

# Stay on the Farm

© 2013 Produced by John & Heidi Cerrigione ~ Ellington, CT

## 1. I Dig My Garden

© 2012 Words and Music by Tom Cerrigione

*John's younger brother Tom is a talented song-writer and we challenged him to write a song that would fit our "farm theme". We're delighted with his composition and happy to sing it for you here.*

Key of A

Instruments: mountain dulcimer (H), guitar & bass (J)

Cauliflower turnip greens, Summer squash navy beans  
Sweet potato makes a great souffle, I dig my garden every day  
I love to taste that first bite, From a tomato on the vine  
It's awfully nice to live this this way, I dig my garden every day

Little bit a water, little bit a dirt,  
Handful of seeds and a whole lot a work  
Little bit a time, little bit a love  
Little bit a light from the sun and a whole lot a help from above

It's the only life I know I really love to watch it grow  
Right here's where I want to stay I dig my garden every day

## 2. One Rose

© 1994 Tony Ellis and Tommy Thompson

*We heard this song sung by Julee Glaub (also recorded on her Blue Waltz CD) and immediately loved the imagery. One of our favorite non-musical activities is to go hiking, so we will sing this song on the trail assuring "it's well worth the climb".*

Key of C

Instruments: autoharp (H), guitar & bass (J)

Would you please take my hand dear I've something to show you  
The way is not steep, and the view is sublime  
Smell the sweet scent of pines in the valley below us  
I promise you sweetheart it's well worth the climb

Can you see see the Blue Ridge rising high in the heavens?  
See the bald eagle aloft in the sky  
These craggy old mountains will always sustain us  
Will always contain us as the years roll on by

Rest with me here on the brow of the mountain  
The pines have turned gold in the soft evening sun  
A breeze in the air brings the fragrance of roses  
A bed of wild roses and the day's nearly done

Now the sun has turned red as a rose on the mountain  
The moss on the trail is covered with dew  
I promise you darling, we never will part  
For you are the one rose that lives in my heart

## 3. The Quiet Faith of Man

© 1981 Words and Music by Bill Staines,

Bug Music - Mineral River Music

*Bill Staines has written many beautiful songs and this one is a favorite. "Take the little that you know, and do the best you can, and you see the rest with the quiet faith of man".*

Key of D

Instruments: mountain dulcimer (H), guitar & bass (J)

One day a babe was born along the high-way,  
A tiny helpless thing upon the sand  
And (a young man) with a dream out on the byway  
Took the babe and held it proudly in his hand

And the woman smiled a gentle smile of knowing  
And whispered something softly in its ear  
Perhaps a little prayer to help the growing  
perhaps a word of comfort through the fear

You can trust the moon to move the mighty oceans  
You can trust the sun to shine upon the land  
You take the little that you know and you do the best you can  
And you see the rest with the quiet faith of man.

A tractor makes its way along the fence line  
The seeds are dropped precisely in the row  
And if the rain is kind and the wind don't take the topsoil  
Before too long the crops will start to show

Now the farmer sees the fields around him ripen  
And whispers something low beneath his breath  
Perhaps a little prayer to help the growing  
Perhaps a word of thanks for all the rest

You can trust...

There's a storm-tossed ship tonight out on the water  
There's a soul that sails alone out on the blue  
There's a dreamer with her eyes upon the heavens  
They're all looking for a way to make it through

You can trust...



#### 4. Turkey Medley

Traditional - Turkey in the Straw/Red Wing/Golden Slippers

*Here's a medley of three fiddle tunes that we often string together when we play hammered and guitar programs. They're all familiar, happy, old time tunes.*

Key of G

Instruments: hammered dulcimer (H), guitar & bass (J)

#### 5. Grandma Slid Down the Mountain

© 1994 Richard L. Wilbur, Bella Roma Music; additional lyrics by Katie L. Waldren, Candace Krietlow & Holly Brook Hafferman

*This is a fun song recorded by Cathy Fink in 1984 and written by Richard Wilbur. The last three verses were added by Katie, Candace and Holly when people kept asking how grandma got back up the mountain!*

Key of A

Instruments: autoharp (H), guitar & bass (J)

When we lived on the mountain twas hard to get around  
Had to go on down the hill but that went round and round  
Grandma had a better way, that of getting down  
She'd climb onto her mail chute and slide right into town

She slid down the mountain on her little ol-de la-dy tee  
Her little ol-de la-dy tee Her little ol-de la-dy tee  
She slid down the mountain on her little ol-de la-dy tee  
Her little ol-de-la-dy little ol-de-la-dy tee.

Grandma loved her ice cream but her freezer wouldn't chill  
They made homemade ice cream at the dairy down the hill  
A hundred tempting flavors from fudge to mint parfait  
She had to go on down the hill and there weren't no better way

She slid...

