Lyrics for “Ripened Fruit” CD by Dave and Fran Plus

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Song 1: Your Shoes, My Shoes (Tom Paxton)

Chorus:

Your shoes, my shoes done walked a mile or two

Your shoes, my shoes done all the shoes can do (repeat)

They walked with Rosa to the front of the bus

They walked with Martin when he prayed for us

They walked with the women in Washington (they walked with me, they walked with you)

That’s what the shoes have done (they done all the shoes can do)

They got no laces and the heel’s broke down

Soles so thin that your feet hit the ground

Can’t hardly tell if they’re black or they’re brown

But they’re good enough to get us to glory

They been up the mountain where the trees don’t grow

Been ‘cross the desert where they never seen the snow

Shoes so tight that they can’t hardly go

But they’re good enough to get us to glory

Left shoe, right shoe don’t know the size

Shoes on the ground and eyes on the prize

They been to the river and they been baptized

And they’re good enough to get us to glory

Song 2: The Shores of Jordan (Iris Dement)

I looked up into heaven, thought I’d solve life’s mysteries

I observed the constellations for a clue to my destiny

But the rhyme of life confounds me, life will be what it will be

So I’ll just dance the shores of Jordan till the angels carry me

Chorus:

I’m gonna let my feet go dancing to my very favorite songs

‘cause I know my time for leaving’s bound to come before too long

And there ain’t no way of knowing how tomorrow’s gonna be

So I’ll just dance the shores of Jordan till the angels carry me

I travelled to a prison, saw my share of shattered dreams

Were the tables slightly tilted, I could be bound, they could be free

But I believe no tear goes wasted, so I fell there on my knee

And vowed I’d dance the shores of Jordan till the angels carry me

I saw a weary traveler heading down a dusty road

I said “Friend please may I help you, seems you haul a heavy load”

He said “Though my burden’s heavy in my heart I’m traveling light

So I can cross old River Jordan when I’m called to the other side”

Song 3: Ripened Fruit (Dave Mussey)

The white cedar stands at the center, spring flowers bloom by the step

Ravens we know at the compost crow, there’s a promise that we kept

Many have been here before us, we dwell in the echoes of their lives

Depths of the yard yield ceramic shards, to speak of those who thrived

Chorus:

Deep red wine, flaming fire, ripened fruit of my desire

Ocean wind in the sheets of our bed

Friends of years, coyotes call, onion braid upon the wall

To this house and this land we are wed

Old friends and family and neighbors break bread with us close by the fire

They help us to sing, to their love we cling before the mortal self grows tired

The larder is laden with harvest, the workshop bears baskets and canoes

Make a joyful sound to this live we’ve found, what it asks we will not refuse

Song 4: Dona Dona (Shalom Secunda, Aaron Zeitlin)

On a wagon bound for market there’s a calf with a mournful eye

High above him there’s a swallow winging swiftly through the sky

Chorus:

How the winds are laughing, they laugh with all their might

Laugh and laugh the whole day through and half the summer’s night

Dona dona

Dona dona dona dona, dona dona dona do

Dona dona dona dona, dona dona dona do

Stop complaining says the farmer, who told you a calf to be

Why don’t you have wings to fly with, like the swallow so brave and free

Calves are easily bound and slaughtered, never knowing the reason why

But whoever treasures freedom, like the swallow, must learn to fly

Song 5: Done Laid Around (Paul Clayton, Larry Erlich, David Lazar, Tom Six)

Chorus:

Done laid around, done stayed around this old town too long

Summer’s almost gone and winter’s coming on

Done laid around, done stayed around this old town too long

And I feel like I got to travel on

There’s a lonesome freight at 6:08 coming through this town

Coming through this town, and I’ll be homeward bound

There’s a lonesome freight at 6:08 coming through this town

And I feel like I got to travel on

I waited here for ‘most a year, waiting for the sun to shine

Waiting for the sun to shine, and hoping you’d change your mind

I waited here for ‘most a year, waiting for the sun to shine

And I feel like I got to travel on

Song 6: October (Dave Mussey)

I was born when the leaves were burning

I strove for light when the trees were turning

My momma’s belly had a yearning in October

Chorus:

In October, in October

When the scarlet fades there’s nothing sadder

When the rains come down the colors shatter

When the storm winds blow the leaves scatter in October

I intend to pass away

On one fine October day

I’ll be going home to stay in October

Song 7: Compass Song (Michael Zuck)

Well, away up north, where the spruce tree grows

That’s where I’d like once more to go

Where the beaver builds his dam, and every forest in the land

Comes alive and singing in the early morning sun

Well, away out west, where the cattle roam

That’s where I’d like to build my home

Where the painted sunset sky in the evening fills the eye

With colors purple blue and red

Well, away down south, where the rivers flow

That’s where I long once more to go

To that homestead on the hill, in the evening it was still

You could hear the whispering of the stately pines

Well, away back east, by the deep blue sea

That’s where I’m bound once more to be

Where the schooner boats of old, with their great white sails unfurled

Rode tall and proud from Boston down to Maine

Well, away up yonder by the golden gate

That’s where I’m bound one of these days

So I hope that you are fine, in whatever state of mind

You chance to find yourself today

So fare thee well, my good old friend

I love you still, I knew you when

We will travel with your song, take your memory along

As long as apples bloom in the spring

(Michael wrote this song at age 16. We added the last verse to bid him farewell when his journey ended too soon in his 60’s)

Song 8: Ashokan Farewell (Jay Ungar)

Song 9: Northern Star (Ann Reed)

You’re my east, my south and west

You’re the one who gives me rest

And I know no matter near or far

You will be my northern star

You’re the one, when I’m at sea

You are there, the land for me

When I’ve lost my way and day grows dark

You will be my northern star

Chorus:

You’re the one I long to be holding

When the sun has wandered along

And the sky begins its unfolding

And there’s nowhere else we belong

Like the cardinal in the snow

When the trees are bare and low

The reward of spring is slow to start

You are still my northern star

Song 10: Sing Till My Voice is Shot (Dave Mussey

I’m gonna sing till my voice is shot

Till it quavers and it cracks a lot

And it generally goes to pot

And even then, I might not stop

I’m gonna laugh till the lights start to flicker

And I’ve run out of time to dicker with God

And there’s no blood flowing through my ticker

And even then, I might just snicker

Chorus:

I’ll keep cracking stupid jokes just as long as laughter I hear

But when they start to roll their eyes, that’s the time to persevere!

I’m gonna dance till my feet can’t move

I’m gonna swing while I’m in the groove

And when I got nothing left to prove

That’s when I’ll pull my last smooth move

I’m gonna smooch till my lips can’t pucker

And I’ll be my honey’s sweet lover

And when my libido just can’t recover

Even then, I might just ….

I’m gonna sing till my voice is shot

Till it quavers and it cracks a lot

And it generally goes to pot

And even then, I might not …..

Song 11: Land of the North (Dave Mussey)

The spruce stand so stately around all our shore

The cedar’s so fragrant as ever before

The birch and the balsam our spirits restore

How lovely the land of the north

The lake skims with ice of a late April morn

The woodpecker drums and a new day is born

The Canada goose then sounds off his horn

How lovely the land of the north

Chorus:

How lovely the water, how lovely the light

How lovely what spirit did create

How lovely the echo of the loon at night

Who’s calling in search of his mate

The trout and the fisherman are drawn by the pool

The line arcs so graceful, the water’s so cool

The earth is the ring, the pond is the jewel

How lovely the land of the north

The red blossomed trillium, the Labrador tea

The sweet serviceberry are calling to me

Where the bunchberry blooms is where I will be

How lovely the land of the north

The sunset shimmers greengold on the far eastern bank

A beaver glides by with the fire on his flank

The full moon faces west where the sunlight just sank

How lovely the land of the north

Song 12: Across the Land (Dave Mussey)

Across the land this water makes its journey

Through quiet swamps where moose have come to graze

So secretly the mink is now returning

To seek the silent water and its ways

In these canoes with rails all sweeping sweetly

The Tree of Life bends to a graceful hull

This paddle ash is slicing water neatly

A single glide for every push and pull

Around the fire these friends are softly singing

Their bodies tired and their faces flushed

The end of day the evening now is bringing

One laughing loon – and our voices hush