

EMILYN STAM • ANNE LEDERMAN • JAMES STEPHENS

Eh?!



1. Pitou

from Louis "Pitou" Boudreault, via Lisa Ornstein.

A legendary tune from a legendary Québécois fiddler, James and Anne both learned this Louis Boudreault classic from wonderful recording of Lisa Ornstein and André Marchand on "Danseries de la belle province." Long before Eh?! was a twinkle in anyone's eye, we would play this together whenever we crossed paths. Finally, we left the crossroads and struck out on our own.

2. Kristen's Visit/Twelfth Night

© *Anne Lederman*. Good things come in threes. These and the following two tunes came about as a result of James and Anne both messing with triple time in various forms before our first get-together as a band. Kristen is a lovely young woman Anne had the privilege of teaching for several years before she grew up and went away; fortunately, she does come back from time to time, usually around Christmas.

3. Trip to Chelsea/Balkan Brandy

© *A. Lederman/J. Stephens*. Chelsea is where James lives, in a lovely house in a snow-covered wood, or so it was when we first got together to play. Anne wrote the first tune in anticipation of our first gathering as a band. James started off his experiment in triple time with a tune in "brandy" rhythm, but it escaped into a Balkan metre of 7 by the B part, hence, "Balkan Brandy" it became.

4. Rachel Rae

/Devil Among the Tailors

© *Ian Bell*, tunes trad. Ian Bell's wonderful tribute to traditional music as a way of remembering people, places and times. It names names.

5. Grandy's Devil Tunes

trad. *from the playing of Grandy Fagnan, Camperville, Manitoba*. Two wonderful, quirky old tunes from Grandy Fagnan, the Métis gentleman whose tape turned up on Anne's doorstep in 1984 and started her on a quest from which she has never returned. The kalimba just seemed like the right thing to do.

6. Fietsen sans mains

© *Emilyn Stam*. The feeling of soaring down an unknown bike path, dropping your hands, your mind wandering to all the places your adventure could take you... "Fietsen" is Dutch for "biking," "sans mains" French for "without hands."

7. Riley Boys

© *Carol Denney*. Learned from the singing of Canadian vocal group, Finest Kind (a band in which James is an occasional guest member), this song comes from the pen of Carol Denney, a singer, songwriter and community activist from Oakland, California. Written in reaction to the Iraq war, it is a tribute to the war dead (the metaphorically named "Riley boys") who are sometimes forgotten in the very polarized views of this particular conflict. For us, the Riley Boys have come to include victims of war everywhere.

8. *Springtime in Paris/Dan Day Dance*

© *James Stephens*. The first tune was written by James for his pal, Brian Pickell, who lives in beautiful Paris, Ontario, where he spends the winter waiting for spring to arrive.

Dan Day Dance was written for another pal, Dan Gorno. Dan can be found calling dances, playing percussion, making pottery, and generally leading the charge in Michigan and Ontario, unless he's somewhere else. We had a big party for him in Toronto and this tune commemorates that fine occasion.

9. *From the Rock: A Newfoundland Set*

© *Emile Benoit/trad/trad*. Jim Hodder's Reel, Daniel's Harbour and Parson's Pond jigs. Anne and James learned these from Kelly Russell and Christina Smith. We love Newfoundland. Anne wants to move there and live happily ever after.

10. *Grean Tea/Hiccup Jig*

© *Emilyn Stam/Brian Pickell*. After a full day of fishing in Takysie Lake in B.C., a nice cup of tea was perfect to keep me awake long enough to misspell and compose Grean Tea. Brian Pickell is our buddy and becoming a legendary composer of new Canadian fiddle tunes. We hope he forgives us for what we've done to this one.

11. *Lovely Nancy/Prayer for Oliver*

trad./Madeline Lough. This is an Ozark mountain version of an Irish version of an old English ballad, learned from the singing of American cittern

player, Gerald Trimble, and now sung by a Canadian fiddler - a favourite of James' for many years. The tune in the middle "Prayer for Oliver" was composed by 12-year-old Maddy Lough from Emilyn's home town of Smithers, B. C.

12. *Here Where Old Friends Meet*

© *Anne Lederman*. Inspired by the first song on Swedish band Frifot's brilliant CD, "Slurring," these words gradually took shape and the melody morphed accordingly. A meditation on the ups and downs of friendship.