Well Grandma used the mail chute to do her weekly chores  
Take produce to the market, get dry goods from the stores  
When her chores were finished, there was no uphill slide  
She'd smile and stick her thumb out, to hitch herself a ride

She slid...

There's lots of transportation to get from here to there  
Trains, boats and airplanes, a flying through the air  
Motorbikes and rollerblades can join into the race  
But Granny on her mail chute will always win first place

She slid...

#### 6. Around My Barn

Dillon Bustin © 1975

*This traditional song details the struggle of a farmer who is trying to protect his crops from all the critters who want to come and help themselves.*

Key of G

Instruments: autoharp (H), mountain dulcimer & bass (J)

When the hound begins to howl  
and I've not heard a hootin' owl  
When the chickens begin to squawk  
that's the time to take a walk  
Around my barn, around my barnyard

Could be the wind in the tree  
Could be a rabbit or a groundhog sneeze  
Eating the peppers in my garden spot  
He'd better hope that I am not  
Around my barn, around my barnyard

Could be a cloud across the moon  
Could be a fox or a sly raccoon  
Coming down to make a meal  
He don't know the way I feel  
About my barn, about my barnyard

Down in the cornfield see the deer  
Each one chewing on a yellow ear  
And every squirrel that's ever been born  
Wants to make a living off the little corn  
That I get to my barn, get to my barnyard

I never expected life to be  
Simple or easy or completely free  
But I did not think I'd have to fight  
To get one drink or a single bite  
Of food from my barn, food from my barnyard

#### 7. Es Burebuebli (The Farm Boy)

Traditional Swiss Folk Song

*We play this one instrumentally but the lyrics in Swiss describe how a young woman will not be marrying a poor farm boy – she has her sights set on a more interesting young man from town.*

Key of D

Instruments: autoharp & mountain dulcimer (H), guitar & bass (J)



## 8. Black Eyed Susie

Traditional

*We like to get the audience to sing along on the "Hey" in the chorus.  
A fun old-time song that's well suited to the banjo.*

Key of D

Instruments: autoharp (H), banjo, guitar & bass (J)

Love my wife, I love my baby  
Love my biscuits sopped in gravy  
My true love's a black eyed daisy  
If I lost her I'd go cra-zy

Hey Black eyed Susie Hey!

Over the hill, down in the holler  
All I want is a greenback dollar  
Going back home with a pocket full of money  
Somebody there to call me honey  
Hey...

All I need in this creation  
's a pretty little wife and a big plantation  
May get tipsy, May get woozy  
But I'm comin' home to black-eyed Susie

Hey...

All I need to make me happy  
Is two little boys to call me "Pappy"  
One named Sam, another named Davey  
Sam likes ham and Dave likes gravy

Hey...

## 9. The Haying Song

David Mallet, BMG Ruby Songs

*We first heard Susan Trump sing this song. It's got a chorus that runs  
through your mind... long after it's finished!*

Key of A

Instruments: autoharp (H), autoharp & bass (J)

When the raspberries burst from the wood vine  
And the summer lies close to the ground  
And the porch is the fit place for young boys to sleep,  
the brook in the hollow dies down

Then with straw hats and wagons and horses  
Like young Tim and tired old Dan  
We head for the field to the creak of the wheel  
with the pitchfork that blisters your hands

And you have to make hay when the sun shines  
That's what all of the hill people say  
You just keep your load wide,  
keep an eye on the sky  
And make sure it's dry when you put it a-way

And I remember the chaff on the back of my neck  
The cool at the edge of the trees  
And you rest for a time and you talk about the weather  
You drink from the spring, get mud on the knees

But it's back to the wagon, it's back to the mound  
Six loads in and eight more to go  
And there's biscuits and beans at the late supper meal  
And there's nothing like beans when you're working, you know

And you have to make hay...

'Tis the season of clover and kildeer  
It's the time when the earth does her best  
And it's when all men are strong and the work days are long  
And you know when to rise and you know when to rest

And in the cool of the evening I perch on the load  
And let the wagon wind blow through my hair  
Count off the stars and talk to the moon  
And sing to myself in the sweet summer air

Hang on at the corners and duck from the branches  
And sing to myself in the sweet summer air

And you have to make hay...



## 10. Chicken Polka

Traditional

*We recorded this tune at a fiddle jam led by Claire Milliner and Walt Koken several years ago. You can almost hear the chickens clucking in the third part of the tune.*

Key of D/G

Instruments: hammered dulcimer & autoharp (H), guitar & bass (J)

## 11. Stay on the Farm

© 1868 W.W. Partridge

*We came across this song when looking for suitable background music for a photo slide show that had a segment on farming. That version was a duet recording of Arnie Naiman and Chris Coole. We've since found some sheet music titled "Don't Leave the Farm, Boys" with a different melody on the chorus. We liked the first version we heard and have stayed with that melody but added a couple more verses from the "Don't Leave the Farm, Boys" printed music.*

Key of G

Instruments: autoharp (H), guitar & bass (J)

Come boys I have something to tell you,  
Come near I will whisper it low;  
You're thinkin' of leavin' the homestead,  
Don't be in a hurry to go.  
The city has many attractions,  
but think of its vices and sins,  
when once in the vortex of fashion,  
How soon your destruction begins.

