

# Songs in the Life of Abraham Lincoln

Ballad of America Volume 3

Matthew Sabatella and the Rambling String Band

*Songs in the Life of Abraham Lincoln* celebrates the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of the sixteenth president of the United States through the music he cherished. Abraham Lincoln was a man of remarkable determination, compassion, honesty, humor, and melancholy. Matthew Sabatella and the Rambling String Band's traditional acoustic arrangements of his favorite folk and popular songs enable 21<sup>st</sup> century listeners to better understand the man himself and the times in which he lived.

## This is the soundtrack to Abraham Lincoln's life.

Extensive liner notes tell his story while highlighting his personal relationship to each song:

- His mother's favorite Old World ballad
- A minstrel song that amused him as a young man
- A campaign song that helped him win the presidency
- A slave spiritual that fueled his compassion
- A Civil War song that was played on a piano in the White House by a general
- Sentimental songs that appealed to his melancholy nature

*Songs in the Life of Abraham Lincoln* is the third compact disc in Matthew Sabatella's acclaimed *Ballad of America* series. With vocals, guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, bass fiddle, mountain dulcimer, and a wealth of traditional folk songs, *Ballad of America* brings the story of the United States vividly to life. Through recordings, live performances, videos, blogs, and an extensive website that ties it all together, Matthew Sabatella and the Rambling String Band inspire people and create connections between them and the people who came before.

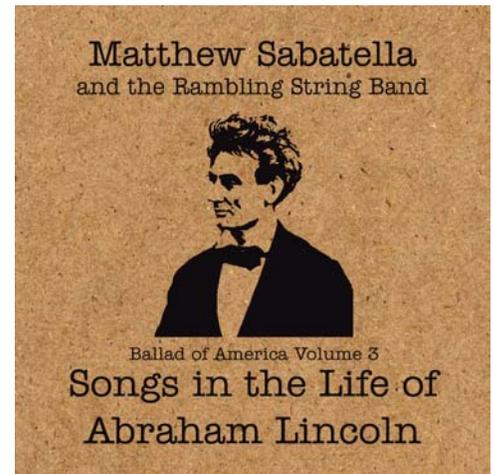
### Lincoln Bicentennial

1809-2009

- ❖ February 12, 2009 is Abraham Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday
- ❖ Special events, celebrations, exhibits and programs are scheduled throughout the country during all of 2009
- ❖ National interest in Abraham Lincoln is at a peak due to the bicentennial and President Barack Obama's numerous references to him

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### track listing

1. Barbara Allen
2. Old Sister Phoebe
3. Old Dan Tucker
4. Lincoln and Liberty
5. Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen
6. The Battle Cry of Freedom
7. Tenting on the Old Camp Ground
8. Home Sweet Home
9. Dixie's Land
10. Twenty Years Ago

### vitals

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## Testimonials for *Over a Wide and Fruitful Land (Ballad of America Volume 1)*

"Gold-throated troubadour Matthew Sabatella was born to make an album like *Ballad of America*. This low-key, acoustic opus is more a Folkways Smithsonian-style history lesson than a random assortment of wispy, coffee shop folk. Casual listeners, watch out: If you pay attention, you might learn something. Nothing if not deeply humanist, these songs reveal the sober, hopeful spirit of the men and women who found fortune, romance, and danger on the open range."

**Jonathan Zwickel - *Miami New Times***

"Performer Matthew Sabatella's rich baritone voice perfectly complements stories of common folk."

**Naomi Leithold - American Library Association's *Booklist***

"Matthew Sabatella, singer/producer/arranger, sings 18 traditional folk-style songs in a beautiful, slightly raspy baritone... Excellent background instruments include guitar, banjo, piano, tambourine, sandpaper blocks, fiddle, acoustic bass, drums, harmonica, mandolin, English concertina and bodhran... An excellent resource for schools and public libraries."

**Beverly Bixler - *School Library Journal***

"...his love of this music is infectious and the arrangements are generally quite good. Recommended."

**Rick Anderson - Baker & Taylor's *CD HotList***

"Sabatella has found a mother lode of nearly forgotten gems, many pre-dating the age of recorded music. He sings these work songs, laments and travelogues with a plaintiveness and thorough appreciation of their meanings and origins, and sets them to lively acoustic arrangements."

**Sean Piccoli - *Sun-Sentinel***

"*Over a Wide and Fruitful Land*, the album's subtitle, rather neatly sums it up. Matthew Sabatella has assembled a credible song list, dappling America's pioneer landscape with evergreen folklore balladry. His wide-ranging vocal approaches are sensitive when desired, dynamic when untethered emotions dictate. The small group arrangements, at times pared back to a single instrument, are the "just right" sort of settings. This project works "because of", not "in spite of", campfire minimalism. Matthew Sabatella surprises in the most delightful ways. And this is only *Volume One*. Can't wait for the next leg of the trail."

**Eddie O'Strange - *Town & Country Radio Show* - New Zealand**

"Matthew's arrangements and deep, rich voice bring these old songs to life. *Ballad of America* is an important and enjoyable way to learn and remember American History. It gives us a sense of place. That's what folk music does -- it roots us in tradition. What he's doing is patriotic as much as anything else. He's giving us a good sense of America."

**Michael Stock**

**WLRN-FM - Host of *Folk and Acoustic Music***

## Testimonials for *America Singing (Ballad of America Volume 2)*

"...seriously consider picking up this, the second volume of Matthew Sabatella's ongoing survey of historical American songs. The arrangements are fresh but traditional, the singing is great, and each track comes with historical notes."

**Rick Anderson - Baker & Taylor's *CD HotList***

"He's recasting traditional tunes... in faithful, well-worn renditions that probably sound much like they did originally, when early settlers making their way west across the open prairies spilled forth the tunes over old-fashioned campfires."

**Lee Zimmerman - *Miami New Times***

"In his second excellent album, Matthew Sabatella sings 16 familiar and mostly traditional American folksongs in a rich baritone. The Rambling String Band joins him, performing beautifully on guitars, dulcimer, harmonica, banjo, bass, mandolin, fiddle, and washboard. The songs bring to mind the culture of America during the 18th and 19th centuries. Fun to sing along and harmonize with, this album belongs in every collection that values folk music."

**Beverly Bixler - *School Library Journal***