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Songs of the Seasons

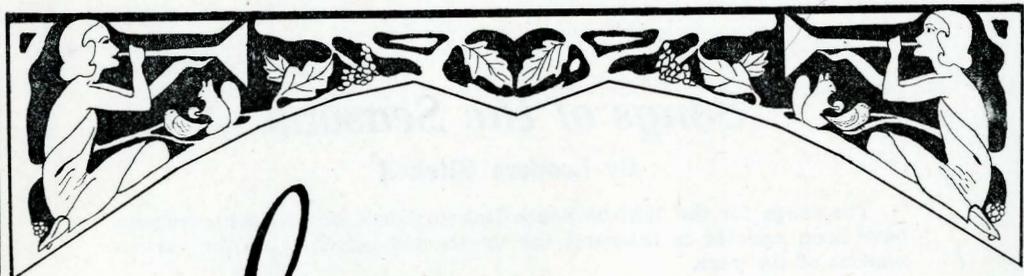
Leonora Gitchell

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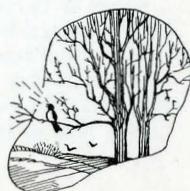
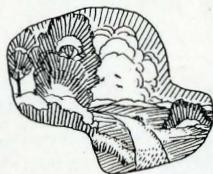
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Songs

of the

SEASONS



EXTENSION CIRCULAR 369

SEPTEMBER 1937

Songs of the Seasons

By Leonora Gitchell

The songs for the 1937-38 South Dakota music achievement program have been selected to interpret the moods and activities of the various seasons of the year.

During the past year many counties used the theme of their 1936 and 1937 music program to build a community pageant for their achievement days. It is hoped that at the close of this year's work similar programs may be developed using as the subject "Songs of the Seasons."

The program is grouped into five lessons. Each lesson will contain songs to be used in two or more monthly meetings. Additional songs have been suggested should the clubs wish to include more music in their regular programs.

Each club is expected to become familiar with the songs listed in the regular program outline. Should time permit, the additional songs listed may also be included.

Lesson I

Autumn

Prayer of Thanksgiving ----- Netherlands
John Peel ----- English
The Keeper (additional) ----- English
For the Beauty of the Earth (additional) ----- Kocher

Lesson II

Holiday

The First Noel ----- Traditional
We Three Knights of Orient Are ----- Hopkins
Silent Night (additional) ----- Gruber
O Little Town of Bethlehem (additional) ----- Redner

Lesson III

Winter

All Through the Night ----- Welsh
Bless This House ----- Brahe
Jingle Bells (additional) ----- Pierpont

Lesson IV

Spring

Czecho Slovakian Dance Song ----- Folk tune
Ploughing Song ----- Parish
4-H Field Song (additional) ----- Parish

Lesson V

Summer

Lullaby ----- Brahms
Stars of the Summer Night ----- Woodbury
Juanita (additional) ----- Spanish
O Come To the Fair (additional) ----- Martin

Radio Program

State college station KFDY, Brookings, will broadcast two of the musical selections each Saturday afternoon between 1:30 and 2:00 P. M. On several occasions during the year, station KFDY will present a few of the music numbers of the South Dakota music program.

In some cases it may be possible to assemble the club members for these programs. The dates for these broadcasts are as follows:

February 19	August 27
April 23	November 19*
June 25	November 26**

Music Achievement Tests

At stated times during the year, music achievement tests should prove helpful and interesting. The radio programs may be used for a general review of the numbers and later the club members may be tested on their ability to remember the songs. Members of the club may present the numbers or phonograph records may be used. More detailed instructions for the tests are given in the leader's manual.

Songs Of The Seasons

The world about us is full of music. "There's music in the air." We hear it over the radio. Not only does the Christmas and Easter season bring us delightful melodies but every season of the year brings us many musical gems to enjoy.

We hear nature's music when the birds sing so cheerily in the spring, when water ripples in the creek and rain drips from the eaves, or when the small boy whistles in the street.

In the summer the musical splash of oars in the water, the laughter of children at play, and the call of birds at sunset give us one of nature's finest symphonies.

Autumn, with its lovely colors, brings us the soft music of rustling leaves as they gracefully fall to the ground, the signalling call of the birds as they start on their long journey southward, and the laughter of happy children on their way to school.

The holiday season brings us the very fine music of neighborliness, the joy of sharing good wishes and happiness with others, also the pleasure of singing together many lovely songs of the nativity.

Winter, with its clear crisp air, brings us the musical tones of sleigh-bells, crunching snow under our feet, the twittering call of the snow bird and the friendly crackle of a warm hearth fire.

All of nature's orchestra is ours if we but listen in. Is your own being attuned to vibrate to the lovely moods and melodies flowing your way? The first dial to adjust in our human radio is the "listening dial." Establish definite listening habits. A true appreciation of music is developed, not by reading about it but by hearing music. One's interest in any subject grows as his knowledge of that subject increases.

