

Canadian Folk Music

Musique folklorique canadienne



From the CSTM archives: a kitchen songalong

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Browsing Our Back Pages:

A Way of Studying Canadian Folk Music

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From the Editors



You will no doubt be surprised to receive this issue of *Canadian Folk Music*. After all, it is about five years late, and it is now several years since we handed over editorial responsibilities to Gillian Turnbull. We have always felt bad that issue 44.4 was missing from the record. Gillian started a new volume (45) when she took over in a very reasonable effort to catch up with our publication schedule in 2011, and we had intended to handle one more issue ourselves. But the main article we had counted on was never delivered by its author and we were pretty burnt out ourselves by then. Anyway, life got in the way and 44.4 never materialized when it should have.

Until now, that is. Dave teaches a graduate course for Athabasca University titled *Studying Canadian Folk Music* and one of his students remarked how useful she found many of the readings from *Canadian Folk Music* and its predecessor, *Canadian Folk Music Bulletin*. And that started him thinking. Why not use this missing issue to provide a useful, online guide to articles in back issues that are indeed valuable primary and/or secondary sources for anyone interested in exploring Canadian vernacular music? So that is what we have tried to do.

We haven't kept to *Canadian Folk Music* as our only source, since it would be a shame not to mention equally valuable material in CSTM's other venerable publication which is now named *MUSICultures* but which used to be called the *Canadian Journal for Traditional Music* (and before that *Canadian Folk Music Journal*). And many other good secondary sources are thrown in too, in fact more than we originally intended. But you may be surprised how many articles in our own back pages are still well worth reading. There are some gaps — topics covered only thinly or not at all and important individuals who somehow escaped proper scrutiny — but, on the whole, it is amazing what good material can be found in the CSTM periodicals, both of which are available online. Older print copies of *Bulletins* are now rare, although issues from 1981 are still available from folkwaysAlive! (except for 47.4 to 48.2, available from John Leeder). *Canadian Folk Music* can be found online going back to 2000 at www.canfolkmusic.ca.

There are four main components to the approach we decided to employ for this bibliographical survey: an introductory section, a geographical survey by region (and collector) from East to West, sections on aboriginal and ethnic music, and a three-part look at some of the literature on the history of the Canadian revival. We hope you find useful this attempt to direct your attention to some of the more valuable items in our back pages. And remember, this is only a selection. There are lots more treasures to find by yourself!

David & Rosaleen Gregory

The editorial address of *Canadian Folk Music/Musique folklorique canadienne* was 4907 - 54 St., Athabasca, AB, Canada T9S 1L2. Please note this now applies only to Volume 44 (2010). Issues from Volume 45 onwards are edited by Gillian Turnbull, Dept. of Philosophy, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria St., Toronto, ON M5B 2K3.

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