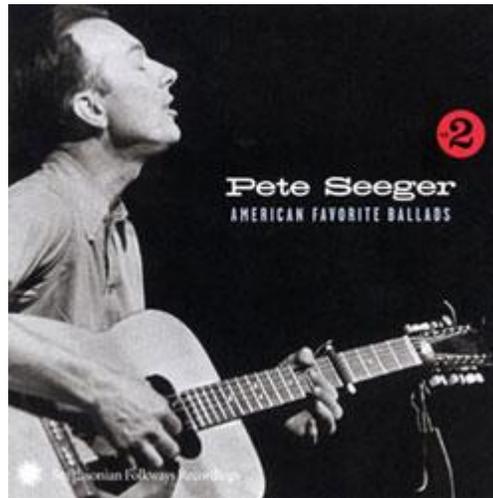




American Favorite Ballads, Vol. 2 Lyrics

Pete Seeger SFW40151



*All Lyrics Appear With Permission of Publishers

1. Barbara Allen 2:53

In Scarlet Town where I was born
There was a fair maid dwelling.
Made many a youth cry well-a-day.
Her name was Barbara Allen.

It was in the merry month of May
When green buds they were swelling,
Sweet William came from the west country,
And he courted Barbara Allen.

He sent his servant unto her
To the place where she was dwelling.
Said, "My master's sick, bids me call for you,
If your name be Barbara Allen."

Well, slowly, slowly got she up,
And slowly went she nigh him.
But all she said as she passed his bed,
"Young man, I think you're dying."

Then lightly tripped she down the stairs.
She heard those church bells tolling;
And each bell seemed to say as it toiled,
"Hard-hearted Barbara Allen."

AOh Mother, Mother go make my bed,
And make it long and narrow.
Sweet William died for me today.
I'll die for him tomorrow."

They buried Barbara in the old churchyard.
They buried Sweet William beside her.
Out of his grave grew a red, red rose,
And out of hers a briar.

2. Young Man Who Wouldn't Hoe Corn 1:37

I'll sing you a song it's not very long.
About a young man who wouldn't hoe corn.
Strange to say, I cannot tell.



This young man was always well.

He planted his corn in the month of June
And by July it was knee-high.
First of September come a big frost,
And all this young man's corn was lost.

He went to the fence and there peeked in.
The weeds and the grass come up to his chin.
The weeds and the grass they grew so high,
It caused this young man for to sigh.

He went down to his neighbor's door
Where he had often been before.
Saying, "Pretty little miss, will you marry me?
Pretty little miss, what do you say?"

"Here you are a-wantful for to wed,
And cannot make your own cornbread.
Single I am, and single I'll remain.
A lazy man I'll not maintain."

Well, he went down to a pretty little widder.
And I hope by heck that he don't get her.
She gave him the mitten sure as you're born
All because he wouldn't hoe corn.

3. Midnight Special 3:07

One day, one day Sir
I was walking along,
And I heard that Special
Singing a lonesome song.

CHORUS:
Let the Midnight Special
Shine her light on me.
Let the Midnight Special
Shine her ever-loving light on me.

Yonder come little Rosie.
How in the world do you know?
I can tell her by her apron
And the dress she wore.

Umbrella on her shoulder,
Piece of paper in her hand,

She goes a-marching to the captain,
Says, "I want my man."

(CHORUS)

If you go down to Houston,
Boy, you better walk right.
You better not stagger,
And you better not fight.

Sheriff Benson will arrest you.
He'll take you down.
And if the jury finds you guilty,
You're penitentiary bound.

(CHORUS)

Now you wake up in the morning.
You hear the ding-dong ring.
You go a-marching to the table.
You see the same damn thing.

Knife and fork are on the table,
And nothing in my pan.
You say anything about it,
You're in trouble with the man.

(CHORUS)

Now old Huddie Ledbetter,
He was a mighty fine man.
Huddie taught this song
To the whole wide land.

But now he's done with all his grieving,
Whooping, hollering and a-crying.
He's done with all his studying
About his great long time.

