

Childrens' Jamaican Songs and Games

Sung by Louise Bennett Folkways Records FC 7250



M
1997
B472
C536
1957

MUSIC LP

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FC 7250

ROCKY ROAD
MANUEL GROUND
THERE'S A BROWN GIRL IN THE RING
JANE AND LOUISA
RIVER BANK COVALLEY
RHYME OH
LITTLE SALLY WATER
JAMAICAN ALPHABET
SALLY WHEN YOU MARRY
AY-ZUZUMA (RING PLAY)

Children's' Jamaican Songs and Games Folkways Records FC 7250

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FOLKWAYS RECORDS FC 7250

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CHILDRENS' JAMAICAN SONGS AND GAMES *sung by Louise Bennett*

About Louise Bennett

Author of four books:

Humorous Verses in Jamaican Dialect (1942)
Dialect Verses (1943)
Anancy Stories (1944)
Collected Poems (1945)

Weekly column and special features in the Kingston
"Daily Gleaner."

Weekly broadcast on Station ZQI, Kingston, Jamaica -
poems, songs.

Occasional theatrical performances - pantomimes, plays,
poems, song.

Voluntary dramatic instruction in Jamaican schools and
youth clubs.

British Council Scholarship - Royal Academy of Dramatic
Art.

Lectures and demonstrations on Jamaican folklore and
dancing to English schools, clubs, camps, and in Amer-
ica.

Weekly broadcasts on B.B.C. "Caribbean Carnival," as
Resident Artist. Poems and songs on topical events in
England and the West Indies. Talks on West Indian
folklore and music.

Teacher of dramatics at Excelsior College, Kingston,
and University Drama School.

Island Organizer of Jamaican Federation of Women,
1948-1949.

Teaching dramatics to various Youth and Adult Groups.

JAMAICAN SINGING GAMES

On moonlight nights in the hills of the island of
Jamaica, men, women and children congregate by the
roadside, in backyards or any convenient spot to play
games and tell stories as long as the moon lasts.
This custom is called "Moonshine Darlin'" or "Ring
Ding."

The games are mostly singing and dancing games and are
called "Ring Plays" because the majority of players
usually stand in a circle during the game.

The real Jamaican games, (like the folksongs), have no
personal authorship but have been handed down from one
generation to another. These are very old games and
they retain much of the African (Ashanti) flavour.

Some of the old English games, like "Jane and Louisa,"
which are taught in schools have been taken up to the
hills by the children and are now part of the "Ring
Ding." But these are easily recognized as the dialect
is less pronounced and the movements more controlled.

. . . . Louise Bennett

FP946 JAMAICAN FOLK SONGS. Linstead Market, Chi-
Chi-Bud, Hossana, Cudella Brown, Day Dah, Light Dip,
Dem. Me Want Me Daughter, Under The Coconut
Tree, Dry Weather Houses, How You Come Over, Ho!
'M Joe, Towns of Jamaica. Sung by Louise Bennett.
1-10" 33 1/3 rpm longplay record \$4.25

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ROCKY ROAD

Right tru, right tru de rocky road,
Sing Marley, Charley call yu,
Right tru, right tru de rocky road,
Sing Marley, Charley call yu,
Any Gal mi no love mi no chat to dem,
Sing Marley, Charley call yu,
Any bwoy mi no love mi no chat to dem,
Sing Marley, Charley call yu,
Right tru, right tru de rocky road,
Sing Marley, Charley call yu,
Right tru, right tru de rocky road,
Sing Marley, Charley call yu,
A dem big Foot bwoy mi no chat to dem,
Sing Marley, Charley call yu.

Two lines of children face each other with upraised hands which they join to form an arch.

The couple at one end drops hands and trots through the arch to the other and forming an arch when they get there.

The other couples follow in succession, the lines moving towards the original starting point of the game meanwhile.

That means that the lines are always moving until the first couple gets back to its original starting point.

The first couple now drops hands and trots, each on the outside of his line, towards the end, where they again face each other and form an arch.

The other couples do the same thing until the first couple is again in its original position, when the game ends.

They sing and laugh and are very happy throughout this game.

This is a dancing game.

MANUEL GROUND



MANUEL GROUND - Work and Play Game.

Go down a Manuel Ground gal and boy
Fe go bruk rock stone
Finger mash no cry
Bruk dem one by one gal and boy
Bruk them two by two, etc.
Member a play wid a play gal and boy.

