

Out in the Bush



Michael Gallagher's Song Book

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Out In the Bush. Michael Gallagher's Song Book.

This song book was created by Michael Gallagher.
It contains both public domain and original material.

The document was produced on a Macintosh G4
using Microsoft Word: Mac vX.

The melodies were set with Finale 2007 and printed as PDF pages and
inserted into the document as image files.

Some of the melodies were set from memory. The remainder were set
from the sources indicated in the notes.

Some of the lyrics are from memory. Some are from the sources
indicated in the notes. The lyrics of some songs have been edited and
new lyrics have been added to some songs, as indicated in the notes.

The front cover graphic was drawn by
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Introduction

Dad often sang: around the home, when driving in the car, at family gatherings and at work functions. Mum had a magical ability – after hearing a few bars she could accompany any song on the piano. Together, my parents were important participants in many happy gatherings. Dad's father played a squeeze-box which would come out after dinner on family occasions. Mum's father played a fiddle. My six brothers, two sisters and myself were all expected to perform at family sing-a-longs and concerts. We listened to the radio and the gramophone, but the most important music for us was that which we performed ourselves. Dad was the star. He was always called upon to perform. He enjoyed rising to the occasion. He was practiced and polished and sang with feeling. He prepared deliberately. For special occasions he wrote his own words and made his own songs.

Family sing-a-longs became less and less frequent, as we moved away from home. But occasionally, we found the time to gather together. When that happened, we often sang. I am glad that I took notice when, on one of those occasions, my father deliberately instructed me on how to sing several of his songs. I treasure the seed he planted.

Folk song has interested me since I was a teenager. At first I was merely amused. In my twenties and thirties, it began to teach me who I was and from where I had come. In my sixties, I find myself carried along in the flow of a living tradition and keen to add to the stream.

In this book, you will find some songs that have assisted me to define who I am and which have instructed me on how I ought to live. The various songs were created years ago for purposes long gone. All have been kept alive down through the years, by singers who have taken them up for their own purposes.

These songs have caught my attention sufficiently well for me to learn to sing them and mould into forms that make sense to me. Several themes run through them: determination in the face of adversity, making do, working together to achieve a common purpose, a healthy disrespect of authority, fairness, hope, happiness, and the joys of being in the bush. I have added some notes and reminiscences to some of the songs.

It has given me a great deal of pleasure to assemble this collection. I hope you find something that pleases you

Michael Gallagher
10th February 2007