(CHORUS)

4. House of the Rising Sun 2:38

There is a house in New Orleans
They call the Rising Sun.
It's been the ruin of many a poor girl,
And me, oh God, am one



My mother, she's a tailor.
She sews those new blue jeans.
My husband, he's a gambling man
Drinks down in New Orleans.

My husband, he's a gambler.
He goes from town to town.

The only time he's satisfied
Is when he drinks his liquor down.

Go tell my baby sister
Never do like I have done.
Shun that house in New Orleans
They call the Rising Sun.

One foot on the platform.
The other's on the train.
I'm going down to New Orleans
To wear the ball and chain.

Going back to New Orleans.
My race is almost run.
I'm going to spend the rest of my life
Beneath that rising sun.

5. Careless Love 3:07
Love, oh love, oh careless love, (3x)
You see what love has done to me.

I love my mama and papa too. (3x)
I'd leave them both to go with you.

What, oh what will Mama say, (3x)
When she learns I've gone astray?

Once I wore my apron low. (3x)
I couldn't scarcely keep you from my door.

Now my apron strings don't pin. (3x)
You pass my door and you don't come in.

Don't you marry a railroad man. (2x)
A railroad man will kill you if he can,
And he'll drink your blood, drink it like wine

6. Oh, What a Beautiful City 3:30

Oh, what a beautiful city. (3x)
Twelve gates to the city, Hallelujah!

CHORUS:
Three gates in the north, three gates in the south,
Three gates in the west, three gates in the
east. There's twelve gates to the city, Hallelujah!
My God done just what he said. There's twelve
gates to the city, Hallelujah!
He healed the sick and he raised the dead.
There's twelve gates to the city, Hallelujah!

(CHORUS)

When I get to heaven, going to sing and shout.
There's twelve gates to the city, Hallelujah!
Ain't nobody there going to put me out.
There's twelve gates to the city, Hallelujah!

(CHORUS)

Who are those people dressed in red?
There's twelve gates to the city, Hallelujah! It
Must be the children that Moses led There's
twelve gates to the city, Hallelujah (CHORUS)

7. Poor Boy 2:15

Who's gonna shoe your pretty little foot?
Who's gonna glove your hand?
Who's gonna kiss your red ruby lips?
Who's gonna be your man?

Papa will shoe my pretty little foot.
Mama will glove my hand.
Sister's gonna kiss my red ruby lips.
I don't need no man.

I don't need no man, poor boy.
I don't need no man.
Sister's gonna kiss my red ruby lips.
I don't need no man.

Longest train I ever did see
Was sixteen coaches long.
The only girl I ever did love
Was on that train and gone.



8. Sally Ann 1:30

Did you ever see a muskrat, Sally Ann?
Dragging his slick tail through the sand,
Picking a banjo, Sally Ann?
I'm gonna marry you, Sally Ann.

I'm gonna marry you, Sally Ann. (4x)

Make my living in sandy land. (3x)
I'm gonna marry you, Sally Ann.

9. Riddle Song 2:28

I gave my love a cherry that had no stone.
I gave my love a chicken that had no bone.
I gave my love a story that had no end.
I gave my love a baby that's no crying.

How can there be a cherry that has no stone?
How can there be a chicken that has no bone?
How can there be a story that has no end?
How can there be a baby that's no crying?

A cherry when it's blooming, it has no stone.
A chicken when it's pippin', it has no bone.
The story that I love you, it has no end.
A baby when it's sleeping, it's no crying.

10. Go Tell Aunt Rhody 3:14

Go tell Aunt Rhody (3x)
That the old grey goose is dead.

The one she's been saving (3x)
To make a feather bed.

Old gander's weeping (3x)
Because his wife is dead.

And the goslings are mourning (3x)
Because their mother's dead.

She died in the mill pond (3x)
Standing on her head.

Go tell Aunt Rhody that the old gray goose is
dead.

11. Water is Wide 3:37

The water is wide; I cannot get over.
Neither have I wings to fly.
Give me a boat that can carry two.
And both shall row, my love and I.

A ship there is, and she sails the sea.
She's loaded deep as deep can be.
But not so deep as the love I'm in.
And I know not how I sink or swim.

