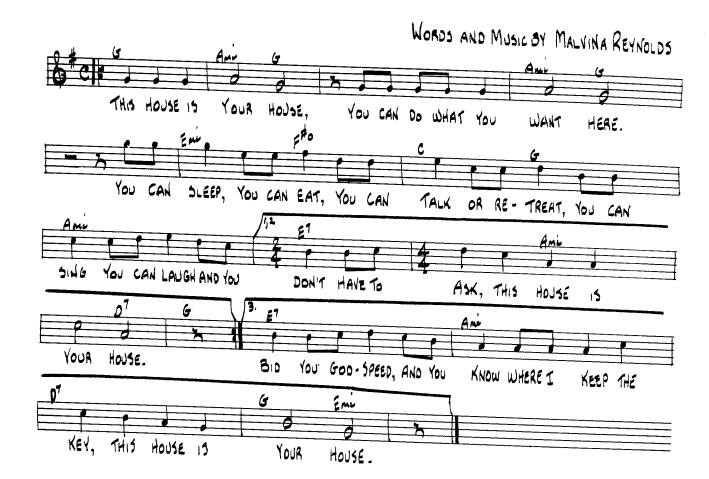
Chorus

There's the nightmare kind Where you fall and fall, And you wake to find You haven't been dreaming At all.

Chorus

(Repeat first verse and chorus)

This House Is Your House



This house is your house.
You can do what you want here.
You can sprawl in a chair,
Run your hands through my hair,
Read a book, come or go,
Ask me things I don't know,
This house is your house.

This house is your house.
You can do what you want here.
It is cozy and good
And the hod's full of wood,
When you're ready to leave
I will bid you godspeed,
And you know where I keep the key,
This house is your house.



This World



Tokyo Farewell



- It isn't nice for mom to cry, So I will smile as I say goodbye, Flying away from Tokyo, Goodbye, Joe.
- Amplifiers and guitars

 In and out of a hundred cars,
 Green car fast and local slow,
 Goodbye, Joe.



- Little inn and big hotel,
 Fifteen minutes to the starting bell,
 Curtain's up and away we go,
 Goodbye, Joe.
- 7. Kori yama, Tochigi, Tsuruoka, Kitami, Osaka and Sapporo, Goodbye, Joe.
- 8. Goodbye, Takazawa-san, Yat-chan and Nobu-chan, Stage is cleared for another show, Goodbye, Joe.

