"Material that many a folklorist would give his magnetized recorder heads to own."

"Time Magazine"
ANGOLA PRISONERS' BLUES. The performing of three gifted old-time country blues singers, Hogman Merzy, Guitar Welch, and Robert Pete Williams, recorded in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. They express powerfully the poignant sadness of the caged and womanless man. 13 page booklet
LFS A-3 $4.98

"Prisoner's Talking Blues'... is one of the most disturbingly autobiographical statements in recorded folk music."
Robert Shelton, NEW YORK TIMES

"Williams... is an extremely gifted and original artist.... His performance of the improvised 'Prisoner's Talking Blues' is one of the most impassioned and powerful blues I've heard.... An exciting collection of blues in the traditional styles."
Pete Welding, DOWN BEAT

THOSE PRISON BLUES: ROBERT PETE WILLIAMS. Exciting examples of complex primitive blues.
FL 109 $4.98

"A lifer for shooting and killing a man, Williams has... the 'tremendous drive and anguish' that characterized the fabled Leadbelly."
TIME

"Like all great blues, highly individualized statements within the traditional idiom - powerful, personal and 'primitive' in their anguished depths." AMERICAN FOLKLORE QUARTERLY

"His voice is a match for any folksinger's in emotional potency. Defiance is here, as in most blues, but the subtle emotions are used to a degree few singers have attained... His guitar is in every way equal to his singing; he seems to have an endless store of beautiful figures and turns to draw from... Here is a rare miracle of recording - a singer who has developed to a fabulous level of artistry in an all-Negro environment completely free of any reason or desire to 'refine' for a sophisticated folk market."
Barry Hansen, THE LITTLE SANDY REVIEW

HOT BLUES: SMOKY Babe AND HIS FRIENDS. Vigorous colorful country blues, recorded in their natural setting, accompanied by guitar, harmonica, and stamping feet. DOWN BEAT found Smoky "impressive" in his appearance in Country Negro Jam Sessions.
FL 118 $4.98

PRISON WORKSONGS recorded at Angola. Group and solo worksongs which accompany steel driving, wood chopping, cane cutting, road repairing, shoveling, scrubbing clothes, operating a sewing machine, and running a stamping press. 23 page booklet
LFS A-5 $4.98

"After the older generation passes, there may be no one to carry on the tradition. This would be a great loss to folk music, for these songs are full of pathos and a sort of glowing inner beauty."
DOWN BEAT

"Some of the most gripping material to cross your turntable for some time to come... incredibly well engineered field recordings... the sad, bitter music of society's drags... Here, encompassed in a thin vinylite wafer, is a sum of anguish and torment leavened with the wry human will to adapt and survive."
HIGH FIDELITY

ANGOLA PRISON SPIRITUALS. A survey of the major styles in which folk Negroes sing religious songs. Among the more unusual numbers in this album are a spiritual accompanied by guitar and bottle neck, a traditional song into which the singer skillfully works the crash of a Capitol jet airliner in the spring of 1965, and a folk-sorcery - the type of preaching in which the minister shouts his lines in a precision accelerating rhythm while the members of his congregation urge him on with rhythmic bursts of sound, all working toward a climactic explosion into song.
LFS A-6 $4.98

"The jazz fan will be struck by the similarity of this music and that produced by the back-to-the-land modernists. It's no accident. These are the roots of Negro music - not just jazz... An invaluable addition to any serious folk or jazz collection."
DOWN BEAT

NEW ORLEANS WASHBOARD BLUES. Snooks Eaglin, Brother Randolph, and Lucius Bridges. A lively selection of blues, spirituals, and folk expressions of the sounds of trains and the moods they create. The playing of the washboard, here highly complex in its syncopation, has its roots in primitive African percussion instruments.
FL 107 $4.98

"Rollocking sheet fun-time... a good addition to folk collections."
DOWN BEAT

"Excellent material in current idiom."
AMERICAN FOLKLORE QUARTERLY

"Wild syncopation that suggests primitive African tribal music."
Hugh A. Mulligan, ASSOCIATED PRESS

"One of the finest and most exciting collections of traditional, mainstream, and down-home blues to be released in a long time... Snooks plays the Spirit... Percy Randolph... on 'Postal T' and the Train' blows the finest train blues I've heard since Sonny Terry's 'Locomotive Blues'... The washboard provides driving beat and unmatched exuberance."
Dave Glover, THE LITTLE SANDY REVIEW

JESSE FULLER: GREATEST OF THE NEGRO MINSTRELS. Representative originally of rural Georgia, Jesse Fuller has led the life of a roaming singer. He has been aptly described as a veritable museum of Negro folk music; his repertoire includes not only traditional blues and spirituals, not only widely copied songs he has composed (Bob Dylan and Jack Elliott are both disciples of his), but also brilliant samples of other types of material current in country and city Negro circles - jazz, vaudeville, and Tin Pan Alley songs, all synthesized into a style uniquely his. A one man band, he accompanies himself with twelve-string guitar, harmonica, kazoo, and fotolia, a foot bass which he invented.
FL 126 $4.98

COUNTRY NEGRO JAM SESSIONS: BUTCH CAGE, WILLIE B. THOMAS AND OTHERS. The high points of jam sessions in the back country of five different sections of Louisiana, a rich assortment of dance and song, performed with joy and excitement.

