

I'M NOT KIDDIN' YA! **PAUL SYKES**
RECORDED AT THE ICE HOUSE

HORIZON
RECORDS 

1611



SIDE 1:

THE MAP SONG—1:38
 ISLE OF CAPRI—1:05
 KANSAS CITY—:52
 JOHN HENRY—:27
 LASS FROM THE LOW COUNTRY—2:41
 COTTONFIELDS—3:14
 THREE JOLLY COACHMEN—3:40

SIDE 2:

JOSHUA—2:26
 HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN—2:50
 TIPTOE THROUGH THE TULIPS—1:45
 A LEMON OR A PEACH—:58
 BICYCLE SONG—:25
 MAKE ME A PALATE IN THIS LAND—1:56
 SALVATION ARMY SONG—6:16

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The unique quality that folk singer Paul Sykes has is INSTANT AUDIENCE (patent-pending). How else to describe his power to transmute a throng of strangers into a rapt band of initiates delighted to be witnessing a quality of performance they did not know existed in folk music?

For folk buffs—or anyone who collects swinging sounds rousingly rendered—Paul Sykes' stint at Pasadena's Ice House is a special treat. A folk/comedy/night club, The Ice House is a sort of casual-cum-comfort cafe. Like other folk emporia where Paul has played—Hollywood's Troubadour, the Exodus in Denver, The Gate of Horn in Chicago, the Buddhi in Oklahoma City, the 2nd Fret in Philadelphia and even the Playboy Club where the expense-accountables flock—the entertainment on tap at The Ice House, as the beverages, are an exhilarating custom-brew. The audiences are—well—responsive. This helps the performer to summon forth *rapport*. Intimate atmosphere and savvy staging permit Paul—and his audiences—to reap the benefits of full projection.

And when Paul Sykes projects fully the result is—like we said—INSTANT AUDIENCE APPEAL. A voice of wide range and penetrating purity augmented by solid interpretive skill—implements the Sykes repertoire, which can best be described as "folk standard." He eschews the cleverly merchandised stylizations of the Kingston Trio with their "pop appeal" (especially when the Trio intone the ethnic subtleties of a 7 *Up* commercial). Nor does Paul's delivery strive for the hyper-theatrical effects or ethnicentricities.

Rather—what Sykes weaves is a very special sort of musical spell, seasoned sensuously with his own nimble guitar work and leavened lustily with devastating comic thrusts. Assisted by an expressive face that can flicker instantly from boyish laughter to total bewilderment, he proceeds to "save" the audience that backs him on "Salvation Army Song"—only to chide them hilariously with the punch-lyric. The audience is further lured into the performance in such rousing swing-along songs as "Cottonfields" and "Joshua." So great was Sykes-incited laughter and pandemonium at each of his performances at The Ice House that over half of the audience reaction had to be edited out of this recording.

While his humor commands so much attention that his audience is always expecting it, they can just as easily be shocked into awed silence at the first few notes of a serious ballad. Hear Paul's rendition of "The House of the Rising Sun" on this record for proof that he has one of the finest voices in folk music—if not THE finest.

After a Sykes performance, audiences characteristically fill the air with shouts of "MORE . . . MORE"—a slogan cleverly contrived to parlay a single cover charge into a whole hootenanny of free entertainment. It is also a unique and disarmingly honest appreciation of a unique talent.

Paul Sykes—young, personable and possessed of a starkly arresting voice—always obliges.

—BOB STANE

**FOLK MUSIC IN
CONCERT**



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24 NORTH MENTOR AVENUE
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



ICE HOUSE proudly presents California's favorite folk entertainer, PAUL SYKES. Paul is typical of the high calibre entertainment offered six nights a week in the unique atmosphere of The Ice House, a converted frozen food plant tucked away in an alley of downtown Pasadena.



At The Ice House variety is our formula for good folk entertainment, presenting soloists and groups, flamenco guitarists and dancers, folk comedians and mimes, entertainment and performers from all countries.

THE



ICE HOUSES





THE
ICE HOUSE



If you enjoy this album, please come to the Ice House as our guest by presenting the enclosed tickets for FREE ADMISSION. Join us in January, 1963 to enjoy Folk Music in concert when once again it will be PAUL SYKES at

THE ICE



HOUSE is an intimate concert cabaret serving young people and adults the best in Drinks, Dinners and Commercial Folk Music.



HOMES

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