And it's Stay on the Farm, boys,  
Stay on the Farm, though profits come in rather slow,  
Stay on the Farm boys, Stay on the Farm,  
don't be in a hur-ry to go.

You talk of the mines of Australia,  
They're wealthy in treasure no doubt,  
And yet there is gold in the farm boys,  
If only you'll shovel it out.  
The mercantile life is a hazard surrounded by glitter and show.  
And wealth isn't made in a day boys,  
Don't be in a hurry to go.

The great busy West has inducements  
And so has the busiest mart  
But wealth is not made in a day, boys  
Don't be in a hurry to start  
The bankers and brokers are wealthy  
They take in their thousands or so  
Ah think of the frauds and deceptions  
Don't be in a hurry to go

And it's Stay...

The farm is the safest and surest  
The orchards are loaded today  
You're free as the air in the mountains  
And monarch of all you survey  
Then stay on the farm a while longer  
Tho profits come in rather slow  
Remember you've nothing to risk boys,  
Don't be in a hurry to go

And it's Stay...



## 12. Bauernhof Walser

Traditional Volksmusik

*Heidi enjoys playing Swiss/German/Austrian music on her hammered dulcimer/hackbrett. "Bauernhof" translates to the "farmstead" and was well suited for our theme.*

Key of C/G

Instruments: hammered dulcimer & autoharp (H), bass (J)

## 13. Doodle Bug

Traditional

*We heard Jeff Davis sing this at the Rhode Island Folk Festival a few years ago and started singing it soon after. We like to encourage the kids to join us on the "bug, bug, bug" chorus. Not quite sure exactly what a doodle bug looks like, but many folks have given us descriptions.*

Key of G

Instruments: autoharp (H), banjo & bass (J)

When I was a kid this is what I did  
to pass the time a-way  
I'd look all a-round till I found  
a doo-dle hole and I'd say

Doo-dle doo-dle doo-dle bug, bug, bug  
Doo-dle doo-dle doo-dle bug, bug, bug  
Doo-dle bug come out and look all a-round  
then doo-dle back in the ground

I'd gaze on down upon the ground  
and poke a stick all about  
What a pleasure for me, it was to see  
that Doodbug coming out

Doodle...

I don't know why, to a doodle I'd lie  
But this is what I'd say  
Your house is on fire, your children are burned  
Doodle bug fly away

Doodle...

Now that I'm grown, I wish I did own  
A doodle piece of ground  
I'd wake up each day, with a doodle I'd play  
Happiness would have found

Doodle...



## 14. Blackhawk Waltz

Mary E. Walsh - 19th Century

*Here's an old piano parlor piece that our niece Victoria played beautifully at the lodges during our Glacier National Park trip. Little is known about the composer, Mary Walsh, and the music is dated 1877.*

Key of D

Instruments: autoharp (H), guitar & bass (J)

## 15. When the Wagon Was New

Traditional

*We learned this song from Sally Rogers' 1986 recording "The Unclaimed Pint". The song is believed to be traditional and collected by Sam & Kirk McGee from a singer in Illinois.*

Key of F

Instruments: autoharp (H), guitar & bass (J)

Just an old rusty wagon that's left to rot away  
The one we used to ride in, back in the good old days  
People all loved their neighbors, Ev'ry body was so free  
And ridin' in the brand new wagon was something to see

Oh, I can see my daddy riding up in the wagon seat  
Mama in her new sunbonnet She looked so nice and neat  
Children all in the wagon Grandma, Grampa, too  
We loved to go to church on Sunday  
When the wagon was new

Red wheels was on the wagon and the body it was green  
But we were just as happy as riding in a limousine  
People would come and gather 'round from all the mountainside  
Take a look at our brand new wagon and all take a ride

Oh, I can see...

But the automobile is here now and the wagon days are through  
Air-o-planes a-hummin', good neighbors are so few  
Everybody's in a hurry and it's money that gets you through  
But we didn't need much money when the wagon was new

Oh, I can see...



Heidi Cerrigione  
Autoharp, Hammered Dulcimer,  
Mountain Dulcimer

John Cerrigione  
Guitar, Autoharp, Mountain Dulcimer  
Banjo & Acoustic Bass

Recorded & Mixed at Sunroom Studio  
56 Egypt Road, Ellington, CT 06029  
[www.doofusmusic.com/JHWEB.html](http://www.doofusmusic.com/JHWEB.html)

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