The three chief elements of music are melody, rhythm and harmony. Listen for these factors in the music you hear and the songs you sing.

Melody.—A melody is a succession of tones which translate feeling into sound. Simplicity is often the supreme charm of a great melody. "All Through the Night" serves as a very good example of a simple melody yet one of great appeal and lasting popularity.

* Final test on 1938 program.
** Introduction 1939 program.

Rhythm.—Many composers combine a strongly marked rhythm with their melody which causes a song to retain its popularity indefinitely. Slow melodies often seem at first to be more expressive. Too great a restlessness or too constant an activity in rhythm detracts from its appeal.

“Juanita” has a slow rhythmic swing combined with a simple melody which has caused its popularity to last for years. The “Italian Street Song” has a faster rhythm which makes one instinctively wish to keep time with the melody. Many of our popular tunes are too constant or restless in their rhythm and we soon tire of them.

Harmony.—A pleasing combination of one or more tones with the melody produces harmony. Negro spirituals are especially rich in harmony. Many melodies have become great favorites because of the harmonic combinations arranged by the composer. Several of the songs listed in this years program are very attractive when sung in harmony.

Now if our listening dial is tuned to receive the many melodies that have been written for us, let's try to learn well one or two melodies each month. Such melodies will be company and a pleasure to us during our leisure time.

LESSON I

Autumn—September, October, November

With the autumn season comes the migration of birds, the hunter and his dog roam the fields or lie concealed near some marshy swamp, the grain is threshed, and food has been stored or preserved for winter usage.

The songs selected for this season of the year contain the rousing rhythm of the hunter in the chase or the more inactive tempo of a prayerful thanksgiving for the benefits received during the year.

Prayer of Thanksgiving—Netherlands. Nobody knows just when or where a folk tune was made. It's melody is always simple and easy to sing and people enjoy hearing and singing it over and over.

Prayer of Thanksgiving is a devout expression of thankfulness. The tempo is slow and majestic and the music continues to swell in volume until the final ending is sung on the last verse.

John Peel—English. This song carries us back several hundred years when the forest rang with hunting calls. When in his prime, John Peel always led the chase but in his later life he could not follow the hounds. The young men of the countryside learned of his poverty-stricken condition and decided to hold a hunting party in his honor. It was agreed among themselves to round up the fox and then fall back and let old John take it as in his earlier days. After the chase was over they gathered around him singing the hunting song and presented him with a bounty. In Troutbeck, where John Peel lived, the hunting dogs today are named for his famous pack; Ruby, Ringwood, Ranter, Bellman and True.

LESSON II

Holidays—December

Who among us does not thrill to the lovely Christmas carols which we sing each year. Many of our favorite songs have been sung for centuries.

The First Noel—English. This is an old English carol. Its simple melody is in keeping with the word text used in the song.

We Three Kings of Orient Are—Hopkins. The unusual harmonies and intervals of this song are somewhat similar to the peculiar musical pro-

gression of Oriental music. The stately rhythm is in keeping with the slow dignified pilgrimage of the wisemen. A very fine pageant centered around The First Noel, and We Three Kings of Orient Are, may be developed for the Christmas meeting. For suggestions see leaders' manual.

LESSON III

Winter—January, February, March

When winter comes with its stinging blasts, our interests are centered within the home itself. Long winter evenings are frequently spent in singing with the other family members.

All Through the Night—Welsh. This song is one of the loveliest Welsh folk melodies. The folk songs of Wales are noted for their great dignity. Its older songs are divided into two general divisions—the one group exemplifies the quiet life of the people and the other includes the rugged war songs. Many of the melodies copy the simplicity of the harps of the 13th and 14th century. So great was the respect for the harp in the early centuries that a slave was not allowed to touch or learn to play a harp. The law might seize all of a gentleman's wealth but it might not take his harp, that would be to degrade him. "All Through the Night" is a poetic Welsh lullaby and is another example of a simple melody combined with a restful pleasing rhythm.

Bless This House—Brahe. This song was a favorite of John McCormick's and was used by him on many of his programs. The sentiment expressed in this selection makes it exceptionally suitable for a winter song when the entire family spend the long winter evenings at home.

LESSON IV

Spring—April, May

With the coming of spring, our thoughts turn to the outdoors. Our spring fancies lead us to brighter, quicker melodies.

Czecho Slovakian Dance Song—Czech. "Where there is a Czech there you will hear music," says an old Bohemian proverb. Czech music has peculiar and unexpected irregularities in the rhythm. The national music of Bohemia like that of Spain and Southern France has been greatly influenced by the contact with the music of the gypsies who have for centuries made this land their home.

This country's musical past is rich and full. For over six centuries Czech music has been preserved in writing, at first in valuable hand illustrated manuscripts. Many of the nobles of the land had special music rooms and maintained private orchestras. Music was nearly always taught by the village schoolmaster. Czecho Slovakia is also a land of dances and many of their songs are sung while dancing.

