

SAM GARY SINGS



PROGRAM

Side A

RED SUN

* Langston Hughes

GO DOWN MOSES

TROUBLES OF THE WORLD

MOTHERLESS CHILD

Side B

GO WAY FROM MY WINDOW

WHIRL AND TWIRL ME

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

SCANDALIZE MY NAME

A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

SHENANDOAH

To the Listener:

One of the more remarkable facts of the remarkable recording industry is that in the current decade-old rush to wax folk music, Sam Gary has somehow been overlooked. Though Gary (nobody calls him Sam) has appeared in innumerable clubs from coast to coast and sung with the most prominent folk musicians of the country for the past twenty years, **TRANSITION'S** first folk album is also Gary's first solo effort to be recorded.

Since this is his first album, a short biography is in order. Gary was born forty years ago in Bainbridge Georgia. His folks had changed the old maxim "A family that prays together stays together" into one more suited to their own circumstances - "A family that sings together, stays together." Gary, his parents, his four brothers and five sisters formed an even dozen whose voices were constantly raised in song.

When they moved to Orlando Florida in the Twenties, the family became the backbone of the church choir as they had been in Georgia. Gary formed his first quartet while in high school in Orlando and they fitted their singing dates around the schedule of the football team of which they were all members.

When Gary moved on to Florida Memorial College, most of the quartet went with him and their singing tours (which couldn't begin until after football season) took them all over the country and helped support the college.

He came north for a "short visit" in 1936 and has remained here ever since. He began his professional career as a singing waiter at Sarenac Lakes. In 1938, "The Story of John Henry" opened on Broadway at the St. James theatre. Gary played the role of Sam, the philandering city man who makes off with John Henry's woman. Also in the cast, playing the role of Blind Lemon was a young man named Joshua White. There began an association which has lasted for eighteen years. Together with Josh's brother Bill and Bayard Rustin they formed a quartet called The Carolinians whose first album on Columbia, "Chain Gang" has become a valued collector's item among folksong enthusiasts.

The Carolinians disbanded in 1942 but Gary and Josh continued to appear together throughout the war for the USO, and at Cafe Society Downtown where their fantastically long run is remembered with delight by thousands of New Yorkers. Since that they have sung in every major city in the North and West and in most European countries. Gary for a time sang bass with the famed Golden Gate Quartet and has also appeared in concerts with Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger and Burl Ives, to name only a few.

-- Dean Laurence

SAM





DEAN & SAM

TRANSITION'S FOLK SERIES

The inclusion of the letter "F" in the code number of this record indicates that it is one of the albums belonging to TRANSITION'S series of folk records.

In coming months TRANSITION will release several recordings featuring the talents of new and exciting folk artists as well as those of already familiar figures. Among those presented will be albums by ODETTA, SONNY TERRY, JO MAPES, DEAN LAURENCE, PETE STEIN AND RAPHAEL BOGUSLAV. Further titles in the series will be announced within the year.

Also in the offering is a series featuring folk songs at the colleges. It has long been recognized (and lamented) by folk-enthusiasts that the traditional cultures of America which had added voluminously to the mainstream of folk music of the English - The Ozarks, The Southern Appalachians, The Westland Southwest, the Whaling Ports of New England, etc. ... were ceasing to produce new material due to the rapid technological advances which have penetrated them. Folk music has now become the province of the student - n.b.: the student, not the scholar.

In colleges all over America folk music is enjoying an unparalleled revival which has spread the interest in traditional music even into the popular field. TRANSITION will soon present the folk music heard most often on campus as sung by the enthusiastic folksingers of Harvard, Swarthmore, Black Mountain, etc., as well as those of the Universities of the mid- and far West.

Watch for them!

artists

jazz:

DONALD BYRD*
HORACE SILVER
JIM ZITANO
DANNY KENT
HERB POMEROY
ART BLAKEY
BERNARD McKINNEY*
JAY MIGLORI
HANK MOBLEY
CURTIS FULLER*
HINDALL BUTTS*
DOUG WATKINS
JOHNNY WINDHURST
JIM ANDREWS
VARTY HAROUTUNIAN
TOMMY BALL*
YUSEF LATEEF*
RAY SANTISI
JOE GORDON

folk:

SAM GARY*
ODETTA*
BOGUSLAV*
JO MAPES*
PETE STEIN*
DEAN LAURENCE*

classical:

RUSSELL WOOLEN

mood:

LOVELADY*
... Lovey Powell

* under exclusive contract with Transition.

COMING IN SERIES f

CHICAGO BLUES - trlp F-2

GARY SINGS THE GOSPEL - trlp F-3

BOGUSLAV - trlp F-4

JO MAPES - trlp F-5

DEAN LAURENCE - trlp F-6

SAM GARY SINGS....

....a DEAN LAURENCE production

Cover Art & Photographs:
Nick Dean

TRANSITION