

Teaching and Learning About African American and Native American Cultures in North Carolina

The Media Evaluation Services personnel of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction produce a monthly *Advisory List of Instructional Media*. This timely series of annotated bibliographies of instructional media recommended for use in the public schools of North Carolina is available to public school teachers, librarians, and media coordinators throughout the state.

The following reviews of sound recordings were originally published by the Media Evaluation Services personnel in the *Advisory List* for February 1992. Although grade levels are suggested for each sound recording as a selection aid for school librarians, all of the sound recordings are appropriate and recommended for folksong collections in public, academic, and special libraries.

All of the following sound recordings were produced by the North Carolina Folklife Institute. Send orders to 2726 Croasdaile Drive, Durham, NC 27705, or call (919/733-7897).

Eight-Hand Sets and Holy Steps: Early Dance Tunes and Songs of Praise from North Carolina's Black Tradition. 1 LP disc recording with manual, \$13.50. Durham: NC Folklife Institute, 1988. Grades 6-12.

This mix of square dance and gospel tunes contains twelve secular and sacred selections which reflect the historical roots in African American music dating back to the beginnings of the nineteenth century. An informative manual contains photographs and biographies of performers, descriptions of songs, and lyrics, as well as background on the ways in which music is related to work and social patterns in the community. Selected as an Outstanding Folk Recording by the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, this LP disc recording gives invaluable insight into the African American musical heritage in North Carolina. The North Carolina Arts Council "gives permission to teachers, librarians, and media coordinators to duplicate [this sound recording] on cassette."

Etta Baker, One-Dime Blues: Finger-picked Blues and Traditional Tunes. 1 audiocassette, \$10.00; 1 compact disc, \$15.00. Durham: NC Folklife Institute, 1991. Grades 6-12.

This remarkable sound recording is not only enjoyable listening but also a historical document. Featuring African American artist Etta Baker on guitar (in the Piedmont Blues tradition), banjo,

and vocals, this recording presents selections ranging from traditional folk songs (e.g., "John Henry") to blues, gospel, breakdown, and original compositions. Extensive liner notes contain information about many of the selections, details of Baker's life (she lives in Morganton, North Carolina), and influences on her music. This sound recording provides valuable support for studying the history and traditions of North Carolina, for African American history studies, and for music history projects.

Old Time Music from the North Carolina Piedmont: Joe and Odell Thompson. 1 audiocassette, \$10.00. Durham: NC Folklife Institute, 1989. Grades 6-12.

The eleven selections on this audiocassette are performed by African American musicians Joe and Odell Thompson, whose fiddle and banjo duo continues not only a folk, but also a family tradition passed on by their ancestors. Standard tunes ("John Henry," "Careless Love") and traditional favorites ("Georgia Buck," "Molly Put the Kettle On") are included in their repertoire. A fascinating and entertaining glimpse at folk music of the past century, this sound recording has a documentary aspect, making it a unique resource for studying uses of music, sources of present-day gospel and country styles, and rural African American folk traditions in North Carolina. Detailed liner notes provide valuable information about the historical background and content of the songs.

Where the Ravens Roost: Cherokee Traditional Songs of Walker Calhoun. 1 audiocassette, \$10.00. Durham: NC Folklife Institute 1991. Grades 4-12.

The ancient Cherokee ancestral chants preserved on this audiocassette have been passed down through performer/narrator Walker Calhoun's family for generations. His expressive rendition and lively, insightful narration create a valuable resource for studying Cherokee culture, North Carolina history, and folk music traditions. A guide contains background information and a script, which includes phonetic spelling for the song lyrics.

Won't You Help Me To Raise 'Em: The Menhaden Chanteymen. 1 audiocassette, \$10.00. Durham: NC Folklife Institute, 1990. Grades 4-12.

Performed by the Menhaden Chanteymen, of Beaufort, North Carolina, this audiocassette contains a collection of twelve "authentic net hauling songs from an African American Fishery." The extensive, well-researched documentation accompanying the audiocassette provides interesting background about the maritime work song tradition, various singing groups, and the twelve songs performed. This sound recording is an interdisciplinary resource for North Carolina studies, Black History month, and lessons on the evolution of folk music.

**Laquappe* (lān-yāp', lān' yāp') n. An extra or unexpected gift or benefit. [Louisiana French]