

## **Four Australian Folk Songs**

Most of Australia's "colonial" folk songs seem to have come from the Irish or English tradition. Such a tradition is rich in melodies and these are adapted to whatever sentiment the verses express!

The *Overlander* tells of the Queensland drovers, *Moreton Bay* of the excessive "tyranny" in the penal colonies, *Click go the Shears* of life in the shearing sheds and *Waltzing Matilda*, the most famous of all, of the demise of a swagman! Many variants exist and the tunes that accompany the verses sometimes stem from very different and often unrelated sources. At the beginning of 1895, while visiting Dagworth, a Queensland sheep station, A. B. Paterson wrote the verses of "Waltzing Matilda" to a tune which, though an inherent part of a band march published in 1893, seems to be that of an old marching song of Marlborough's soldiers.

These tunes have been changed or metamorphosed over time and my arrangements are in the spirit of that tradition.

R. Charlton

June 2001

## **OTHER WORKS BY RICHARD CHARLTON BASED ON FOLKSONGS:-**

- **DREAMS & DANCES ON "MORTON BAY"**  
(for violin, classical guitar, steel string guitar & double bass)  
commissioned by the "Bush Stradivari" project.
  
- **SEVEN FOLKSONGS**  
(a set of well-know, & not so well-known songs arranged for  
medium voice & classical guitar)
  1. I will give my love an apple
  2. Dashing away
  3. Barbara Allen
  4. The Wraggle Taggle Gipsies
  5. Black, is the colour of me true love's hair
  6. Lord Rendal
  7. O Waly, Waly
  
- **FANTASIES, FAIRIES & FOLKTALES**  
(for solo guitar – advanced level)
  1. Greensleeves Processional (with an old Irish March)
  2. Down by the Salley Gardens
  3. A Vision of Angels (Be thou My Vision)
  4. Nocturnal (All Through the Night)
  5. Turlough's Ghosts (a fantasia on "Shee Bheg Shee Mhor")

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