I leaned my back up against some young oak,
Thinking he was a trusty tree.
But first he bended, and then he broke.
And thus did my false love to me.

I put my hand into some soft bush,
Thinking the sweetest flower to find.
I pricked my finger to the bone,
And left the sweetest flower alone.

Oh, love is handsome, and love is fine,
Gay as a jewel when first it is new.
But love grows old and waxes cold,
And fades away like the summer dew.

12. The Fox 2:05

The fox went out on a chilly night,
Prayed for the moon to give him light.
For he'd many a mile to go that night
Before he reached the town-o.
Town-o, town-o
He'd many a mile to go that night
Before he reached the town-o.

He ran till he came to a great big bin.
The ducks and the geese were put therein.
Said, "Couple of you will grease my chin
Before I leave this town-o."
Town-o, town-o
"Couple of you will grease my chin
Before I leave this town-o."

He grabbed the grey goose by the neck.



Slung the little one over his back.
He didn't mind their "quack, quack, quack,"
And the legs all dangling down-o.
Down-o, Down-o
He didn't mind their "quack, quack, quack,"
And the legs all dangling down-o.

Old mother pitter-patter jumped out of bed.
Out of the window, she cocked her head.
Crying, "John, John, the grey goose is gone,
And the fox is on the town-o."
Town-o, town-o.
"John, John, the grey goose is gone,
And the fox is on the town-o."

John, he went to the top of the hill,
Blew his horn both loud and shrill.
The fox, he said, "Better flee with my kill.
He'll soon be on my trail-o."
Trail-o, trail-o.

"Better flee with my kill.
He'll soon be on my trail-o."

He ran till he came to his cozy den.
There were the little ones, eight, nine, ten.

They said, "Daddy, better go back again,
'Cause it must be a mighty fine town-o.
Town-o, town-o.
"Daddy, better go back again,
'Cause it must be a mighty fine town-o.

Then the fox and his wife without any strife
Cut up the goose with fork and knife.
They never had such a supper in their life,
And the little ones chewed on the bones-o.
Bones-o, bones-o.
They never had such a supper in their life,
And the little ones chewed on the bones-o.

13. The Keeper and the Doe 2:12

The keeper did a-hunting go.
Under his cloak he carried a bow,
All for to shoot the merry little doe
Among the leaves so green-o.

The first doe, she did cross the plain.
The keeper fetched her back again.
Where she is now, she may remain
Among the leaves so green-o.

The next doe she did cross the brook.
The keeper fetched her back with his crook.
Where she is now, you may go and look
Among the leaves so green-o.

The next doe, she ran over the plain.
But he with his hounds did turn her again.
There he did hunt in a merry, merry vein
Among the leaves so green-o.

14. Pretty Polly 3:41

I courted pretty Polly the live-long night (2x)
And left her next morning before it was light.

"Pretty Polly, pretty Polly, go away with me (2x)
Before we get married some pleasure to see.

He led her over hills and the valley so deep (2x)
Until pretty Polly, she commenced to weep.

He led her a little farther and what did they spy (2x)
But a new-dug grave with a spade lying by.

"Oh Willy, oh Willy, I'm afraid of your way. (2x)
I'm afraid you will lead my poor body astray."

"Pretty Polly, pretty Polly, you guessed just about right. (2x)
I dug on your grave biggest part of last night."

She throw'd her arms around him and trembled with fear. (2x)
"How can you kill a girl that was to you so dear?"

He stabbed her to the heart, her heart's blood it did flow, (2x)
Into the grave pretty Polly did go.



He throw'd a little dirt over her and started for
home L2x)
Leaving nothing behind but the wild birds to
moan.

15. Jesse James 4:33

Jesse James was a lad. He killed many a man.
He robbed the Glendale train.
He took from the rich, and he gave to the poor.

He'd a hand and a heart and a brain.

Oh Jesse had a wife to mourn for his life
Three children, they were brave;
But that dirty little coward that shot Mr.
Howard,
He laid poor Jesse in his grave.

It was on a Saturday night, and the moon was
shining bright,
They robbed the Glendale train.
With the agent on his knees, he delivered up the
keys
To these outlaws Frank and Jesse James.