Ploughing Song—Parish. Rena M. Parish has written several songs for 4-H club members. The Ploughing Song is especially suited for the spring of the year when nature is again waking from its winter sleep. Fannie R. Buchanan, Extension Assistant, Community Development Work, Ames, Iowa, wrote the words for this song.

LESSON V

Summer—June, July, August

Summer brings us quiet, starlit evenings and the fragrant odor of flowers and hay fields. We hear the cheery croaking of frogs in distant ponds, the contented twittering of birds in some shady tree, while white, lacy clouds glide gracefully through the heavens.

Star of the Summer Night—Woodbury. The words for this song were written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The melody with its smooth progressions seems particularly well adapted to the peace and quiet of a summer evening.

Lullaby—Brahms. More than 120 of Johannes Brahm's work are said to have been either directly or indirectly inspired by folk tunes. "Lullaby" was arranged from an old tune and is one of the most delightful cradle songs. This song was one of Madame Schumann-Heink's favorites. Brahms made his first appearance as a concert pianist at the age of fourteen. One of his program numbers was a group of original variations on folk air.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing,
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing, cease them from distressing,
Sing praises to his name, He forgets not his own.

Besides us to guide us, our God with us adjoining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, The glory be thine.

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader in battle,
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation:
Thy name be ever prais'd!
O Lord, make us Thine.
Lord make us free!

JOHN PEEL

D' ye ken John Peel with his coat so gay?
D' ye ken John Peel at the break of the day?
D' ye ken John Peel when he's far, far away
With his hounds and his horn in the morning?

Cho. 'Twas the sound of his horn brought me from my bed,
And the cry of the hounds which he ofttimes led,
For Peel's view halloo would waken the dead,
Or the fox from his lair in the morning.

Yes, I ken John Peel and Ruby too,
And Ranger and Ringwood, Bellman and True;
From a find to a check, from a check to a view,
From a view to a death in the morning.

D' ye ken John Peel with his coat so gay?
He lived at Troutbeck Once on a day;
But now he has gone far, far away,
We shall ne'er hear his voice in the morning.

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say Was to certain poor sheperds in fields as
they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep On a cold winters night that
was so deep.

Chorus

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and
night.

Then enter'd in there Wisemen three, Full revrently upon their knee,
And offer'd there in His presence, Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse far
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder Star.

Chorus

Oh, star of wonder, star of might, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to the perfect light.

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain, Gold we bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Pray'r and praising all men raising, Worship God on high.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume Breathes a life of gath'ring gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

LULLABY (Wiegenlied)

Lullaby and good-night! Thy mother's delight, Bright angels beside
Is baby's wee bed. Lay thee down now at rest; May thy slumbers be blest.
Lay thee down now at rest; May thy slumbers be blest.

Lullaby and good-night! Thy mother's delight, Bright angels be-side
My darling a-bide. They will guard thee at rest; Thou shalt wake on my
breast.

They will guard thee at rest; Thou shalt wake on my breast.

STARS OF THE SUMMER NIGHT

Stars of the summer night, Far in yon azure deeps,
Hide, hide your golden light, She sleeps, my lady sleeps;
She sleeps, She sleeps, my lady sleeps.

Moon of the summer night, Far down yon western steeps,
Sink, sink in silver light, She sleeps, my lady sleeps;
She sleeps, She sleeps, my lady sleeps.

Dreams of the summer night, Tell her, her lover keeps
Watch while, in slumber light, She sleeps, my lady sleeps;
She sleeps, She sleeps, my lady sleeps.

DANCING AND TURNING (Czecho-Slovakian Dance Song)

Dancing, Dancing, Turning, Turning, See the oven burning, burning;
Do not break it summers going and cold wintry winds are blowing.

Polka.

Tra la la la la la la, Tra la la la la la la, yu!

See the soldier marching, marching, in his torn coat watching, watching,
Watching night and morning, morning, and on him the dews are falling.

My gay dress with big sleeves big sleeves I gave to a gypsy, gypsy, by
your
Magic tell me, tell me who my sweetheart shall be, shall be.

PLOUGHING SONG

A growing day, and a waking field, and a furrow straight and long;
A golden sun, and a lifting breeze, and we follow with a song.

Chorus

Sons of the soil are we; lads of the field and flock.
Turning our sods, asking no odds, where is a life so free?
Sons of the soil are we; men of the coming years,
Facing the dawn, brain ruling brawn, lords of our lands we'll be.

A guiding thought, and a skillful hand, and a plant's young leaf unfurled.
A summer's sun, and a summer's rain, and we harvest for the world.

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT

Sleep, my love, and peace attend thee All thro' the night;
Guardian angels God will lend thee All thro' the night.
Soft the drowsy hours are creeping, Hill and vale in slumber steeping;
Love alone his watch is keeping All thro' the night.

Though I roam a minstrel lonely, All thro' the night;
My true harp shall praise thee only, All thro' the night.
Love's young dream alas! is over, Yet my strains of love shall hover
Near the presence of my lover All thro' the night.

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