10 page booklet FL 111 $4.98

Reactions to the appearance at Newport in 1960 of Butch Cage and Willie Thomas, the two stars of this album:

'Their hot rural fiddling, secular singing and spirituals were like a fresh wind.'

Nat Hentoff, ESQUIRE

'No one present had ever seen or heard anything like these two. Cage's fiddle (which he held in a cross-strum style) swung like crazy, Thomas, who sang lead, strummed his guitar with such intensity that it seemed to burst whenever the guitar played him. The response of the audience was electrifying... One would be hard put to get closer to the roots than this and there is something very refreshing about such roots.'

Dan Morgenstern, JAZZ JOURNAL

** ** ** **

'This is a magnificent and heart-warming collection.'

Pete Welding, DOWN BEAT

BLUES WALK RIGHT IN: SYLVIA MARIS, accompanied by Mitch Greenhill, guitar; Gordan Edwards, harmonica. The latest representative of a tradition of great Negro contraltos like Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Memphis Minnie—Sylvia Maris, originally a native of Abbeville, South Carolina, performs a wide variety of blues and spirituals, including several notable examples of unaccompanied 'Dr. Watts' hymns—a slow moaning style in which the voice freely ornament the music, a form of singing ultimately derived from the singing out of hymns in the British Isles during the seventeenth century.

FL 124 $4.98

'Walk Right In', 'Trouble, Trouble, Trouble', 'Let That Liar Pass', 'Lowdown Death', 'Back Water Blues', 'Noah, Noah', 'No Hiding Place Down There', 'Before This Time Another Year', 'He's Got Me Goin', 'I Have a Friend', 'Jacob's Ladder', 'Dark Was the Night', 'Things about Comin My Way.'

PRIMITIVE PIANO. Speckled Red, Billy Pierce, James Robinson, and Doug Suggs. Old-time barrelhouse piano and pungently outspoken city blues.

FL 117 $4.98

'Earthly without even minimal self-consciousness, Primitive Piano can serve as a direct unmediated introduction to the urban descendants of the itinerant blues pianists-singers of the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the initial decades of this century.'

SATURDAY REVIEW

REV. PEARLY BROWN: GEORGIA STREET SINGER. Spirituals sung on the streets of Macon by a blind wanderer. Reverend Pearly Brown is in the direct tradition of Blind Willie Johnson, whom he heard as a child and copied. His voice has a similar fervor and his guitar speaks in similar plaintive antiphonal responses.

FL 108 $4.98

'Sings with tremendous power.'

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

'Plays from tradition with a confidence and intensity that make his performance memorable.'

AMERICAN FOLKLORE QUARTERLY

'(([the]) curbstone evangelism rings out with a rude beauty... a fascinating document.'

FM STEREO GUIDE

'Exciting and important . . . impressive . . . in a . . . fast disappearing tradition.'

SATURDAY REVIEW

'Of high interest to those who like Negro spirituals. One is struck by the rich direct strong character of the voice... and by the practically faultless and always interesting guitar accompaniments... Brown has achieved an outstanding proficiency at the "knife" style for which Blind Willie Johnson is remembered.'

Barry Hansen, THE LITTLE SANDY REVIEW

PURE RELIGION AND BAD COMPANY: BLIND GARY. Rev. Gary Davis is generally recognized as the best living religious street singer.

FL 125 $4.98

'Pure Religion,' 'Right Now,' 'When the Evening Sun Goes Down,' 'Moon Goes Down,' 'Seven Sisters,' 'My Heart Is Fixed,' 'Runnin' to the Judgment,' 'Look Over Yonder,' 'Jesus Christ,' 'I Didn't Want to Join the Band,' 'Bad Company,' and some old-time preaching.'

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ: BILLIE AND DE DE PIERCE. Billie sings in the tradition of Bessie Smith, plays barrelhouse piano, De De sings Creole songs, plays the trumpet in an early style.

FL 110 $4.98

'Billie is a strong and emphatic pianist and a blues singer who derives from the classic blues singers of the Twenties. De De's forceful and biting trumpet playing is in the crackling, full-throated New Orleans style which traces back at least to Joe Oliver and, one might presume, to Buddy Bolden... His singing is all full of joy and spirit... Harry Oster and Richard Allen... have done a service for jazz in getting down this evidence of De De's trumpet work.'