The people held their breath when they heard of
Jesse's death.
They wondered how he ever came to fall.
Robert Ford, it was a fact, shot Jesse in the back
While Jesse hung a picture on the wall.

Oh Jesse was a man, a friend of the poor.
He'd never rob a mother or a child.
He took from the rich, and he gave to the poor.
So they shot Jesse James on the sly.

Well, this song was made up by Billy Gashade
As soon as the news did arrive.
He said there was no man with the law in his
hand
Who could take Jesse James when alive.

16. Stagolee 2:16

Stagolee was a bad man
Everybody knows,
Spent one hundred dollars

Just to buy him a suit of clothes;

CHORUS:
He was a bad man
That mean old Stagolee.

Stagolee shot Billy de Lyons
What do you think about that,
Shot him down in cold blood
Because he stole his Stetson hat;

CHORUS:

Billy de Lyons said, Stagolee
Please don't take my life,
I've got two little babes
And a darling, loving wife;

CHORUS:
What do I care about your wife
Your two little darling babes,
You done stole my Stetson hat
I'm bound to take your life;

CHORUS:

The judge said, Stagolee,
What you doing in here,
You done shot Mr. Billy de Lyons
You going to doe in the electric chair;

CHORUS:

Twelve o'clock they killed him
Head reached up high,
Last thing that poor boy said
My six-shooter never lied.

CHORUS:

17. Black is the Color of My True Loves Hair 2:29

Black, black, black is the color of my true love's
hair,
Her face is something wondrous fair;
The purest eyes and the daintiest hands.
I love the ground on which she stands.



I know my love and well she knows,
I'll follow her where'er she goes;
I'll write her a letter containing these lines
I'll suffer death a thousand times.

I'll go to trouble some to morn, to weep,
But satisfied I'll never be;
If she on earth no more would stay
My life would quickly fade away.

18. Camptown Races 1:31

Gwine to run all night, gwine to run all day,
I bet my money on a bob-tailed nag, somebody
bet
on the bay.

Oh, the Camptown lady sing this song, doo-da,
doo-da,
Camptown race track's eight miles long, Oh, dee
doo da day.

Oh, the long tailed Lilly and the big black horse,
Come to a mud hole and they all cut across.

I went down South with my hat caved in,
I come back North with a pocket full of tin.

19. Blow the Man Down 2:02

CHORUS

Oh, blow the man down bullies, blow the man
down,
To me way! hey! - Blow the man down!
Blow the man down, bullies, blow him away,
Give me some time to blow the man down.

As I was a-walking down Paradise Street,
To me way! hey! - Blow the man down!
A pretty young damsel I chanced for to meet,
Give me some time to blow the man down.

(CHORUS)

She hailed me with her flipper, I took her in tow,
To me way! hey! - Blow the man down!

Yard-arm to yard-arm, away we did go,
Give me some time to blow the man down.

(CHORUS)

As soon as that packet was clear of the bar,
To me way! hey! - Blow the man down!
The mate knocked me down with the end of a
spar,
Give me some time to blow the man down.

(CHORUS)

It's yard-arm to yard-arm, away you will sprawl,
Way! hey! - Blow the man down!
For kicking Jack Rogers commands the Black
Ball
Give me some time to blow the man down.

20. Froggie Went A Courtin' 2:53

Froggie went a-courtin' and he did ride,
Ah-ha, ah-hah.
Froggie went a-courtin' and he did ride,
A sword and pistol by his side,
Ah-hah, ah-hah.

Well, he rode down to Miss Mousie's door..
Where he'd often been before Y

He took Miss Mousie on his knee.
Said, "Miss Mousie will you marry me?"...

I'll have to ask my Uncle Rat...
To see what he do say to that...

Without my Uncle Rat's consent...
I would not marry the president...

Well, Uncle Rat laughed and shook his fat
sides...
To think his niece would be a bride..

Well, Uncle Rat rode off to town..
To buy his niece a wedding gown..

Well, where will the wedding supper be..
Way down yonder in the holler tree..



And what will the wedding supper be..
A fried mosquito and a roasted flea..

