



CHILDREN'S
SONGS
FROM
SPAIN

SUNG BY

KAREN JAMES and
ISABELITA ALONSO



Design: Ke

M
1997
J28
C537
1963

MUSIC LP

ays Record FC7746

LA GALLINA SE PERDIO <i>The Hen that Got Lost</i>	MI BURRO <i>My Donkey</i>	ENTRE LAS MATAS Y FLORES <i>Among the Plants and Flowers</i>
LOS TRES RATONES <i>The Three Mice</i>	YO TENIA DIEZ PERRITOS <i>Ten Little Puppy Dogs</i>	QUE LE MANDA USTED AL POLLITO <i>What Will you Send the Little Chicken?</i>
ERASE UNA VIEJECITA <i>There Was a Little Lady</i>	NANA <i>Lullaby</i>	CON MI REAL MEDIO <i>Why My Dime and a Half</i>
EL CABALLO TROTON <i>The Trotting Horse</i>	A LA FLOR, ALA PITIFLOR <i>To The Flower</i>	EL "PIEJO" Y LA PULGA <i>The Bug and the Flea</i>
LEVANTA JOSE <i>Get up, Joseph!</i>	ERES MAS HERMOSA NINA <i>Little Girl</i>	EL SENOR DON GATO <i>Lord Pussy Cat</i>
Descriptive Notes are inside pocket	ESTA NOCHE HA LLOVIDO <i>Tonight it Has Rained</i>	

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Children's
Songs
from
Spain
sung by Karen James
and Isabelita Alonso

FOLKWAYS RECORDS Album No. FC 7746
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CHILDREN'S SONGS from SPAIN

sung by KAREN JAMES
and ISABELITA ALONSO



NOTES ON SONGS

The songs for this record came from collections made in the Spanish provinces of Santander, Madrid and La Mancha. Three provinces out of Spain's 48 - only a sixteenth of the possible sources - without taking into account the rest of the Spanish-speaking world. Spanish children are indeed fortunate to have such a rich heritage of folksong. And Spanish children do learn to sing right from the time they are in their mothers' laps. When they are older, it is mainly the little girls who keep the songs alive. They sing while they skip with a rope, roll a hoop, or roll stones. They sing ring games, action songs, riddles, jingles and tongue-twisters, and sweet melodies with sweeter lyrics that give the young singer a taste for the fine poetry that is so often found in Spanish folklore.

The record is dedicated to the young folk of America who are learning the Spanish language. I hope you will have fun with them. First learn to sing the choruses of songs like "Levanta Jose," "A mi burro" "La gallina" "Caballo trotón" until you have enough confidence to try verses. Remember that the Spanish language never minds changing the spoken stress in order to fit a word into the music, or telescoping two or three vowels to sing them on one note. Thus you have to sing "Le mandAreuna camisa" instead of "Le mandaré una camisa".

My Spanish being Castillian is probably different from the way you have been taught to pronounce it. Never mind. Just say your CE and CI as SE and SI as they do in South America. It won't make any difference to the songs.

Two teaspoons in a pop bottle provide percussion accompaniment for "Levanta Jose" or any marching song.

Lastly, I would like to mention how happy I am to be collaborating with my daughter Karen on this

record. When Sam Gesser of Folkways first suggested my collecting the songs for it, neither of us had any idea that Karen would help to make it. While thirty songs lay on my shelf for three years half forgotten, Karen, experimenting with a guitar for her own amusement proved her outstanding talent as a folksinger and guitarist. The idea of making the record together followed quite logically. This was what the songs had been awaiting all the time - the extra life and colour that the blending of two voices and two personalities would give them. We hope you have as much fun trying to sing them as we had preparing the record together.

ISABELITA ALONSO - Biographical Note

Was born in Bilbao in Northern Spain, of Castillian parents. At school age was sent to London where she received all her formal education. At the same time her parents saw to it that she did not forget her native tongue, thus Isabelita grew up completely bilingual. She received her musical education at the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall School of music in London, and during the war made a special study of Spanish folklore under the noted Spanish musicologist, Eduardo Martinez Torner. She became a well-known radio performer from 1941 on, appearing in many popular war-time programmes such as Variety Bandbox, Workers Playtime, Tuesday Serenade and many others, besides being heard in recital in the Home Service and in the Third Programme. She specialized in modern Spanish and Latin-American repertoire. In 1948 she gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall.

