

A discography of recordings of Sam Lerner and his singing community

Sam Lerner (1878-1965) of Winterton in Norfolk was highly regarded as a very fine singer of traditional songs, both in his lifetime and posthumously. He had a large repertoire of songs and an exuberant delivery of them, delighting in the words and performance. He was recorded by broadcaster and film maker Philip Donnellan in 1957 and 1958 and by Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger on several occasions from 1958 onwards. Radio broadcasts and a film brought his music to wider exposure, as did a few performances outside his community.

Only one recording was released in Sam's lifetime, the LP *Now is the Time for Fishing* on the American *Folkways* label. Further recordings were released later, including the whole of those made by MacColl and Seeger. Just about all of Sam Lerner's songs are still available on the *Topic* and *Musical Traditions* labels. There are also a handful of recordings extant of other members of his community.

The discography has been divided up into sections: LPs, CDRs, commercial CDs, compilation LPs and CDs on which Sam features and a CD with some songs of other singers from Winterton.

LP records

Now is the time for Fishing: Folkways FG 3507 (1961) A selection of recordings by Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger.

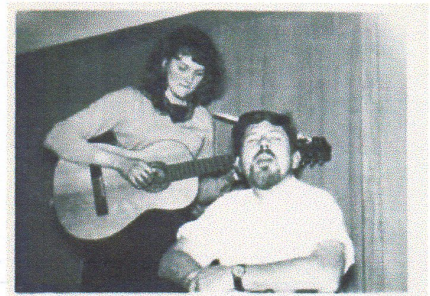
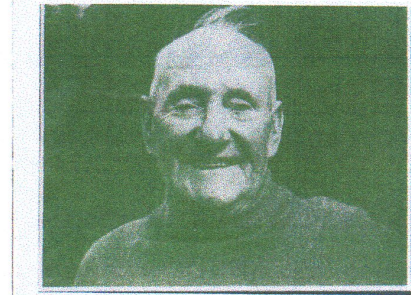
Now is the Time for Fishing; Up Jumped the Herring; The Dogger Bank; Henry Martin; Butter and Cheese; The Reckless Young Fellow; Blow Away the Morning Dew; All Fours; Green Broom; The Dockyard Gate; No, Sir, No, Sir; Sealore and Rhymes; The Drowned Lover; The Dolphin; The Bold Princess Royal; The Ghost Ship; Happy and Delightful; Maids, When You're Young, Never Wed an Old Man; The Wild Rover.

A Garland for Sam: Topic 12T244 (1974) A selection of recordings by Philip Donnellan.

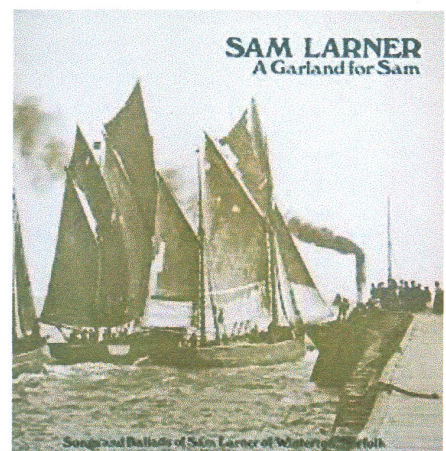
Alphabet Song; Merry Month of May; Napoleon's Dream; London Steamer; Bonny Bunch of Roses; Barbara Allen; The Smacksman; The Lofty Tall Ship; Raking the Hay; Will Watch; The Outlandish Knight; Haisboro Light Song; Old Bob Ridley-O; The Bold Princess Royal; In Scarboro' Town.

NB: This LP is now available as a digital download from Topic Records: TSDL244.

"When I was twenty, thirty, I could raise this roof!"



