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Pianist on the Recordings: Laura Ward

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*Old American Songs* is also available for Flute, Clarinet, Horn, Trumpet, Violin and Cello.

## FIRST SET

### Song Origins, Copland Sources and Texts

#### *The Boatmen's Dance* (Minstrel Song – 1843)

Published in Boston in 1843 as an "original banjo melody" by Old Dan. D. Emmett, who later composed "Dixie." Source from the Harris Collection of American Poetry and Plays at Brown University.

##### Refrain:

*High row the boatmen row,  
floatin' down the river, the Ohio.  
(the refrain repeats the two lines above)*

*The boatmen dance, the boatmen sing,  
the boatmen up to ev'rything  
And when the boatmen gets on shore  
he spends his cash and works for more  
Then dance the boatmen dance,  
O dance the boatmen dance  
O dance all night 'til the broad daylight  
And go home with the gals in the mornin'.*

##### Refrain

*I went on board the other day  
to see what the boatmen had to say  
There I let my passion loose,  
an' they cram me in the calaboose  
Then dance the boatmen dance,  
O dance the boatmen dance  
O dance all night 'til the broad daylight  
And go home with the gals in the mornin'.*

##### Refrain

*The boatman is a thrifty man  
There's none can do as the boatman can  
I never see a pretty gal in my life  
But that she was a boatman's wife  
Then dance the boatmen dance,  
O dance the boatmen dance  
O dance all night 'til the broad daylight  
And go home with the gals in the mornin'.*

##### Refrain

#### *The Dodger* (Campaign Song)

As sung by Mrs. Emma Dusenberry of Mena, Arkansas, who learned it in the 1880s. Supposedly used in the Cleveland-Blaine presidential campaign. Published by John A. and Alan Lomax in *Our Singing Country*.

*Yes the candidate's a dodger, yes a well known dodger,  
Yes the candidate's a dodger, yes and I'm a dodger too  
He'll meet you and treat you and ask you for your vote  
But look out boys he's a dodgin' for a note*

##### Refrain:

*Yes we're all dodgin', a-dodgin', dodgin', dodgin'  
Yes we're all dodgin' out a way through the world.*

*Yes the preacher he's a dodger yes a well known dodger  
Yes the preacher he's a dodger yes and I'm a dodger too  
He'll preach you a gospel and tell you of your crimes  
But look out boys he's a dodgin' for your dimes*

##### Refrain

*Yes the lover he's a dodger, yes a well known dodger  
Yes the lover he's a dodger, yes and I'm a dodger too  
He'll hug you and kiss you and call you his bride  
But look out girls he's a tellin' you a lie*

##### Refrain

#### *Long Time Ago* (Ballad)

Issued in 1837 by George Pope Morris, who adapted the words, and Charles Edward Horn, who arranged the music from an anonymous, original minstrel tune. Source from the Harris Collection at Brown University.

*On the lake where droop'd the willow  
Long time ago  
Where the rock threw back the billow  
Brighter than snow.*

*Dwelt a maid beloved and cherish'd  
By high and low  
But the autumn leaf she perish'd  
Long time ago.*

*Rock and tree and flowing water  
Long time ago  
Bird and bee and blossom taught her  
Love's spell to know*

*While to my fond words she listen'd  
Murmuring low  
Tenderly her blue eyes glisten'd  
Long time ago.*

#### *Simple Gifts* (Shaker Song)

A favorite song of the Shaker sect, from the period 1837–47. The melody and words were quoted by Edward D. Andrews in his book of Shaker rituals, songs and dances, entitled *The Gift to Be Simple*.

*'Tis the gift to be simple 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed  
To turn, turn will be our delight  
'Till by turning, turning we come round right.*

#### *I Bought Me a Cat* (Children's Song)

A children's nonsense song. This version was sung to the composer by the American playwright Lynn Riggs, who learned it during his boyhood in Oklahoma.

*I bought me a cat  
My cat pleased me  
I fed my cat under yonder tree  
My cat says fiddle eye fee*

# THE BOATMEN'S DANCE

(Minstrel Song-1843)

9

Arranged by AARON COPLAND  
Adapted and arranged for trombone by Bryan Stanley

Quite slow (*freely*) ( $\text{♩} = 63$ )

Tbn. *ff* *mf*

Piano *ff* *mf*

4

*f* *p (echo)*

7

10 Moderately fast ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )

*mf* *mp* *gradually faster*

# THE BOATMEN'S DANCE

(Minstrel Song-1843)

Trombone

Arranged by AARON COPLAND  
Adapted and arranged for trombone by Bryan Stanley

Quite slow (*freely*) ( $\text{♩} = 63$ )

*ff* *f*

5

*p (echo)*

10 Moderately fast ( $\text{♩} = 100$ ) *gradually faster*

*mf*

15 Fast tempo ( $\text{♩} = 126$ )

21

*marc.*

26 As at first ( $\text{♩} = 63$ )

*mf leg.* *mp*

31 Moderately fast ( $\text{♩} = 100$ ) *gradually faster*

*mf*