Since 1952 she has made her home in Canada, where she has broadcast in Sunday Morning and Distinguished Artists recitals, several times in "Songs of My People" the popular folksong series. Besides she played a principle role in the CBC's production of "Patience" by Gilbert and Sullivan, and has appeared as soloist in "Rhapsody", "Open House" and other TV programmes.

LA GALLINA QUE SE PERDIÓ

Yo tenía una gallina
quince reales me costó;
la compré por la mañana
por la tarde se perdió.

- Vecinas murmuradoras
que vivís alrededor,
habéis visto una gallina
que ayer tarde se perdió.

- Sí señora, la hemos visto,
que a mi pozo se cayó.
Cuando se estaba ahogando
cantaba co-co-ro-có.

Yo no siento la gallina
ni el precio que me costó.
Lo siento por los pollitos
porque siendo chiquititos
no pueden cantar el co-
co-co-ro-co-co-có,
co-co-ro-co-co-có.

THE HEN THAT GOT LOST

I had a hen;
it cost me fifteen reales.*
I bought it in the morning;
in the evening it got lost.

Gossiping neighbours
who live all around,
Have you seen a hen
which escaped yesterday afternoon?

"Yes ma'am", we've seen it,
"She fell in my pond."
While she was drowning she sang:
co-co-ro-co.

I'm not sorry about the hen
or the money she cost;
I'm sorry about the little chicks,
because they are so small
and they cannot sing
co-co-ro-co-co-co,
co-co-ro-co-co-co.

*a "real" is a small coin

LOS TRES RATONES

Por la calle abajito lerén-lerén,
van tres ratones lerén-lerén,

Uno va haciendo punto
y otro botones,

y otro lleva la cesta
de los melones.

THE THREE MICE

Down the street leren-leren,
Go three mice leren-leren.

One is knitting
And the other making buttons,

And the other carries the basket
For the melons.

ÉRASE UNA VIEJECITA

Érase una viejecita
sin nadita que comer,
sino carnes, frutas, dulces, tortas,
huevos pan y pez.
Siempre tuvo chocolate,
leche, vino, te y café;
y la pobre no encontraba
que comer ni que beber.

La-lara-la la-ra-lala-lira,
la lara-la lara-la-la-la.

Apetito nunca tuvo
si acababa de comer,
ni gozó salud cumplida
cuando no se hallaba bien.
Se murió de mal de arrugas
mas encorvada que un seis
y jamás volvió a quejarse
ni de hambre ni de sed.

La lara-la lara-la-la etc.

THERE WAS ONCE A LITTLE OLD LADY

There was once a little old lady
With nothing to eat
But meat, fruit, candies,
pies, eggs, bread and fish.
She always had chocolate,
milk, wine, tea and coffee;
and the poor old thing had
nothing to eat or drink.

La la la....

She never had any appetite
if she'd just finished eating
And she never had good health
when she wasn't feeling well.
She died of wrinkle-sickness
curved like a number six (6)
And she never complained again,
of being hungry or thirsty.

La la la la....

EL CABALLO TROTÓN

Una tarde salí al campo
con el ay, con el ay-ay-ay,
en mi caballo trotón, que-que,
con el levitín, que-que,
con el levitón,
con mi caballo trotón;
y me encontré con dos damas
que eran más guapas que el sol.

Las agarré de la mano
y las llevé al meson.

Pregunté si había cena
me dijeron, - Si señor.

Pregunté que cena había.
Dos gallinas y un capón.

Gallinas para las damas,
y el capón para el señor.

Pregunte si habia vino
me dijeron - Sí señor.

Pregunté que vino había.
Dos vasitos y un jarrón.

Vasitos para las damas,
y el jarrón para el señor.

THE TROTTING HORSE

One afternoon I went to the country
On my trotting horse.

I met two ladies
Who were fairer than the sun.

I took them by the hand
And led them to the Inn.

I asked if there was supper.
They said, "Yes, sir."

I asked what was for supper.
Two hens and a capon.