Peggy Seeger and Ewan MacColl



SINGING THE FISHING

DA 142
mono

A RADIO BALLAD

by EWAN MACCOLL and CHARLES PARKER

Musical direction and orchestration by
PEGGY SEEGER

with EWAN MACCOLL A. L. LLOYD

John Clarence Elizabeth Stewart Jane Stewart Ian Campbell
SAM LARNER and RONNIE BALLS

Chorus: Gordon McCulloch Martin Marshall John O'Reilly David Phillips
Jack Thomas J.R.S. Wright directed by Katherine Thomson

Instrumentalists: Jim Bray bass Fitzroy Coleman guitar Alf Edwards concertina and ocarina Kay Graham fiddle
Peggy Seeger banjo, guitar, mandolin and auto harp Bruce Turner clarinet and alto sax

Produced by CHARLES PARKER Technical Director John Clarke

Singing the Fishing: Argo RG-502 (1967)

Sam features in this radio broadcast, number three in the Radio Ballads series, first broadcast in 1960.

Peter Kennedy CDR

Peter Kennedy released his own version of some of Donnellan's recordings, originally on cassette in 1975. They were later reissued as a CDR.

Sam Larner's Saucy, Salty Sailor Songs: Folktrax Ftx139

Sailing Over the Dogger Bank; Pretty Polly; No, Sir, No; The Game of Cards; Green Brooms; The Dolphin; List You Seamen Unto Me (The Lads on Shore); The Wild Rover; Clear Away the Morning Dew; fragments: King William and the Keeper and The Robber; The London Steamer; Old Bob Ridley-O; The False-Hearted Man (The Outlandish Knight); The Greasy Cook; Henry Martin; Barbary Ellen; The Bold Princess Royal; Napoleon's Dream; Windy Old Weather; The Haymaking Courtship.

Commercial CDs

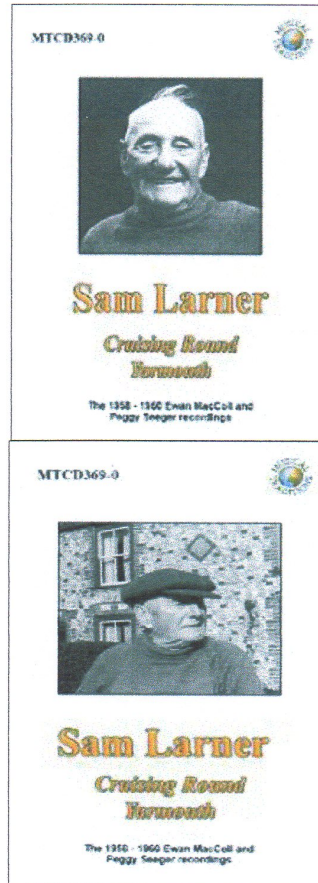
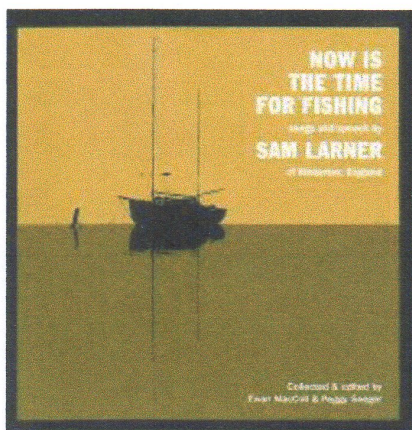
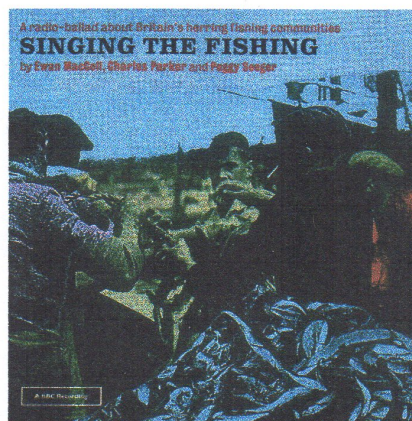
Singing the Fishing Topic TSCD803 (1999) A reissue of the Argo LP.

Now is the Time for Fishing: Topic TSCD511 (2000) A reissue of the Folkways LP.

Cruising Round Yarmouth: Musical Traditions MTCD369-0 (2014) A complete collection of everything recorded by Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger.

