

## Songs

22 January 2018 by Harry Zirkelbach  
Stars and Sun date 35039

There was no quality family voice in our family. Had anyone been requested to sing for their supper, the whole tribe would have been exceedingly thin, or simply starved. Of course those musically inclined would have approved.

Not that my Mothers family didn't like to sing. She played the piano, reading the sheet music, and my sister Pat and I standing behind her reading the words, attempting to keep the music in mind, me to no avail. But Pat had a soft melodic voice which aided me in my search for the right notes. After singing a tune a few times, Mom who stand, and we'd open the bench we three sat on, pick another from the many song sheets she had collected, mostly before marriage.

Favorites, mostly Irish ballads. We died with those that extolled the bravado of the Irish, truthfully of course; but we laughed with those songs whose lines made fun of the Irish proclivity to see themselves as Gods chosen.

In the cold winters of 1929,30, 31 we had access to the 220 pieces in the piano bench. We sang them all. Still there were a few dozen that we enjoyed and song regularly. When we sang "Springtime in the Rockies" I marveled at the idea of mountains, no trees, snow covered for months; wondered if I would ever see them, for no one in that valley north of Pittsburgh had been west of the Mississippi, seemed content to live and die there.

Yet this young mind found the picture drawn by the song  
inviting. even enticing, to those Rockies, far away.  
Mindful .... far away.

It is said the world was changed by the dreamers. I had  
those dreams, but have no confidence that those songs and  
the dreams created had any effect on my feet. Still here I sit  
with the Writers of Windsor Gardens recounting the images  
created by some songs sung in youth even though the notes  
we often not correct.

With a crowd, I still am inclined to sing with gusto. Join in  
the message created by the words, with enthusiasm.

Fear not. Have never rendered any solo piece.  
And thankfully won't.