Hens for the ladies;
The capon for the gentleman.

I asked if there was wine.
They said, "Yes, sir!"

I asked what wine there was.
Two glasses and a jug.

Glasses for the ladies;
The jug for the gentleman.



LEVANTA JOSE

Levanta José, y enciende la vela,
y mira quien viene por la carretera.
Son los angelitos que van de carrera,
y llevan a un niño vestido de seda.
De quien es ese niño?
De María bella.
Dónde está María?
Hablando con Pablo.
Donde esta Pablo?
Hablando con Pedro,
que abre y que cierra
las puertas del cielo.

Ya vienen los reyes por los arenales
ya traen al niño sus ricos pañales.
Ya vienen los reyes por las arenillas
ya le traen al niño sus ricas mantillas.

Dónde está María, etc.

Ya vienen los reyes por aquellos cerros;
ya le traen al niño sus ricos fajeros.
Suenan la panderetas, ruido y más ruido,
porque las profecías ya se han cumplido.

Dónde está María, etc.

GET UP, JOSEPH!

Get up, Joseph, and light the candle,
and see who is coming down the road.
It's the little angels racing fast
and bringing the little boy dressed in silk.
Who is this little boy
He belongs to the fair Mary.
Where is Mary?
She's talking to Paul.
Where is Paul?
He's talking to Peter,
Who opens and closes
the gates of Heaven.

Here come the Kings across the deserts
They are bringing rich napkins for the baby
Here come the Kings across the sands,
Bringing the baby his rich shawls.

Who is that baby? etc.

Here come the Kings across those hills
They are bringing the baby his rich swaddling
clothes
The tambourines are ringing, loudly, more
loudly,
Because the prophecies have now been fulfilled.

Who is that baby? etc.

MI BURRO

A mi burro, a mi burro
le duele la cabeza,
el médico le ha puesto
una gorrita negra.
Una gorrita negra?
Una gorrita negra,

zapatitos lilá-la-la,
zapatitos lilá.

A mi burro, a mi burro,
le duele la garganta.
El médico le ha puesto
una bufanda blanca.

... le duelen las orejas.
El médico le ha dicho
que las tenga muy tiesas.

... le duele el corazón.
El médico le ha dado
jarabe de limon.

... le duelen las pezuñas.
El médico le ha dado
jarabe de lechuga.

... ya no le duele nada.
El médico le ha dado
jarabe de manzana.

Jarabe de manzana?
Jarabe de manzana,
jarabe de lechuga,
jarabe de limón,
que las tenga muy tiesas,
una bufanda blanca,
una gorrita negra,
zapatitas lilá-la-la,
zapatitos lilá.

MY DONKEY

My donkey, my donkey,
Has got an awful headache.
The doctor has told him,
To wear a black bonnet.
A little black bonnet?
A little black bonnet,
A pair of lilac shoes, la-la,
A pair of lilac shoes.

My donkey, my donkey,
Has got a sore throat.
The doctor has told him,
To wear a woollen scarf.

... has a pain in his ears.
The doctor has told him
To hold them up quite straight.

... has a pain in his heart.
The doctor has given him
syrup of lemon.

... has a pain in his hooves.
The doctor has given him
syrup of lettuce.

... no longer has a pain.
The doctor has given him
syrup of apples.
Syrup of apples?
Syrup of apples,
Syrup of lettuce,
Syrup of lemon,
To hold them up straight

To wear a woollen scarf,
To wear a black bonnet,
A pair of lilac shoes, la-la,
A pair of lilac shoes.

YO TENÍA DIEZ PERRITOS

Yo tenía diez perritos (bis)
y uno se murió de fiebre.
Ya no tengo más que nueve.

De los nueve que tenía,
uno se murió de tocho.
Ya no tengo más que ocho.

De los ocho que quedaban
uno se tragó un carrete.
Ya no tengo más que siete.

De los siete que quedaban,
uno le mató el expres
Ya no tengo más que seis.

De los seis que me quedaban,
uno se mató de un brinco,
ya no tengo más que cinco.

De los cinco que quedaban,
uno se mató de un salto;
ya no quedan más que cuatro.

De los cuatro que quedaban,
uno se murió de sed;
ya no tengo más que tres.