[©] Schroder Music Company 1970

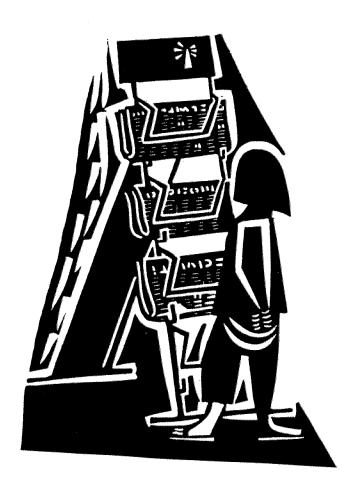
Tungsten



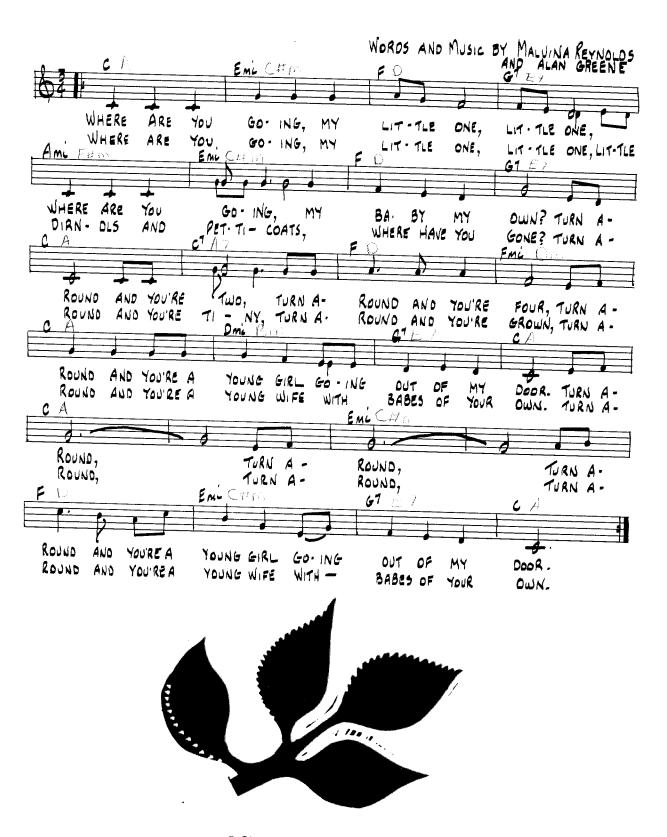
The air is full of heavy words
 All about democracy,
 And the boys they fight in many lands
 To keep the free world free,
 And the words have a beautiful ringing sound
 That keeps us all up tight,
 But the fact of the matter is tungsten
 wolframite.

Chorus

3. Tungsten, wolfram,
What a happy sound,
Tungsten in stockpiles
And underneath the ground,
Tungsten in China,
Sheelite in Malay,
But there are no tungsten mines
in the USA.



Turn Around

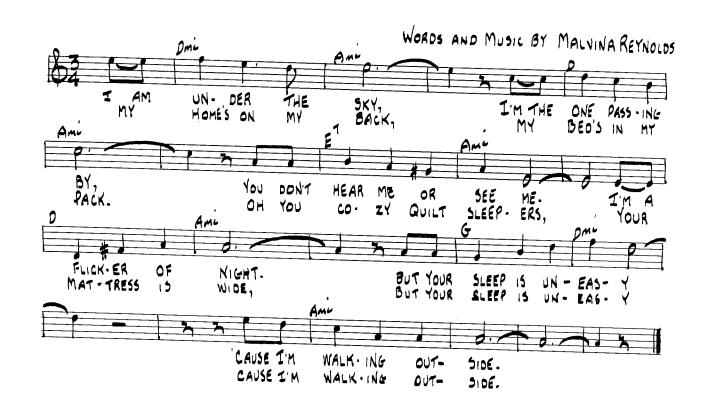


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Uneasy Dreams

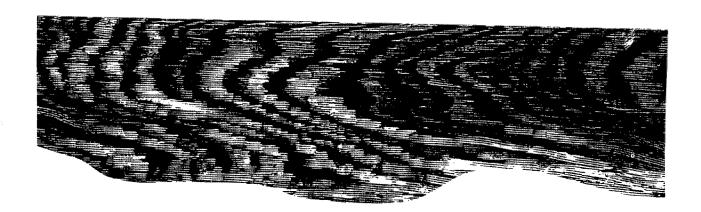


The Walker Outside



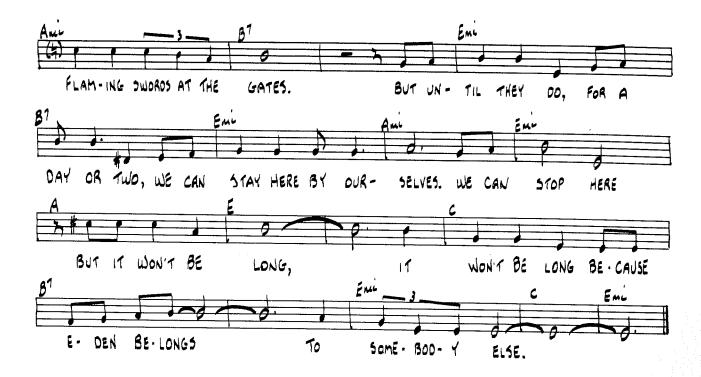
I am thin and athirst
To the depths of my soul,
To the depths of my soul,
But my brain it can reach you,
And my hands they can touch you,
And my fingers are cold.

