

12/24/2006

## Tom Lehrer (09-Apr-1928, New York City - )

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Edited by John Lucas and David Moore

With thanks to Rhys Phillips (RP), Keith Wickham (KW), David Matthews (DMa), Allan Peace (AP) Roy Hill (RH) Mike Roberts (MR) and Chris Butterfield (CB) for contributions and to Martin Hood for some programme dating.

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### Recordings

<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Media Details</i>	
1953	Songs by Tom Lehrer (10" LP, studio with piano)	Trans-Radio TR-740 and then Lehrer TLP-1	
1959	Song by Tom Lehrer (reissued on 12")	Lehrer TL-101	
1959	More of Tom Lehrer (studio with piano)	Lehrer TL-102-S	
1959	An Evening Wasted with Tom Lehrer	Lehrer TL-202-S	
1960	Tom Lehrer Revisited (live performances with piano)	Decca LK-7375 and in the US as TL-201 with some differences	
1960	"Poisoning Pigeons in the Park"/"The Masochism Tango" (single, studio with orchestra)	Capricorn C-451	
1965	That Was the Year That Was (live performance with piano and studio with orchestra)	Reprise RS-1679	Lucas
1966	An Evening Wasted with Tom Lehrer (reissued)	Reprise R-6199	Lucas
1966	Songs by Tom Lehrer (re-recorded in stereo)	Reprise RS-6216	
1971-1972	Songs for The Electric Company, a Childrens' Television Workshop program: "L-Y", "Silent E", "O-U", and "S-N"		
1993	"That's Mathematics" In omnibus Remnants of Tom Lehrer for the first time	Rhino R2 79831	
1995	"The Hunting Song" (recorded 1960, studio with orchestra) in Dr. Demento: 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collection/ More of the Greatest Novelty Records of All Time	Rhino 72124	
1996	"I Got It from Agnes" (studio piano) and "We'll All Go Together When We Go" (studio with orchestra) In reissue of Songs and More Songs by Tom Lehrer	Rhino 72776	
1999	"N Apostrophe T", "Selling Out", and "(I'm Spending) Hanukkah in Santa Monica" (new recordings for The Remanants of Tom Lehrer, studio with orchestra)	Rhino R2 79831	
2000	The Remnants of Tom Lehrer (all known songs and performances)	Rhino R2 79831 (3 CDs plus book)	Lucas

### Individual Cuts from Laugh Radio and Other Sources

<i>Title</i>	<i>Album</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>S</i>
Back to Dixie (6:41, 3924)	Tom Lehrer Revisited	M-AP-014		
Bright College Days (2:18, 1619)	An Evening Wasted	M-AP-013		
Christmas Carol (2:38, 1855)	An Evening Wasted	M-AP-013		
Hunting Song, The (4:06, 2411)	Tom Lehrer Revisited	M-AP-014		
Masochism Tango, The (2:47, 1962)	1960 single	M-AP-011, M-AP-012		
My Home Town (3:06, 1825)	Tom Lehrer Revisited	M-AP-014		
Vatican Rag, The (2:11, 1540)	TW3	M-AP-011, M-AP-012		
Who's Next (from the TW3 special, written by but not sung by Tom Lehrer) (3:29, 2460, with introduction)	(not a TL recording) but see TW3 album	M-AP-013		
Werner von Braun (1:45, 1031)	TW3	M-AP-014		

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## Features and Interviews

In view of Tom's short career in entertainment many of these programmes cover the same stories but at least this shows that his memory isn't failing and that his views haven't changed. The 1960 interview is interesting in that it shows he always intended to return to College and that entertaining was not his first love. It also includes part of a song he wrote in New Zealand the reason for which is explained on the recording. Throughout all the interviews he explains convincingly that he had neither the temperament nor the wish to entertain as a full time career. The Australian interview adds a couple of new points of interest with his stories of censorship in Brisbane and Adelaide and has an intriguing sign off from the producer concerning Wernher Von Braun.

For much more information on the man and his music:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom\\_Lehrer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Lehrer)

<http://www.casualhacker.net/tom.lehrer/>

<http://www.casualhacker.net/tom.lehrer/jmazner/lehrhtml.html>

<i>Original Broadcast Date</i>	<i>Programme</i>	<i>Interviewer /Presenter</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Source</i>	
The Third Programme 18 Aug 1960	People Today	Irene Slade	TL Tells how he came into the entertainment business and why he is going back to Harvard to study. Shows some resistance to personal questions. Includes two verses of a song called "Oh Mr Nash" written in New Zealand	29:52, Fair: Slightly Tinny With Some Cross Channel Interference At The Beginning	DM	
ABC Pre 1977		Geoff McMullen	TL Discusses his career in entertainment including tours of Australia and stories concerning the people he had upset in Brisbane and Adelaide. Songs which were played in between have been edited out	12:09, Good	AP	
Radio 4 02 June 1980	Kaleidoscope Producer Richard Bannerman	Michael Billington	TL Talks about his entertainment career, his interest in American Musicals and lyricists. Also his involvement in the show Tom Foolery.	17:33, Good	KW	
Radio 4 12 July 1980	Desert Island Discs	Roy Plomley	Disc 1: Gilbert & Sullivan's Iolanthe (D'Oyly Carte). Disc 2: Nina (Noel Coward). Disc 3: Guys & Dolls - Luck be a Lady. Disc 4: She Loves Me - Ice Cream (Barbara Cook). Disc 5: Candide - Bon Voyage (William Ovis). Disc 6: I'll Sail Away (Randy Newman). Disc 7: A Little Night Music - Send In The Clowns (Glynis Johns) Disc 8: Der Rosenkavalier (Philharmonia Orch./Karajan). One disc: Rosenkavalier. One luxury: Piano - is sure it would go out of tune but that's how he sings. One book: Oxford English Dictionary.	40:51, Fair: Slightly Tinny With Some Clicks Introduction Music Missing	MR	
Radio 4 1980	Producer Richard Bannerman	Michael Billington	Longer version of Kaleidoscope recording above	30:11 Good	RH	
BBC 1 TV 04 October 1980	Parkinson	Michael Parkinson	Other guests are Robin Ray and Kenneth Williams. RR & TL Talk about the show Tom Foolery. KW talks about his new book. TL performs "I got it from Agnes"	01:01:55, Fair: Quality To Be Expected From Microphone Up Against TV	DM	

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Radio 2 28 April 1998	An Evening Wasted With Tom Lehrer Producer Kevin Howlett	Tom Lehrer	TL Gives an insight into the background to his songs and plays some of them along with a few of the songs he parodied.	58:26 Good	DM	
Radio 4 28 September 1998	Long Time No Song Producer Mike Walker	Tom Morton	TL Again talks about his entertainment career and explains why Political Correctness and confusion between right and wrong make subjects on the International Scene not suitable for his style of humour	28:58 Good	RH	
Radio 4 23 October 2001	Left Bank Of The Mind	Mark Thomas	Part of a series on three American Satirists who were considered anti-establishment. Mainly a mini lecture with TL's songs used as examples. Some small factual errors. Any contribution by TL taken from other interviews on this list.	28:59 Good	RP	
BBC7 12 December 2003 previously Radio 4 1996?	Too Many Songs	?	TL Discusses brief life history and thoughts, reasons and misconceptions behind the writing of his songs, with examples interspersed. Richard Stilgo, Richard Ingrams, Kit Hescot-Harvey and Robin Ray comment.	57:11 Good	DMA	
Minnesota Public Radio		Steve Martin	Mainly TL songs in entirety with Steve Martin narrating in between	29:00 Good	CB	