De los tres que me quedaban,
uno se murió de tos.
Ya no tengo más que dos.

De los dos que me quedaban,
uno se murió de susto.
Ya no tengo más que uno.

El uno que me quedaba,
se perdió por un gran cerro.
Ya no tengo ningún perro.

TEN LITTLE PUPPY DOGS

I had ten little puppy dogs;
One died of fever.
Now I have only nine.

I had nine little puppy dogs.
One died of measles.
Now I only have eight.

One swallowed a reel.
Now I have seven.

One was killed by a train.
Now I have six.

One jumped too high;
Now I have five.

One jumped too much;
Now I have four.

One died of a cough;
Now I have three.

One died of fright;
Now I have one.

The one I had left,
Got lost on a high mountain.

I have no more little puppy dogs.

NANA

Hala, nana, nanita,
mi niño duerme,
con el ojito abierto
como la liebre.

A dormir va la rosa
de los rosales,
a dormir va mi niño
que es ya muy tarde.

Duermete niño hermoso,
duerme y no llores,
que tu madre querida
va a buscar flores.

LULLABY

Lulla, lullaby,
My little one sleeps,
With his eyes open
Like a hare.

The rose on the brier,
sleeps;
My little one is going to sleep,
For it is late.

Sleep, sweet baby,
Sleep and don't cry;
For your darling mother,
Is going to look for flowers.

A LA FLOR, A LA PITIFLOR

A la flor, a la pitiflor,
y a la verde oliva,
a los rayos del sol
se peina una niña.

Tanto reloj de oro
tanta cadena,
y al llegar a su casa
no tienen cena.

y ellas disponen
que les pongan la mesa
con un pañuelo,
un tenedor de palo
y un mal puchero.

El puchero está roto
tiene una raja,
y por allí se sale la calabaza.

Tanto vestido blanco
tanta parola,
y el puchero a la lumbre
con agua sola.

TO THE FLOWER, TO THE LITTLE FLOWER

To the flower, to the little flower
To the green olive,
In a ray of sunshine
A little girl
Combs her hair.

All these gold watches,
All these gold chains,
But when they get home,
They have nothing to eat.

They set the table with a handkerchief,
A wooden fork and an old pot.

The pot is broken
It has a crack,
And the pumpkin soup leaks out of it.

So many white dresses,
And such a show!
And the pot on the fire,
Only has water in it!

ERES MÁS HERMOSA NIÑA

Eres más hermosa niña
que la nieve en el barranco,
y la rosa en el rosal,
y la azucena en el campo.

Lunes sí, martes no,
miércoles sí, pero jueves no,
sábado viene mi moreno.

La rosita en el rosal
si no la cogen se pasa;
así te pasará a ti,
si tu madre no te casa.

Desde aquí la estoy ya viendo
la rosa entre las espinos;
y no la puedo coger
vayan y vengan suspiros.

LITTLE GIRL, YOU ARE LOVELIER

Little girl, you are lovelier
Than the snow on the ravine,
And the rose on the brier,
And the lily in the field.

Monday yes, tuesday no,
Wednesday yes, but thursday no,
Saturday my brown sweetheart is coming.

The rose on the brier
Will fade if it is not taken;
That will happen to you
If your mother does not let you marry.

I can see her from here -
The rose among the thorns;
And I cannot pick her.
My sighs come and go.

ESTA NOCHE HA LLOVIDO

Esta noche ha llovido,
manana hay barro;
cuatro pares de mulas
tiene mi carro.

La Virgen de Loreto
tiene un perrito,
que ni come ni bebe
y esta gordito.

Ventanas a calle
son peligrosas
para el padre que tenga
hijas hermosas.

TONIGHT IT HAS RAINED

Tonight it has rained,
Tomorrow it will be muddy;
There are four pairs of mules
Drawing my cart.

The Virgin of Loreto
Has a little dog,
Who neither eats nor drinks,
But remains fat.

A father with beautiful daughters,
should not have windows that look
out on the street.

ENTRE LAS MATAS Y ENTRE LAS FLORES

Entre las matas y entre las flores
hay un nidito de ruiseñores
unos sons grandes, grandes grandones,
y otros son chicos, chiquirritones.