First a singer man is chosen.

The players form a circle, the singer stands in the centre.

All sing the first line of the song and clap hands to the rhythm of the tune.

The singer man alone sings "Bruk dem one by one."

The players all join in the chorus "gal and boy" and march around in single file.

The singer man can keep that up as long as he wishes. Then he goes on to sing "Bruk dem two by two" at which the players march in pairs.

If any of the players remains without a partner he drops out.

Whenever one or more players drop out the singer man sings "Finger mash, no cry, member a play we a play."

Anyone who drops out is the "mashed finger."

This goes on to "three by three," "four by four" etc. until every one drops out.

If by any chance one person is left, he becomes the singer man.

THERE'S A BROWN GIRL IN THE RING

There's a brown girl in the ring tra-la-la-la-la,
There's a brown girl in the ring tra-la-la-la-la,
There's a brown girl in the ring tra-la-la-la-la,
For she like sugar and I like plum.

Variations on Verses:

Den you shew me your motion, etc.
Den you skip across the ocean, etc.
Den you wheel and take your partner, etc.
Den you stand and face your lover, etc.
There's a brown girl in the ring, etc.

All players except one in the centre who is the brown girl join hands to form a circle. They sing "There's a brown girl in the ring, etc."

At the second verse "Shew me you motion," the one in the circle moves her body in any way she chooses to the rhythm of the song.

At the third verse "Skip across the ocean," brown girl skips toward one end of the circle and back.

At the fourth verse "Wheel and take your partner," the one in the circle chooses one from the ring as her partner and they dance together in the centre. Then they change places and the partner becomes the brown girl.

The object of each player is to show his prowess as a dancer in the ring.

JANE AND LOUISA

Jane and Louisa will soon come home (2)
Into this beautiful garden.

My love will you 'low me to pick a rose (2)
In this beautiful garden?

My love will you 'low me to waltz with you (2)
In this beautiful garden?

All players except two, Jane and Louisa, stand in a circle holding hands.

Jane and Louisa hold hands outside the circle. All start to sing. During the singing of the first line of song, Jane and Louisa walk around outside the circle until the words "into this beautiful garden" are sung, when the players loose hands and Jane and Louisa enter the circle.

During the singing of the second verse, Jane and Louisa walk around inside the circle in opposite directions (that is -- one clockwise and the other anti-clockwise). They pretend to be picking roses as they walk around.

At the beginning of the third verse, Jane and Louisa choose whomever they want from circle and waltz around inside the circle until the end of the song. The persons chosen then become Jane and Louisa.

Throughout the game the players in the circle keep moving their feet and bodies to the rhythm of song. Movement is a waltz step, to right and left, e.g., 1,2,3, to the right, 1,2,3, to the left.

JAMAICAN FOLK GAME : RIVER BANK COVALLEY

This is a memory game.

RIVER-BANK COVALLEY

River-bank Covalley
Ah no Covalley
Ah yes Covalley
Teck him put him down de alley.

River-bank Covalley
Ah no Covalley
Ah yes Covalley
Teck him put him down de alley.

This game is generally played by the sea or the river and the plan of the game is drawn in the sand. Nowadays the game is played indoors also and the plan is drawn in chalk on the floor. The object of this game is to test the memory of the players. First a leader is chosen and he or she becomes Covalley. Then the plan of the game is drawn on the ground or floor. (Figure I). Plan: A circle divided into triangles by lines radiating from the centre of the circle.

The lines represent river-banks and the triangular sections river valleys. The banks and valleys are numbered clockwise and stones are placed on the banks, never in the valleys. The number of stones on each bank vary according to the ingenuity of Covalley, whose aim is to manoeuvre the stones so as to confuse the players.

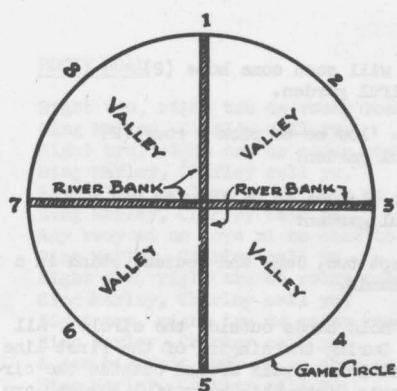


FIG. 1.

SHOWING GAME CIRCLE & RIVER BANK
MARKED ON GROUND OR CHALKED
ON FLOOR OR PAVEMENT.

