

TOM LEHRER

Discovers
Australia

(and Vice Versa)



RECORDED DURING CONCERT
PERFORMANCES IN SYDNEY
AND MELBOURNE

SIDE ONE

Introduction
I wanna go back to Dixie
The Wild West
Fight Fiercely Harvard
The Hunting Song
Lobachevsky

SIDE TWO

The Irish ballad
When you are old and grey
My home town
The old dope peddler
The Wiener schnitzel waltz
I hold your hand in mine
Be prepared

PERTH

ADELAIDE

MELBOURNE

LAUNCESTON

HOBART

SYDNEY

CANBERRA

NEWCASTLE

BRISBANE

TOM LEHRER DISCOVERS AUSTRALIA

(and vice versa)

SIDE ONE

1. Introduction
2. I wanna go back to Dixie
3. The Wild West is where I want to be
4. Fight fiercely, Harvard
5. The Hunting Song
6. Lobachevsky

Recorded during concert performances in Sydney and Melbourne

In the autumn (or, as they say in America, spring) of 1960, Tom Lehrer, acting on the theory that it is easier to go to new countries than to write new songs, took his repertoire and his so-called voice (together with a jumbuck he had surreptitiously stowed in his tucker bag) on a three-month tour of Australia and New Zealand. In Australia he did his one-man show in Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra, Adelaide, Launceston and Perth, besides helping to decrease the ratings of numerous television shows by appearing thereon.

In two cities, the reaction to his appearances was especially flattering. The first of these was Brisbane, which the year before had been the birthplace of an attempt to ban his first LP, SONGS BY TOM LEHRER, throughout Australia, an attempt which, alas, failed. Before Mr. Lehrer's appearances in Brisbane the Police Commissioner of Queensland advised him ("advised" is perhaps not the exact word, but it will do) not to sing the song *Be Prepared*. The implication was that the singing of this song (which takes about a minute and a half) would undermine the morals of the City of Brisbane and cause the Boy Scout movement there to crumble. However, although Mr. Lehrer, after receiving this "advice," performed the song in all three of his Brisbane concerts, the morals of the city were apparently unimpaired and the Boy Scout movement continued to thrive. Naturally, he was most disappointed.

The second city to raise an overt objection was Adelaide, a large village in the heart of the intellectual outback. A South Australian Government official decided that five of the songs were unsuitable for local ears—Mr. Lehrer did not deny this but felt somewhat insulted by the fact that the other songs were evidently considered inoffensive—and would not permit the author to perform in Adelaide until he had signed a promise not to sing the five songs. The proscribed five, all included in this record, were *My Home Town*, *The Irish Ballad*, *When You Are Old and Grey*, *I Hold*

NOTE: These songs are also available on the 10" LP, SONGS BY TOM LEHRER (LFA 1311), which contains exactly the same songs, but which spares you Mr. Lehrer's soporific spoken commentary as well as the audience reactions which mar this recording. Also it's cheaper.

Your Hand in Mine, and, of course, *Be Prepared*. In the case of *I Hold Your Hand in Mine*, an Adelaide newspaper had printed the full lyrics and was not prosecuted, which suggests that it must have been the music which was considered offensive (or possibly Mr. Lehrer's voice, in which case the government had a point). Rather than get into a legal battle with the Government of South Australia, which is, after all, one of the finest State Governments of the 18th century, Mr. Lehrer, who has never let courage or integrity stand in the way of earning money, omitted the five immoral and depraved songs in question from his programme in Adelaide and sang only his other immoral and depraved songs.

With the exception of the above two cities, though, his performances throughout Australia were received with the same apathy which had previously greeted his appearances in the United States, Canada, and England.

