

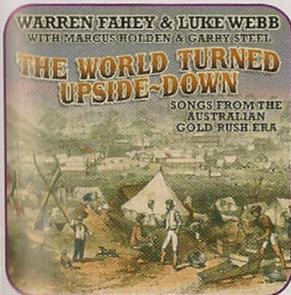
Nanae also sings traditional songs as she accompanies herself on the koto.

There are six tracks on the CD all of traditional Japanese music.

I found it quite relaxing to listen to but, not having heard anything like this before, it took several listenings to get my head around it..

If you are a meditator or just want to unwind after a stressful day this CD would be of interest to you.

If you like Japanese music then this CD played by a master of the instrument will be a useful addition to your collection.



TN1923-69 - \$15.00

Warren Fahey & Luke Webb - The World Turned Upside Down
CD Review by Chris Spencer

I would hope that the work of Warren Fahey will be well known to all of our readers.

Over the past decade he has released a dozen albums, including a series of multiple cd sets issued through ABC records.

He describes himself as a folklorist, record producer, author, performer and oral historian.

He has performed

with The Larrikins, The Celebrated Knickers and Knockers Band and the Australian Bush Orchestra.

His website (www.warenfahey.com) has a lot more information about the man and his work.

You might ask why he has decided to release this album.

And who is Luke Webb The album is sub-titled Songs from the Australian Gold Rush era.

The words of the songs included on the album, plus another

100 songs about gold can be found in the accompanying e-book of the same name.

The book is a social history of the Australian gold era from 1850-1900 and includes stories, reminiscences and songs taken from early newspapers, magazines and the oral tradition.

I did find the liner notes interesting and the thorough notes about each song are illuminating.

In his introduction, Fahey, makes the assertions that many songs from the gold era were influenced by American minstrel music and that parody played a major part in the entertainment of miners, singing new words to old tunes that made the songs easier to remember and sing at the next gathering.

To this end, this collection features several songs by Charles Thatcher.

(Another band that I came across recently, Ragamuffin, also recorded a cassette album called 'Gold' on which they

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recorded several Thatcher songs.)

There is also generous use of the piano.

The arrangements are simple, uncluttered with Fahey's voice up front.

Songs and parodies of Thatcher include "Jolly Puddlers" (sung to the tune of "The Jolly Waggoner").

"Where's Your Licence" ("The Gay Cavalier"), "Coming Down the Flat" ("Comin' through the Rye"), "The Fine Fat Saucy Chinaman" (The Fine Fat English Gentleman"), "Look Out Below", "Shipping Agents" (Campdown Races").

A song attributed to Joe Small aka George Chanson, include "The Nugget Family" ("Guy Fawkes").

"the World is now Turned Upside Down" uses the tune to "Oh Suzannah".

Other tracks not mentioned already include "Off to the Diggings", "The Rush to Glanmire", "Where's Your License", "Dunn, Gilbert & Ben Hall", "The Bail up at Eugowra Rocks", "Sam Holt", and "The New Chum Chinaman".

Three songs that will be familiar to readers include "The Maryborough Miner", "A Thousand Miles Away and "With a Swag All on my Shoulder".

Musicians that Fahey has called upon to assist include, Sydney based musician Luke Webb on banjo and guitar, long time

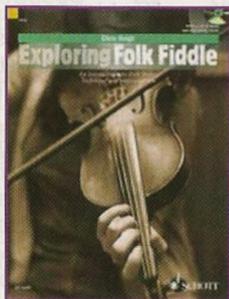
CD & Reviews

associate Marcus Holden, a multi instrumentalist, and the engineer of this recording, Garry Steel (piano accordion) and Elsen Price on bass.

Two tracks are culled from a previous recording session done by the Larrikins in the 1980's "Frank Gardner He is Caught at Last" and "The Miner" - they do not sound out of place with the rest of the 22 tracks.

If you are interested in Australian music from this era, this is an essential purchase.

For other readers, this cd is certainly good value with over 72 minutes of music, providing some Australian folk songs that you may not be aware of.



TN1952 - \$35.00

Chris Haig - Exploring Folk Fiddle

Review by Marilyn Russell

At first I thought the music was mostly celtic by nature, but the more I got into this book, the more I

discovered.

I was delighted to find that many different styles and traditions were covered.

There is something in this book for every fiddler, no matter what level they may be at.

The music and notes are well set out and easy to understand throughout the book.

The sound tracks on the CD give a good representation of the music in the book, although I did find it clumsy to have one lot of music in audio files to play on CD and another lot of violin solo music in MP3 format, which didn't play on my CD.

Reading some history snippets of the origins of tune types as well as some background information of some of the tunes was interesting.

It covered the origins of tune types as well as some history points on individual songs.

It was informative to read that a simple tune with lyrics when played without the lyrics over the years becomes purely a fiddle tune and is likely to evolve into something almost unrecognisable from the original.

The book looks at traditional tunes from all over the world and has sound files to listen to as well as reading the technical information associated with styles and individual songs.

The book covers alternative tunings, licks, intros and endings.

It touches on composition, Q & A formats, improvisation and variations.

It also gives reference and examples of Double stops, upper and lower string drones and some ornamentations.

In summary this book gives an introduction to different styles and traditions, but also allows insight to be able to get a good feel for the styles in the event that you want to delve deeper into study.

This is a book that has hours of instruction and interesting articles and will be visited many times on my bookshelf.

There is something for fiddle players of all levels.

Trad&Now is lucky to have a large panel of voluntary reviewers.

They are people who have been involved with the folk music community for a long while and/or they are performers in their own right.

They spend a great deal of time listening to CDs very carefully and then sharing their thoughts with the rest of us.

This helps readers decide whether they should purchase a CD or not by giving them some idea as to what to expect.

However, as with movie reviewers and with any critics generally, the review published may not be the same as what you would personally feel about a CD.

Everyone has their own taste in music and the range of tastes seems to be endless.

Reviews are the opinion of the reviewer only and not necessarily that of Trad&Now or its editorial staff.

Performers submit CDs without any guarantee of a favourable review and readers should always form their own opinion, preferably by hearing the CD under review for themselves or seeing the performer at a live performance.

If you are interested in joining our review panel, please contact Trad&Now at info@tradandnow.com