13. *Estonian Waltz*

trad. Anne took a trip to Estonia to play at the Viljandi Festival in 2005. One day all the foreign performers were invited to a workshop to learn Estonian tunes. It seemed like a brilliant idea. This is the tune that stuck.

14. *Real Bheara/Bunker Hill*

trad. We live in Canada. Therefore, we play Irish music. We also love it and think, perhaps, not everything has been said that can be. We would like to dedicate these tunes to Seamus Craig and Matt Cranitch, whose lovely duet playing has always been an inspiration.

15. *Le set/La cardèuse*

trad. from Lisa Ornstein. More classic French-Canadian tunes. We just really like them.

16. *Lightning Strikes Once*

© *Anne Lederman*.

Eh?! is

Emilyn Stam

Piano all trks except 7
5-String Fiddle trks 4, 6, 12, 13, 16
Accordion trk 7
Voice trks 4, 7, 8

Anne Lederman

4-String Fiddle trks 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 14, 15
5-String Fiddle trks 4, 6, 10, 12, 13, 16
Piano trk 7
Accordion trk 11
Tenor Resonator Guitar trks 4, 8
Kalimba, shakers trk 5
Bones trk 1
Feet trk 1, 5
Voice trks 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12

James Stephens

4-String Fiddle trks 1,2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15
5-String Fiddle trks 4, 6, 12, 13, 16
Tenor Guitar trk 7
Tenor Resonator Guitar trk 11
Electric Bass trks 5, 7, 10
Voice trks 3, 4, 7, 8, 11

Guests:

Andy Hillhouse

Guitar trks 3, 9, 15

Joe Philips

Stand-up Bass trks 3, 4, 8, 12, 13

Ben Grossman

Udu trks 1, 16
Cahon trk 9
Bodhran trks 1, 15
Riqq trk 8
Triangle trks 3, 13
Tambourine trk 3
Shakers trks 3, 8

Rob Graves

Tambourine, Dumbek trk 13

Chris Schiller

Cymbals trk 9

All tunes and songs arranged by Eh?!

Produced by Emilyn Stam, James Stephens and Anne Lederman

Eh?! Recorded at Stove Studios, Chelsea, Quebec, Engineered by James Stephens
Additional recording at Chez Glendale, Toronto, Ontario, Engineered by James Stephens
Ben's percussion recorded at his home in Guelph, Ontario, Engineered by Ben Grossman
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Mastered by Andrew St. George

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From “the land of the muskeg and the shining birch tree,” E!h?! is devoted to exploring the myriad pathways between old and new music. Think of it as music with deep roots, soaring branches and birds leaving the nest, heading for distant horizons.

E!h?! started off as a trio of fiddlers with too many strings on their instruments. We messed with old tunes and we composed new ones. As it evolved, we ended up with a pageant of textures and sounds encircling the scraping of bow on string—voices, piano, accordion, bass, guitars with four strings and six, mandolins large and small, bones, feet, shakers of all sizes, udu, tambourines, bodhran, cymbals, riqq, triangle, dumbek and kalimba. We hope both our ancestors and our descendants understand.

1. Pitou 2:57
2. Kristen's Visit/Twelfth Night 4:38
3. Trip to Chelsea/Balkan Brandy 3:08
4. Rachel Rae/Devil Among the Tailors 4:27
5. Grandy's Devil Tunes 2:45
6. Fietsen sans mains 3:26
7. Riley Boys 3:49
8. Springtime in Paris/Dan Day Dance 5:10
9. From the Rock: A Newfoundland Set 3:09
10. Green Tea/Hiccup Jig 4:36
11. Lovely Nancy/Prayer for Oliver 5:06
12. Here Where Old Friends Meet 4:57
13. Estonian Waltz 2:34
14. Real Bheara/Bunker Hill 3:49
15. Le set/La cardeuse 3:10
16. Lightning Strikes Once 2:07

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Produced by Emilyn Stam, James Stephens and Anne Lederman

Falcon Productions, FP 111



Info and Booking:

www.ehtunes.com

All tunes: 

except trk 4,11,12: 

trk 7: 

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