Well, first to come in were two little ants..
Fixin' around to have a dance..

And next to come was a bumblebee..
Balancing a fiddle on his knee..

And next to come was a big tom cat..
He swallowed the frog and the mouse and the rat...

And last come in was a big old snake..
He chased the party in the lake..

21. I Had a Rooster (Barnyard Song) 3:51

I had a rooster and the rooster pleased me,
I fed my rooster on a green berry tree;
The little rooster went cockadoodle-do-de
Doodle-de-doodle-de-doodle-de-day.

I had a cat and the cat pleased me.
I fed my cat on a green berry tree;
The little cat goes meouw, meouw, meouw,
The little rooster goes cockadoodle-do-de
Doodle-de-doodle-de-doodle-de-day.

I had a duck, etc.
I had a pig, etc.
I had a cow, etc.
I had a lion, etc.
I had a baby, etc.

22. Putting on the Style 2:46

Young man in a carriage,
Driving like he's mad,
With a pair of horses
He borrowed from his dad.
He cracks his whip so lively
Just to see his lady smile;
But she knows he's only
Putting on the style.

CHORUS:

Putting on the agony
Putting on the style;
That's what all the young folks
Are doing all the while.
And as I look around me

I'm very apt to smile,
To see so many people
Putting on the style.

Sweet sixteen goes to church
Just to see the boys;

Laughs and giggles
At every little noise.
She turns this way a little,
Then turns that way a while,
But everybody knows she's only
Putting on the style.

CHORUS

Young man in a restaurant,
Smokes a dirty pipe,
Looking like a pumpkin
That's only half-way ripe.
Smoking, drinking, chewing
And thinking all the while
That there's nothing equal
To putting on the style.

CHORUS:

Young man just from college,
Makes a big display,
With a great big jawbreak
That he can hardly say;
It can't be found in Webster's
And won't be for a while.
But everybody knows he's only
Putting on the style.

CHORUS:

Preacher in the pulpit,
Shouting with all his might;
Glory, Hallelujah!



Put the people in a fright.

You might think it's Satan
Coming up and down the aisle,
But it's only preacher
Putting on the style.

CHORUS:

23. Farmer's Curst Wife 2:53

There was an old man lived over the hills
If he ain't moved out he's living there still.

Come a fah-dee-ing ding, da dee-ing etc.

Well, the devil come up to him one day

Said one of your family I'm gonna take away.

Please don't take my eldest son
There's work on the farm and it's got to be done.

O, it's not your eldest son I crave
It's your scolding wife I'm going to take away.

Well, the old man jumped up with a start
Saying you can take her with all my heart.

The devil picked her up upon his back
He looked like an eagle scared off the wrack.

He carried her on about a mile down the road
Saying olld woman, you're a helluva load.

He carried her down to the gates of hell
Saying poke up the fire. we'll scorch her well.

There were two little devils with ball and chain
Up with here foot and she kicked out their
brains.

Nine little devils went climbing up the wall
Saying take her back Daddy, she'll murder us all.

I get up next morning, I peeked out of the crack
I seen the old devil dragging her back.

He said here's your wife, both sound and well
If I had kept her there longer, she'd have torn up
hell.

This only goes to show you what a woman can
do

She can whup out the devil and her husband too.

It shows one advantage women have over men
They can go down to hell and come back again.

24. Alabama Bound 2:19

I'm Alabama bound, (2x)
And if the train don't stop and turn around,
I'm Alabama bound.

Oh, don't you leave me here. (2x)
But if you must go anyhow, leave me a dime for
beer.
I'm Alabama bound, etc.

Oh, don't you be like me (2x)
Drink your good sherry wine, and let the
whiskey be.
I'm Alabama bound, etc

26. Dink's Song 2:40

If I had wings like Noah's dove,
I'd fly up the river to the one I love,
Fare thee well, oh honey, fare thee well.

That gal I love, she's long and tall.
She moves her body like a cannonball.

One of these days, and it won't be long,
You call my name, and I'll be gone.

One of these nights, was a drizzling rain,
All around my heart was an aching pain.

If I had wings, like Noah's dove,
I'd fly up the river, to the one I love