No duermas nina de mis amores
tiempo ha te esperan los ruiseñores.
Cuando el sol salga en los albores
han de cantarte los ruiseñores.

AMONG THE PLANTS AND FLOWERS

Among the plants and the flowers
There's a little nest of nightingales.
Some are very big ones
And some are very, very small ones.

Don't sleep, my darling little girl,
The nightingales have been waiting
for you,
When the sun rises at daybreak,
The nightingales will sing to you.

QUE LE MANDA USTED AL POLLITO?

Que le manda usted al pollito?
Yo no tengo que mandarle.
Le mandaré una camisa,
que se la ponga su madre.

Ay que bonito estará el pollito
encamisado, elorigado, elorigüela;
y ahora si que el pollo vuela.

Que le manda usted al pollito?
Yo no tengo que mandarle.
Le mandaré una corbata
que se la ponga su madre.

Ay que bonito estará el pollito,
encorbatado, encamisado etc. etc.

.... le mandaré unos calzones...

Ay que bonito estará el pollito,
encalzonado, encorbatado, encamisado,
elorigado, eloriguela,
y ahora si que el pollo vuela.

WHAT WILL YOU SEND THE LITTLE CHICKEN?

What will you send the little chicken?
I have nothing to send him.
I'll send him a shirt
For his mother to put on him.

Oh how pretty the chicken will be,
with his shirt on, "elorigado, eloriguela"
Now the chicken will fly away!

What will you send the little chicken?
I have nothing to send him.
I'll send him a tie,
For his mother to put on him.

Oh how pretty the little chicken will be,
with his shirt on, with his tie on etc. etc.

.... I'll send him some shorts...

Oh how pretty the chicken will be,
with his shorts on, with his tie on,
with his shirt on, "elorigado, eloriguela"
And now the chicken will fly away!

CON MI REAL Y MEDIO

Con mi real y medio
me compré una polla.
Ay señores, señores que polla!
Y la polla me puso unos huevos,
y ahora me queda
la polla, los huevos,
y tambien me queda
mi real y medio.

Con mi real y medio
me compré una cabra.
Ay señores.... etc.
Y la cabra me dió un cabrito,

y ahora me queda la cabra, el cabrito,
la polla, los huevos,
y tambien me queda
mi real y medio.

... me compré una vaca.

.....
Y la vaca me dió un chotito
y ahora me queda
la vaca, el chotito... etc.

..... me compré una cerda.

.....
y la cerda me dió un cerdito,
y ahora me queda..... etc.

..... me compré una yegua

.....
y la yegua me dió un mulito,
y ahora me queda
la yegua, el mulito,
la cerda, el cerdito,
la vaca, el chotito,
la cabra, el cabrito,
la polla, los huevos,
y tambien me queda
mi real y medio.

WITH MY DIME AND A HALF

With my dime and a half
I bought a hen.
Oh, ladies and gentlemen,
What a hen!
And the hen laid me some eggs,
And now I have,
The hen, the eggs,
And I also have
My dime and a half.

..... I bought a nanny goat.

.....
And the nanny gave me a kid,
And now I have the nanny, the kid,
The hen, the eggs,
And I also have
my dime and a half.

..... I bought a cow.

.....
And the cow gave me a calf,
And now I have
The cow, the calf... etc.

..... I bought a sow.

.....
And the sow gave me a piglet
And now I have..... etc.

.... I bought a mare.

.....
And the mare gave me a little mule,
and now I have the mare, the mule,
The sow and the piglet,
The cow and the calf,
The nanny and the kid,
The hen and the eggs,
And I also have
My dime and a half.

EL "PIEJO" Y LA PULGA

"piejo" - piojo.

El "piejo" y la pulga se quieren casar,
y no tienen torta para merendar.

Sale la hormiguita de su hormigal:

- Si va a ser la boda
yo pondre un costal.

Contentos estamos
pues pan ya tenemos;
por falta de vino
no nos casaremos.

Contesta el mosquito desde su tinaja:

- Si va a ser la boda
yo pondré una jarra.

Contentos estamos
pues vino tenemos;
por falta de aumada
no nos casaremos.