(Repeat first verse)



We Can Stop Here







We Hate To See Them Go





The bankers and the diplomats are going in the army, It seemed too bad to keep them from the wars they love to plan. We're all of us contented that they'll fight a dandy war, They don't need propaganda, they know what they're fighting for. They'll march away with dignity and in the best of form, And we'll just keep the laddies here to keep the lassies warm. Chorus

The bankers and the diplomats are going in the army, We're going to make things easy cause it's all so new and strange; We'll give them silver shovels when they have to dig a hole, And they can sing in harmony when answering the roll, They'll eat their old K-rations from a hand-embroidered box, And when they die, we'll bring them home, and bury them in Fort Knox.

The Whale



The whale, the whale,
The citizen of the sea,
He sings his sonic song
And so does she.
He finds his mating ground
Till the whaler tracks him down,
Every quarter hour, they say,
One great whale is done away,
Done away.

The humpback and the blue,
The bowhead and the right,
Every quarter hour
Day and night.
Ocean creatures large and small,
There was room enough for all,
Till there came the rule of man,
Now the gentle whale is dogmeat
In the can.

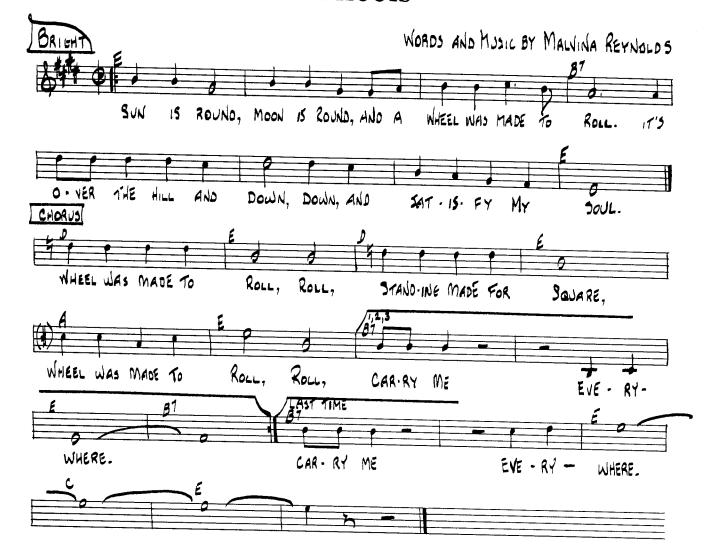
The whale, the whale,
Four millions used to be
Their rightful population
In the sea.
Few thousands now remain
And we harry them again,
As the whale goes, and the dolphin,
And the ocean, and the forest,
So will we.



What Have They Done to the Rain



Wheels





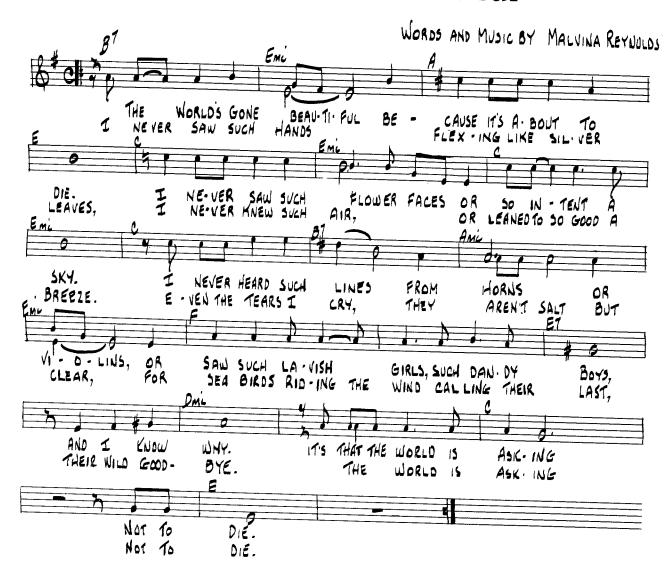
Paddle your feet along the street And over the grassy ground, Roll along and rolling sweet, And that's why the wheel is round. Chorus

Roll in the sun, roll in the rain, Roll in the wind and snow, Wheel was made to roll, roll, And I was made to go. Chorus

Bird flies in the sunny skies, Fish swims in the sea, I ride on the bumpety roll, Wheels were made for me. Chorus



World Gone Beautiful



I want to hold this world
And never let it go,
I want the sun to always rise
On the kids next door.
Whether I go or stay,
That question still abides,
Posed by rainbows in the river spray.
What answer do you give
A world that asks so bitterly to live?

