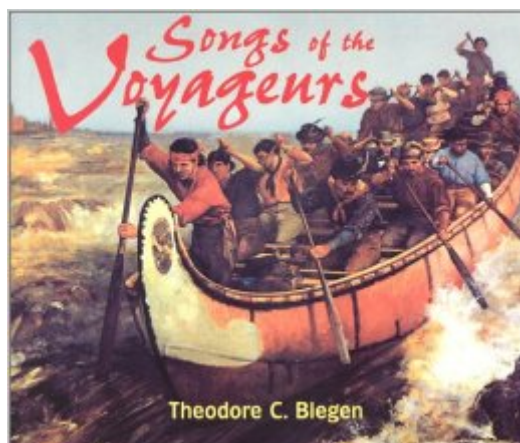# Songs Of The Voyageurs (MHS Minnesota Musical Traditio)

Synopsis

This selection of traditional voyageur songs, sung in French by the 30-voice male choir of the Universit de Moncton of New Brunswick, Canada, celebrates the French-Canadian canoe men of the North American fur trade who sang as they paddled over rivers and lakes during the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries. The accompanying book contains the song texts in French and a description of voyageur life by renowned historian Theodore C. Blegen.

Book Information

Series: MHS Minnesota Musical Traditio

Audio CD

Publisher: Minnesota Historical Society Press; Com/Bklt edition (March 15, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0873513614

ISBN-13: 978-0873513616

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 4.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #999,052 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #59 in Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > French   #276 in Books > Books on CD > Music   #280 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Folk & Traditional

Customer Reviews

Songs of the Voyageurs. Originally 1966, re-issued in 1998. The book is 48 pages and the CD is 12 songs.When I was in Boy Scouts I went on a three day, 75 mile canoe trip through the lakes, portages, and rivers of Northern Minnesota. We sang as we paddled and portaged, but nothing like this. This is a book/CD set that I have eyed for over ten years. I finally broke down and let my wife buy it for me while we were at the Minnesota History Center.The book is by Theodore Blegen and the songs are a collection of known Voyageur songs from the 16th through the early 18th century. They were performed by a 30 voice male chorus from New Brunswick, Canada.For those who have never been exposed to the history of the fur trade or the voyageurs in North America this package will whet your appetite. The book includes some very nice sketches of the Voyageur life and the text does a very good job of telling their story. The story includes the two types of Voyageurs, their dress, their mannerisms, their history, and their impact on expansion and history. The text is well done and easy to read.The latter part of the book is devoted to the songs on the CD. A synopsis of

the history of the song and its meaning is given. This is followed by the lyrics to the song. The lyrics are all in French and I really would like a translation included but alas, it is not. There is also a good selection of reference texts for further reading.The music itself is paddling music. They are well performed and often humorous. My 14 month old daughter really enjoys them. She often tries to sing along. All told the book and the CD provide a great little window into a time and sub-culture important in history but too often forgotten.

I first heard Voyageur music at the Feast of the Hunter's Moon (Lafayette, IN), five years before I relocated to live and teach in WI--where this type of music enjoys a strong following as it is close to MN. These men once traded goods between/among American Indian communities and French outposts, along the waterways of the Great Lakes. Such courage and a sense of Adventure among these explorers can be heard in this song list! I like to play it in my car when on a long drive, and it encourages me to walk at a good pace as I "pick up" my H.S. French and sing along (En Voyage, Alouette!) The little booklet accompanying this CD offers a bit of history, as well as the French lyrics for each song. Tres bien!

Having French Canadian blood I thought this might be a neat listen. It is a top quality recording. I am almost left thinking that it's too clean though, it doesnt seem like many of the choir members who sang on this smoke pipes, or have portaged heavy loads. All in all I'm quite happy with it, just not completely satisfied.

Dad loved the CD I just would have liked to hear a sample before I bought it.

I really like the old voyageur songs.

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