During the tour, it turned out that most of his spare time was taken up with answering many times a day the apparently inevitable question "How do you like Australia?" This question is evidently the standard form for greeting an American, and as such, while it may pall with repetition, is no doubt preferable to "Yankee Go Home," so popular elsewhere, the latter greeting having the advantage, on the other hand, of not requiring a reply. Despite the time consumed by this activity and a rather busy performing schedule, Mr. Lehrer still found time to explore such local scenic wonders as the rivers, beaches, mountains, and caverns. The present recording was made in two of these caverns, the Melbourne and Sydney Town Halls. It consists of excerpts from his concerts in the former on the 21st of March, 1960, and in the latter on the 4th of May, 1960, in each case before a capacity audience of well over 2,000 persons, all of whom seemed to be attending voluntarily.

Despite the reaction to his previous LP, AN EVENING WASTED WITH TOM LEHRER (LKA 4332),

SIDE TWO

1. The Irish ballad
2. When you are old and grey
3. My home town
4. The old dope peddler
5. The Wiener Schnitzel waltz
6. I hold your hand in mine
7. Be prepared

Words and music by Tom Lehrer

which consisted of excerpts from his one-man show recorded during an actual performance before a comparatively live audience, it was decided to release this second concert recording. It contains the same old 12 songs which made up his first LP, SONGS BY TOM LEHRER (LFA 1311), and with which he has been boring everyone for so many years, but this time his spoken introductions to the songs and the various reactions of the audience are included.

The overriding motivation was, of course, a desire to milk every last penny from these songs without actually enraging the populace to the point of open revolt. It was clear that most of the audience at his Australian concerts were already quite familiar with these tired old songs, which are by now almost hoary enough to be considered traditional, but, whether out of politeness or indifference, they managed to restrain their resentment at this imposition and even to laugh and applaud at the right places.

It must be confessed that the necessity for splicing together parts of two concert tapes made in two acoustically dissimilar halls (not to mention Mr. Lehrer's vocal limitations) makes this recording somewhat less than technically ideal, but it was felt that its value as a historical and social document made up for any technical imperfection. (What would we not give for even a bad recording of, say, King John reading the Magna Carta?). After all, as Shakespeare said in *Hamlet*, "The dram of eale doth all the noble substance of a doubt to his own scandal." And surely those words are still just as true (or false) today.

The songs on this record are copyright, 1952, 1953, by Tom Lehrer, and he is welcome to them.

If you don't like this record, you will certainly not enjoy: **AN EVENING (WASTED) WITH TOM LEHRER**: recorded during a concert performance and containing Poisoning Pigeons in the Park, Bright College Days, A Christmas Carol, The Elements, Oedipus Rex, In Old Mexico, Clementine, It Makes a Fellow Proud to be a Soldier, She's My Girl, The Masochism Tango, We Will All Go Together When We Go (Tom Lehrer).....LKA 4332

DECCA 33 R.P.M. LONG PLAYING FULL FREQUENCY RANGE RECORDING

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REGD



LONG PLAYING

FLEXIBLE MICROGROOVE

full frequency range recording



LKA - 7505
XDECX40

1 TOM LEHRER DISCOVERS AUSTRALIA 1 (AND VICE VERSA)

- 1: INTRODUCTION (3.31)
- 2: I WANNA GO BACK TO DIXIE (4.32)
- 3: THE WILD WEST IS WHERE I WANT TO BE (3.09)
- 4: FIGHT FIERCELY, HARVARD (4.44)
- 5: THE HUNTING SONG (2.45)
- 6: LOBACHEVSKY (4.53)

TOM LEHRER

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LONG PLAYING

FLEXIBLE MICROGROOVE

full frequency range recording



LKA - 7505
XDECX41

2 TOM LEHRER DISCOVERS AUSTRALIA 2 (AND VICE VERSA)

- 1: THE IRISH BALLAD (5.40)
- 2: WHEN YOU ARE OLD AND GREY (3.52)
- 3: MY HOME TOWN (3.07)
- 4: THE OLD DOPE PEDDLER (2.27)
- 5: THE WIENER SCHNITZEL WALTZ (2.58)
- 6: I HOLD YOUR HAND IN MINE (1.51)
- 7: BE PREPARED (3.51)

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