Sale la culebra larga y estirada:

- Si va a ser la boda
yo seré la aumada.

Contentos estamos
aumada tenemos;
por falta de cama
no nos casaremos.

Responde el herizo con su bella lana:

- Si va a ser la boda
yo seré la cama.

Contentos estamos
pues cama tenemos;
por falta de padrino
no nos casaremos.

Contesta el ratón, cara de cochino:

- Si va a ser la boda,
yo seré el padrino.

Contentos estamos
padrino tenemos;
por falta de madrina
no nos casaremos.

Contesta la rana desde sus orillas:

- Si va a ser la boda
yo seré madrina.

Contentos estamos
madrina tenemos;
por faltar quien baile
no nos casaremos.

Contesta la loba desde su lobera desde su lobera:

- Hágase la boda
yo daré carreras.

Contentos estamos
quien baile tenemos;
por faltar quién cante
no nos casaremos.

Contesta el borrico desde su pajar:

- Hágase la boda
que yo iré a cantar.

Estando cenando
todos los vecinos,
llegó el gato negro
y se llevó al padrino.

La madrina, que ve
el pleito mal pagado,
de un ligero salto
se subió al tejado.

THE BUG AND THE FLEA

The bug and the flea want to marry,
And they have no loaf for dinner.

The little ant comes out of her ant hill:

"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll bring some flour".

We are happy because we
have bread,
For want of wine we cannot
wed.

The mosquito replies from its swamp:

"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll bring a flagon."

We are happy
because we have wine;
For want of smoked sausage
we cannot wed."

Out comes the snake long and skinny:

"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll be the sausage."

We are happy
because we have sausage;
For want of a bed,
we cannot wed.

Out speaks the hedgehog, with his beautiful wool:

"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll be the bed."

We are happy
because we have a bed;
For want of a best man
we cannot wed.

Out speaks the mouse with his face like a piglet:

"If there's going to be a wedding,
I'll be best man."

We are happy
because we have a best man;
For want of a bridesmaid
we cannot wed.

Out speaks the frog from the shore:

"If there's going to be a wedding
I'll be the bridesmaid.

We are happy
because we have a bridesmaid;
We have no-one to dance
so we cannot wed."

The she-wolf answers from her lair:

"Let the wedding take place.
I will dance around."

We are happy
because we have
someone to dance;
for lack of a singer
we cannot wed."

The donkey answers from his hayrick:

"Let the wedding take place,
I'll come and sing."

As the neighbours sat feasting,
along came the black cat
and carried off the best man.

When the bridesmaid saw
the party was breaking up,
she gave a jump
and landed on the roof.

LORD PUSSY CAT

As Lord Pussy Cat
sat on the roof
miaow-miaow-miaow-miaow-miaow,
was sitting on the roof,

he received a letter
(to ask if) he wanted to marry
miaow etc.
if he wanted to marry

a little white kitten
niece of a tabby cat,
Miaow etc.
niece of a tabby cat.

The cat, on going off to see her
fell off the roof,

and broke seven ribs,
his tail and spinal column.

They quickly call doctors,
doctors and surgeons.

They take him away to bury him
down Fish Street,

and the rats and the mice
go dancing along in front.

Now the enemy is dead
who used to catch us for supper.

At the smell of the sardines
the cat revives.

That's why people say:
A cat has seven lives.

SEÑOR DON GATO

Estando el señor don Gato
sentadito en el tejado
marra-miau-miau-miau-miau,
sentadito en el tejado,

ha recibido una carta
que si quiere ser casado,
marra-miau-miau-miau-miau,
que si quiere ser casado,

con una gatita blanca
sobrina de un gato pardo,
marra-miau-miau-miau-miau,
sobrina de un gato pardo.

El gato por ir a verla
se ha caído del tejado,

se ha roto siete costillas
la cola y el espinazo.

Lllaman doctores aprisa
doctores y cirujanos.

Ya le llevan a enterrar
por la calle del pescado,

y las ratas y ratones
van delante bailando.

Y se ha muerto el enemigo
que nos cazaba cenando.

Al olor de las sardinas
el gato se ha resucitado.

Y por eso dice la gente:
Siete vidas tiene un gato.