You'll Be A Man





If You Love Me



Look On the Sunny Side



©Schroder Music Company 1974

Gas is out of sight. Gasoline it fouls the air And dims the heavenly light, The blossoms get the blight. You'll do much better hiking it, Streaking it or biking it. If an auto is required On the job where you've been hired. Stay at home. Tell em you're tired.

Chorus

Look on the sunny side, Your old man left you flat. Your old man was a nuisance, He criticized your cat, He wore your favorite hat. When you felt like you were dyin He'd split and leave you cryin, When you did not need him there, He'd be crawlin in your hair, Pass him by, Also the pie.

Carolina Cotton Mill Song



Oh it's Burlington and Cannon
And the names we wives know well,
Who advertise the sheets and towels
And give us the old soft sell,
And they'd rather buy the government men
With promotions here and there,
Than pay out company profits
For to clean the cotton mill air.

Chorus

Oh some people talk of the yin and yang And walk in a kharma daze, As though the influence of the stars Could change mill owners ways, But the people who work in the cotton mills They know how the world is run, And they need some help of an earthly kind To live their time in the sun.

Chorus

Oh the mystics they wear the blue jeans
But their heads are in the stars,
For they do not know how the denim is made
Nor the years of workers' wars.
And my place is not in an ivory tower
Or seeking some power divine,
But it's out on the bricks with the union folks
At the mills in Caroline.



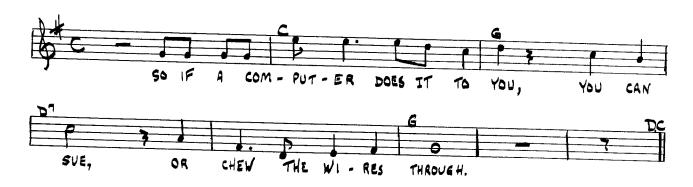
The Little Mouse





(SPOKEN)

Then there was another item in the papers About a bank's computers
That messed up the accounts
So the farmer's checks all bounced,
So his business fell apart
And it nearly broke his heart.
So he took the bank to court,
And they gave him an award
Of a hundred and fifty thousand dollars.
The bank appealed and on due consideration
The higher court doubled the compensation.



San Francisco Chronicle Wed., July 7, 1976

Mouse Holds Up All the Banks

Buenos Aires

A mouse, loose in the Central Clearing House, nibbled through a computer cable yesterday, causing a short-circuit that paralyzed check clearing operations for Buenos Aires banks and stock exchange.

Mario's Duck



Mother washed fine clothes every day
For the rich people, for little pay,
Seven kids she raised alone,
And Mario was the youngest one.
This was in Chile some years ago
When the people were poor as they are now.
Allende tried to change things around
But the CIA's Junta shot him down.

The story that I am telling you
Happened in Chile a while ago,
Mario walking a dusty road
Looking for rags or a scrap of food.
But there as he walked along his way
Somebody's duck that had gone astray
Followed him down around the bend
And took the boy for his brother and friend.

The farmer laughed and let him go, But Mario's mother said, "Oh no! We can't afford pets in the barrio." "I'll find him his food," said Mario. Everyone smiled at the funny two, The little duck went where the boy would go, They played all day by the cabin door And slept on the pallet on the floor.

As if there weren't troubles to spare,
Alicia gets pregnant, Alicia the Fair,
And how can they marry with no place to go?
There are no more rooms in the barrio.
But mama manages everything,
A wedding dress and a wedding ring.
Two satin sheets that got lost somehow
In the washing, become the wedding gown.