It is usually played by nine players as per diagram. Four banks, four valleys and Covalley.

The players now take up their position, one to each bank and valley, calling themselves by the number of the bank or valley they face (Figure II).

They study the plan well, then they turn their backs to the centre of the circle and the game begins.

Covalley sings "River-bank Covalley" and calls out any number he wishes. If it is the number of a bank with stones, the bank answers "Ah, yes, Covalley, Take him put him down the alley." Covalley then sweeps the stones into the valley to the right of the bank.

If it is a bank with no stones, the answer is "Ah, no, Covalley." Whenever a player answers wrongly he drops out of the game. The stones are moved from banks to valleys and from a valley to the valley to the right of it. (Clockwise.) Stones are never moved unto a bank. Whenever the banks are cleared of stones, it is the end of the game. If the players drop out before the banks are cleared, Covalley is the winner.

Sometimes this game is played by only two persons. One becomes Covalley and the other memorizes the whole diagram. He is then blindfolded and answers for each number Covalley calls out. If he answers wrongly at any time, Covalley is the winner.

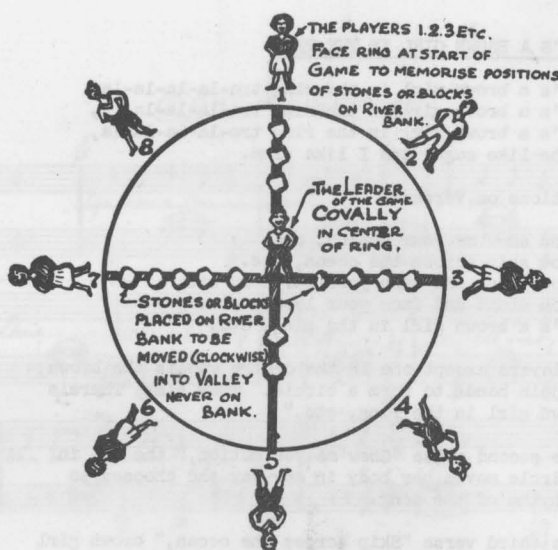


FIG. 2.

SHOWING PLACEMENT OF STONES
OR BLOCKS ON RIVER BANK WITH
LEADER COVALLEY IN CENTER OF RING.
AND PLAYERS FACING RING TO MEMORISE
POSITION OF STONE.

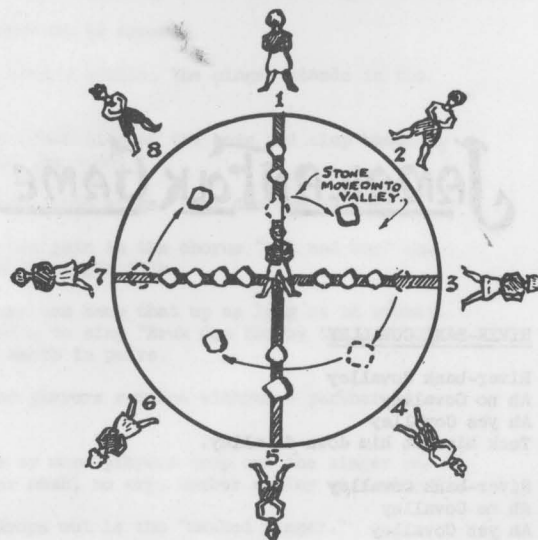


FIG. 3.

SHOWING GAME IN PROGRESS. PLAYERS
WITH BACKS TO RING. AT THIS STAGE.
COVALLEY HAS CALLED NO. 1, 2, 3 ONCE, 4 TWICE
AND 7 ONCE.

Ri-ver bank Co.-Val-ley Ah no Co.-val-ley Ah
 yes Co.-Val-ley tek him put him down da gul-ley Ri-ver
 Bank Co.-val-ley Ah no co.-val-ley Ah yes co.-val-ley
 Tek him put him down da Al-ley Ri-ver

1 Last Time

RHYME OH

Rhyme Oh, rhyme a gully (2)
 One day you will lef' a gully
 Rhyme Oh! (2)

This is a dancing game.