CD1: *The Ghost Ship; When I Went a-Fishing; Maids When You're Young; Before Daylight in the Morning; Rhymes and Sea Lore; The Maids of Australia; A Reckless Young Fellow; The Girls Around Cape Horn; The Wild Rover; The Oyster Girl; As I Lay a-Musing; A Sailor's Alphabet; Duckfoot Sue; Clear Away the Morning Dew; Sing to the Oak; No Sir, No Sir; Old Bob Ridley-O; When I Was Single; The Golden Fenadier; The Wild and Wicked Youth; Now is the Time for Fishing & talk; I Wish, I Wish; The Dockyard Gate; Green Broom; The Dolphin; The Old Miser; The Skipper and his Boy; Blackberry Fold; The Wreck of the Lifeboat; Outlandish Knight; The Tanyard Side; Will Watch; Talk.*

CD2: *The Bold Princess Royal; The Captain's Whiskers; The Bonny Bunch of Roses; King William & talk; Happy and Delightful; The Chesapeake and Shannon; Coli Away the Trawl Warp; The Jolly Young Coachman; The Loss of the Ramillies; She Said she was a Virgin; Game of All Fours; The Wonderful Crocodile; Donnelly and Cooper; Cruising Round Yarmouth; Barbara Allen; Barney and Kitty; Green Grow the Laurels; The London Steamer; The Bold Young Fisherman; Windy Old Weather & talk; The Haymakers' Courtship; Henry Martin; Just as the Tide was Flowing; The Dogger Bank; Over There in Ireland; The Dark-Eyed Sailor; Butter and Cheese; Napoleon's Dream; Spurn Point; The Barley Straw; Bold General Wolfe; The White Squall; Scarborough Fair Town; Final talk.*



Compilation LPs

Sam featured on two of the volumes of the Folk Songs of Britain series, originally released on the American Caedmon label in 1961 but later reissued on Topic in the 1960s and 1970s. These are recordings from Philip Donnellan.

Volume 6: Sailormen and Serving Maids Caedmon TC1162 (1961) and Topic 12T194 (1971)
The Smacksman

Volume 8: A Soldier's Life for Me Caedmon TC1164 (1961) and Topic 12T196 (1971)
Napoleon's Dream

Topic Records' Voice of the People Series

Sam featured on three volumes of this essential twenty CD set, released in 1998, and on one of the second series, released in 2011.

Volume 2: My Ship Shall Sail the Ocean TSCD652

Track 6: *In Scarborough Town*

Volume 5: Come all my Lads that Follow the Plough TSCD655

Track 4: *The Pleasant Month of May*

Volume 12: We've Received Orders to Sail TSCD662

Tracks 6 and 25: *The Sailor's Alphabet; The Lofty Tall Ship*

Second Series: Good people Take Warning TSCD673T

The London Steamer; Pretty Polly (The Cruel Ship's Carpenter)

Songs from Sam Larner's Winterton community

Songs and Stories from east Coast Fishermen Helions Bumpstead Gramophone Co. (no date). Neil Lanham's recordings in Winterton from December 1966.

Bob Green: *The Bush of Australia*; John Goffin: *A Ship Called Comrade*; Bob Green: *The Barley Straw*; John Goffin: *The Bold Princess Royal*; Bob Green: *Cruising Around Yarmouth*; Bob Green: *The Hobnail Boots My Father Wore*; Walter 'Tuddy' Rudd: *The Dolphin*; Bob Green: *Henry Martin*; 'Tuddy' Rudd: *Hail the Dewy Morning*; 'Tuddy' Rudd: fragment: *An Old Man Came Courting Me*.

There's also from Norfolk a fragment of Leslie Lawson of Walcot singing *Happisburgh Light (Windy Old Weather)* and playing *Yarmouth Hornpipe* on the mouth organ, as well as Harry Cox singing *The Greenland Whale Fishery* (with chorus) in Sutton. Both were recorded in the mid 1960s.

The song titles and punctuation are as given in the various releases; some are variants of the usual ones or alternatives.

In all, a collection of songs by this highly regarded singer. Sam's singing astonished those who met him and has continued to inspire performers ever since, continuing to do so to this day.

Chris Holderness For the *East Anglian Traditional Music Trust*
March 2021



Philip Donnellan