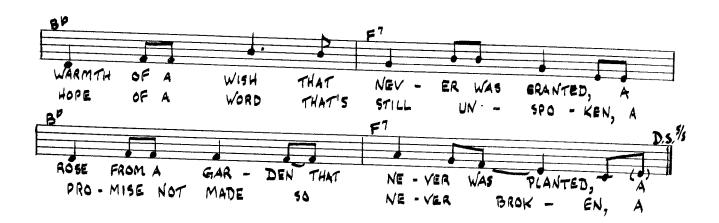
The wedding ring is a silver band
That once graced Mamacita's hand,
And a room is made out of boards and tin
Built onto the hut that they all lived in.
The wedding bouquet was Mario's find,
Field flowers of every kind,
Pretty and bright and arranged with taste
To hide Alicia's swelling waist.

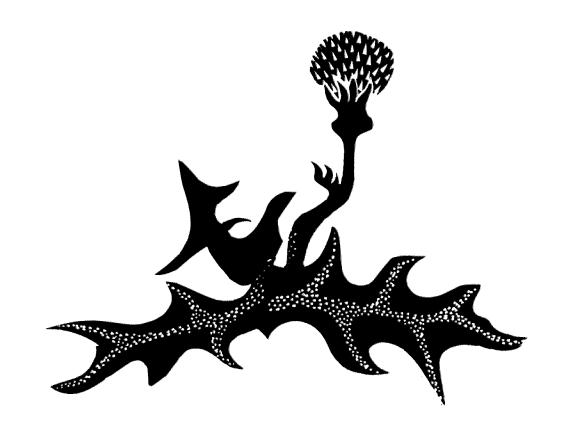
And what did they have for the wedding feast,
For the bride and the guests and the village priest?
It was Mario's duck, with the feathers gone,
Crowning the table, roasted brown!
What a strange wedding they had that day,
Eating and drinking and all so gay,
And Mario, crying, up in the tree
Throwing rocks at the company.



Patchwork of Dreams







We Don't Need the Men





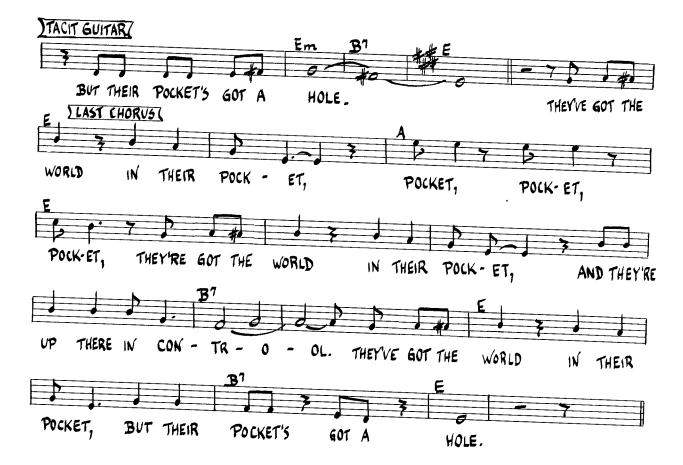
We don't need the men,
We don't need the men,
We don't need to have them round
Except for now and then.
They can come to see us
When they have tickets for the symphony,
Otherwise they can stay at home
And play a game of pinocle.
We don't care about them,
We can do without them,
They'll look cute in a bathing suit
On a billboard in Wisconsin.

We don't need the men,
We don't need to have them round
Except for now and then.
They can come to see us
When they're feeling pleasant and agreeable,
Otherwise they can stay at home
And holler at the T.V. programs.
We don't care about them,
We can do without them,
They'll look cute in a bathing suit
On a billboard in Madagascar.

We don't need the men,
We don't need to have them round
Except for now and then.
They can come to see us
When they're all dressed up with a suit on,
Otherwise they can stay at home
(spoken) And drop towels in their own bathroom.
We don't care about them,
We can do without them,
They'll look cute in a bathing suit
On a billboard in Tierra del Fuego.

World In Their Pocket





Unemployment is their glory, If a million children starve Why that's an old familiar story, And there's rage and there's rebellion, And there's grief from pole to pole. They've got the world in their pocket, But their pocket's got a hole.