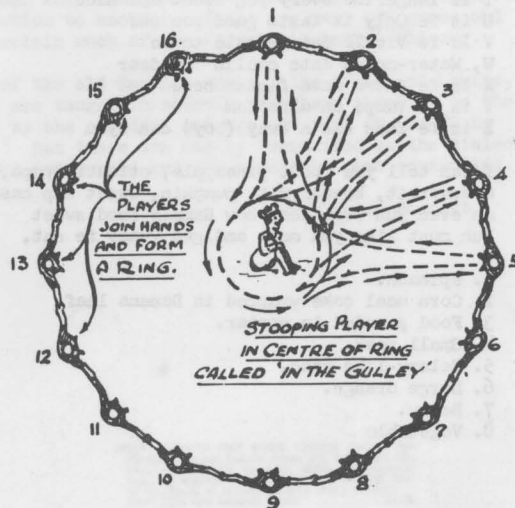
Boys and girls join hands and form a circle around a stooping figure in the centre of the ring.

This person is "in the gully."

Each person in the circle has to dance around the one "in the gully," without loosening hands and without touching the one in the gully in any way.

The player who touches the one in the gully or lets go of another's hand while dancing has to change places with the one in the gully.

The movement around the person in the gully is called rhyming and the players sing "Rhyme Oh" while they dance.



LITTLE SALLY WATER

Little Sally Water sprinkle in the saucer
Rise Sally rise, and wipe your eyes.
Sally turn to the east
Sally turn to the west
Sally turn to the one you love the best.
Then you hug her and kiss her and
Put her in the bridal room (my darlin').
(REPEAT)

JAMAICA ALPHABET

A is fe Ackee Saltfish bes' frien'
B is fe Bammy Banana an den
C is fe Cocoa, Coconut, Callaloo¹
D is fe Dumplin an Duckoonoo²
E is fe Egg nurishin fe eat
F is fe Fu-fu³ when you lose yuh teeth
G is fe Guava an Gungoo⁴ peas
H is fe Honey come straight from de bees
I is fe Injun⁵ cane make you look strong and well
J is fe Jack fruit don't judge by de smell
K is fe King⁶ fruit big an juicy dem grow
L is fe Lottus, same tinkin-toe
M is fe Mango wat a something sweet
N is fe Neasbury⁷ smoothness can't beat
O is fe Ochro⁸ et slippery me chille
P is fe Plaintain roasted or boil
Q is Quashi him good stuff have charms
R, Rice an peas Jamaica court of arms
S is Sumba⁸ wid saltfish an rice
T is Tangerine every peg sweet and nice
U is fe Ugly it taste good you see
V is fe Vickie dats Bickle to me
W, Water-melon dats coolin' me dear
X is fe Extra dats finish here
Y is fe Yampi an also Yam
Z is fe Zuzu das a bway (boy) can nyan

I can tell you 'bout pineapple, oticati, pupa,
Grapefruit, breadfruit, pumpkin, sweet sap casava,
An even yuh done hear how Hamaic food sweet
Yuh must like yuh mout and get ready fe eat.

1. Spinach.
2. Corn meal cake wrapped in Banana leaf.
3. Food pounded in mortar.
4. Small peas.
5. Celery-like cane.
6. Large orange.
7. Berry.
8. Vegetable

SALLY WHEN YOU MARRY

Under the carpet you must be
Like a blackbird in a tree.
Rise and stand up on your leg
And choose the very one you love the best.
Sally when you marry I wish you joy
First a girl and second a boy
And
Seven days after seven years together
Break forth, kiss and be good.

AY - ZUZUMA (Ring Play)

Circle game starts with one boy called Zuzuma who
cautions girl that he is going to town. He comes
back and asks for food.

Me gone a town tung y'ereg (him me)
Ay Zuzuma
Me bring one boot fe yuh
Ay Zuzuma
Me bring one frock fe yuh
Ay Zuzuma
Mind me pig fe me
Ay Zuzuma
Min' me goat fe me
Ay Zuzuma
Me gone a town.

Gal you cook de food
Ay Zuzuma
Gal you cook de saal
Ay Zuzuma
Mak me see de pot
Ay Zuzuma
Gal is what you got
Ay Zuzuma
Me got corn pork oh,
Zuzuma
Me got saltfish oh,
Zuzuma

Roas Breshay dey yah,
Ay Zuzuma
Roas Banana too aye
Ay Zuzuma
Nuf sinting deh aye
Ay Zuzuma
Nuf sinting deh aye
Ay Zuzuma
See fe you own
Ay Zuzuma
Tenk you Miss Marta
Zuzuma.

LITHO IN U.S.A. 