John S. Wilson, HIGH FIDELITY

SOUTHERN WHITE

PEGGY SEEGER SINGS AND PLAYS AMERICAN FOLK-SONGS FOR BANJO. A rich selection of ballads, lyrics, play-party songs, and dances. In the enclosed 7 page booklet Peggy Seeger describes in detail the technique of each accompaniment.

FL 114 $4.98

'Peggy Seeger ranks as one of the three or four outstanding folk artists of her country.'

JAZZ JOURNAL

'A must for the folk collector's library.'

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

CAROLINA BLUEGRASS: SNUFFY JENKINS AND THE HIRED HANDS. Mainstream bluegrass, washboard and guitar numbers of Negro origin, and roots of Southern mountain music represented by five-string banjo and fiddle solos. Snuffy Jenkins is a principal source of the style Earl Scruggs made famous.

FL 123 $4.98

'Watermelon Hangin' on a Vine,' 'Step It Up and Go,' 'Passum Up a Gum Stump,' 'Spanish Fandango,' 'Long Journey Home,' 'Charmin Betsy,' 'Dixie, There's No Place Like Home,' 'Television,' 'Big Eared Mule,' 'The Covered Wagon Rolled Right Along,' 'Boggy Road to Texas,' 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,' 'Miller's Reel,' 'Gonna Catch That Train an' Ride,' 'Born in Hard Luck,' 'The Sweetest Gift a Mother's Smile,' 'Long Time Gone,' 'Snuffy's Talking Blues.'

BAYOU BLUEGRASS: THE LOUISIANA HONEYDRIPPERS. Led by banjoist Jim Smoak, who has played with such topflight country music bands as those of Bill Monroe and Earl Scruggs, the Louisiana Honeydrippes perform a varied program with special emphasis on the folk songs of the Deep South.

FL 122 $4.98

'Extremely interesting... choice of material.'

SATURDAY REVIEW

'Galinda,' 'Run, Boy, Run,' 'Liza Jane,' 'My Last Old Dollar Is Gone,' 'Old Dan Tucker,' 'The Lakes of Ponchatrain,' 'Rabbit, Where's Your Mammie?,' 'Underneath the Weeping Willow,' 'Chicken Pie,' 'Kissin' Cousins,' 'Woodchuck in the Deadman,' 'Pore Man,' 'Whoa, Mule, Whoa,' 'Great Big Billy Goat,' 'Bill Chattum,' 'Reasin' a Ruku,' 'The Fisher's Hornpipe.'
ENGLISH SCOTTISH AND IRISH

PEGGY SEEGER: POPULAR BALLADS. Sensitive performances of ancient ballads which originated in England and Scotland. FL 120 $4.98

"Peggy plays the banjo with enormous style and sings like an angel." LONDON EVENING STANDARD

FINNEGAN'S WAKE AND OTHER IRISH FOLKSONGS: DOMINIC BEHAN. Songs from Joyce's last masterpiece and other memorable numbers. 3 page booklet FL 113 $4.98

"His only failing as a folk singer is that he can actually sing. His voice is pleasant ... and his interpretation of such famous Irish ballads as 'Finnegan's Wake,' 'The Wearing of the Green,' and 'Mrs. Hoikian's Christmas Cake' is delightful ... Excellent liner notes." Hugh A. Mulligan, ASSOCIATED PRESS

"A pure delight!" FM STEREO GUIDE

"We recommend 'Finnegan's Wake' not only to Joycean enthusiasts who wish to hear some of the ballads used by the writer as 'letmotif' to his great extravaganza, but to all who wish to hear the musical chronicles of Ireland's century of trouble, sung in a traditional unaffected manner." SATURDAY REVIEW

ROBERT BURNS: THE MERRY MUSES OF CALEDONIA, SUNG BY EWAN MACCOLL. Bowdy songs collected or written by Robert Burns, presented in a scholarly unexpurgated album. Included with the record is a 23 page booklet with complete texts and extensive notes. Limited edition, available by subscription to scholars and libraries. Distributed by Folk-Lyric, manufactured by Dionysus Records. FL 1 $5.95

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THE ART OF THE BAGPIPE: JOHN BURGES. An album of great solo bagpiping, produced in association with the School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh. Pipe Major Burgess has won over 200 gold and silver medals, in fact ever major trophy in Scotland. Extensive notes and background. 12 page booklet FL 112 $4.98

"Nothing short of superb." THE NEW YORK TIMES

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"An important addition to the handful of 'Cajun' material previously available ... Excellent background notes." AMERICAN FOLKLORE QUARTERLY

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AMERICANA

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