Chorus

Takes a war to keep them perking, And they have to bleed the world To keep their bloody system working, But the system's self-destructing While they play that gangster role, They've got the world in their pocket, But their pocket's got a hole.

The Last Time



Notes and Comments

by Nancy Schimmel

BACKYARD BLUES Jack Lyon did sleep on a cot in the yard, because the guest room was full. When he came in for breakfast, Malvina had written some of the words. He put them to music, and they both added lyrics.

THE BALLAD OF ROBBAN'S FIRST RIDE Singers John Roberts and Tony Barrand are the John and Tony of this song, and the story is true.

THE BATTLE OF MAXTON FIELD is based on a 1958 news story that went nationwide.

THE CEMENT OCTOPUS Malvina sang this at a rally in Golden Gate Park to save the park from a proposed freeway. The freeway was stopped.

DADDY'S IN THE JAIL and MRS. CLARA SULLIVAN'S LETTER were based on actual letters to the editors of the Black Panther paper and a labor paper, respectively.

IT ISN'T NICE This is the true and original song—banned on radio in Japan in Japanese, but not banned in English.

THE LITTLE MOUSE Malvina didn't sing "mucked" but most singers wouldn't get the shock value she got out of singing what she did sing. Malvina sang the song for Suni Paz, who then wrote a new song in Spanish, "El Ratoncito," telling the same story. She recorded it on *Canciones Para el Recreo* (children's songs for the playground), Folkways FC 7850.

MARIO'S DUCK Malvina heard the story from a Chilean friend.

SING ALONG Malvina's first "hit"—she sang it at rallies for the 1948 Henry Wallace for President campaign. When she sang "I'm an awful nothing by myself," she was speaking politically, not personally, but singers not comfortable with that line could sing "I can change a tire by myself and change the world with you." (Men could sing "change a diaper.") She sang "why the heck" or "why the hell" depending on the audience.

WE CAN STOP HERE Inspired by news reports of campers being rousted out of the mountains behind Big Sur, California.

WE DON'T NEED THE MEN Yes, this was written in the '50's. Malvina updated it for the '70's by singing "when we've got a lot of dirty dishes" instead of "when we need to move the piano."

Celebrate my death for the good times I've had, For the work that I've done and the friends that I've made,

Celebrate my death, of whom it could be said, "She was a working class woman, and a red."

My man was the best, a comrade and a friend, Fighting on the good side to the very end, My child was a darling, merry, strong and fine, And all the world's children were mine.

MALVINA REYNOLDS 1900–1978

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TWEEDLES AND FOODLES FOR YOUNG NOODLES 14 Malvina songs for kindergarten and grade school-age kids, arranged for piano or guitar. Illustrated.

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MAMA LION (Cassandra CR 050) Bury Me In My Overalls, The Little Mouse, Mario's Duck, Power

Plant Reggae, The Last Time and more.

MALVINA—HELD OVER (Cassandra CFS 3688)

"Rosie Jane," "If You Love Me," "What Have They Done to the Rain," "We Don't Need the Men," "World In Their Pocket," "Magic Penny," "The Whale" and more.

MALVINA (Cassandra CFS 2807)

"There's a Bottom Below," "Little Boxes," "You'll Be a Man," "Turn Around" and others.

ARTICHOKES, GRIDDLECAKES AND OTHER GOOD THINGS

(Pacific Cascade LPL 7018)

Malvina sings her kids' songs. Includes "Johnny Built a House," "You Can't Make a Turtle Come Out," "Morningtown Ride."

FUNNY BUGS, GIGGLEWORMS, AND OTHER GOOD FRIENDS

(Pacific Cascade LPS 7025)

Another LP of songs for kids: "Little Birds," "Funny Bug Basin," "Place To Be," "The Pets" and more.

MAGICAL SONGS (Cassandra CR 040)

Fourteen songs from "There's Music in the Air," including "Don't Push Me," "Wheels," "I've Got a Song."

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