



The Formative Dylan: Transmission and Stylistic Influences, 1961-1963 (American Folk Music and Musicians, No. 7.)

Todd Harvey

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The Formative Dylan examines the musical roots of 70 songs from Dylan's early career, namely from his first three Columbia LPs, officially released outtakes from those sessions, and his *Broadside* session recordings released by Folkways. Each of these songs is presented in a short article that details melodic and lyric roots and describes contemporaneous performances to show the process by which Dylan learned or composed his formative repertoire. Three appendixes help the reader to understand this repertoire not only in the continuum of American music but as a reflection of Dylan's own compositional development.

The term "formative" conveys that at that early point in his career Dylan had not yet fully emerged as a composer. During his formative period, almost every song had a clear melodic or lyric predecessor. His influences and his own creativity had not quite meshed into an individual style. His repertoire ranged from traditional Appalachian songs to blues to topical-protest songs, representing the interaction between the traditional and popular streams of American music.

Written during a ten-month Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, this book's primary resources were the Smithsonian's Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, and the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division.

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