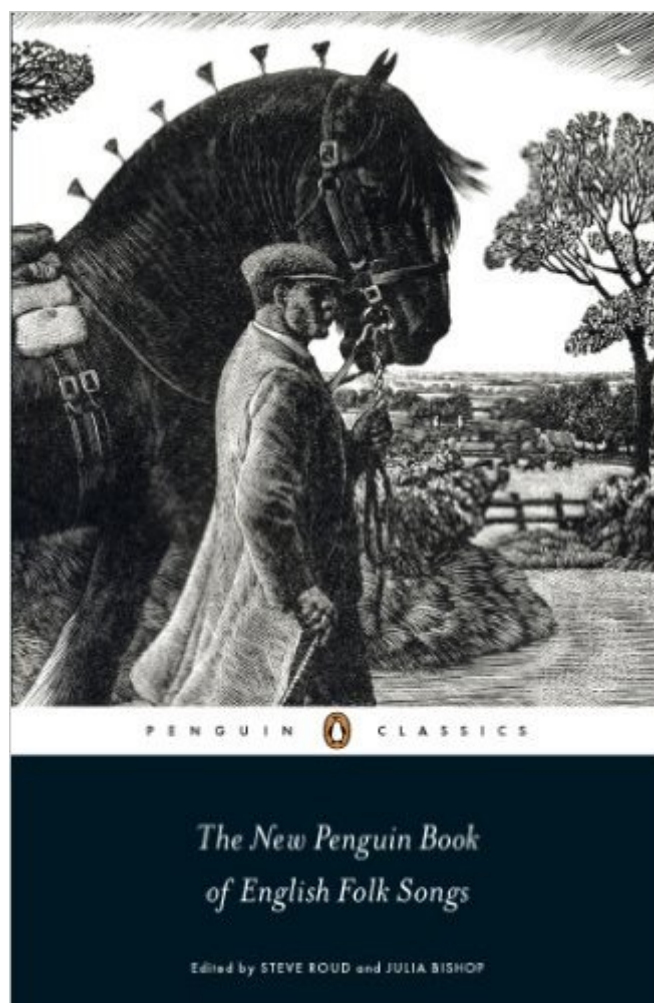


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# The Penguin Classics New Penguin Book Of English Folk Songs



## Synopsis

The definitive collection of folk music - one of the great English popular art forms One of the great English popular art forms, the folk song can be painful, satirical, erotic, dramatic, rueful or funny. This magical new collection brings together all the classic folk songs as well as many lesser-known discoveries, complete with music and annotations on their original sources and meaning. Published in cooperation with the English Folk Dance and Song Society, it is a worthy successor to Ralph Vaughan Williams and A. L. Lloyd's original Penguin Book of English Folk Songs.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,015,839 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #275 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Folk & Traditional](#) #535 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Folk & Traditional](#) #740 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Combination Piano, Vocal, & Guitar](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is a marvelous book for the songs themselves (as you'd imagine!), especially with the melodies printed, too, but the real joy here are the notes. You'll learn where the songs were collected, what the context historically and socially is, which earlier songs they may have been based upon, whether the songs were sung by women or men, and where, geographically, the songs originated and flourished. Only the Kindle edition is easily available in the US (or was when I bought it; I would have preferred a paper copy) and my only real complaint is that skipping back from the notes to the songs is a simple prospect, but getting to the notes from the songs is not. I found myself reading the notes at the end, getting the history and the context, then clicking over to the song--then back to the notes. A little unwieldy, but doable.

There is no more significant collection of English folk songs than the Penguin Book of English Folk

Songs, which was edited by Ralph Vaughan Williams himself. This book honors the earlier RVW collection and the Malcolm Douglas update, and adds to it admirably. If you want to know English folk songs, you need to have this book.

This is a huge compilation which includes both lyrics and scores. The typeface is very crisp and clean. It does not, however include all of the songs from the Lloyd-Vaughn Williams edition, but I now realize that it was unreasonable for me to expect it to. Highly recommended.

A great resource for fans of early British folk songs!

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