
Mahoney, Anna Maria. *Feliz Navidad: Learning Songs and Traditions in Spanish.*

Minnetonka, MN: Teach Me Tapes, Inc., 2006. CD: Narration and 21 songs. ISBN: 10 1-59972-061-2. Pp.32. \$19.95.

Mahoney, Judy. *Joyeux Noël: Learning Songs and Traditions in French.*

Minnetonka, MN: Teach Me Tapes, Inc., 2006. CD: Narration and 21 songs. ISBN: 13 978-1-59972-061-6. Pp.32. \$19.95.

For ordering information, contact Teach Me Tapes at: Tel: (952) 933-8086, Fax: (952) 933-0512, or www.teachmetapes.com.

Teach Me Tapes has produced two glorious holiday books: Anna Maria Mahoney's *Feliz Navidad: Learning Songs and Traditions in Spanish* and Judy Mahoney's

Joyeux Noël: Learning Songs and Traditions in French. To start with, both books are so richly illustrated that one will want to spend time just enjoying their beauty. Then, when one considers the accompanying music CD, one is quickly entranced by the beautiful voices and excellent sound quality. In fact, this reviewer's daughter, who normally will begrudgingly humor her mother by watching a Spanish or French DVD or experiment with some language software, was so enraptured by both books and CDs that she continues to look at the books and dance to the CDs even though the holiday season had passed.

Each book is a bilingual celebration of family customs and traditions of Christmas; the Spanish version focuses on Mexico and the French version on France. The prefaces of both books explain: "In every country around the world, families and friends gather together during the holiday season to celebrate with special traditions. Many holiday traditions are very similar in different countries, even if the language is not. Food, songs and activities are all part of the festivities, but every country has its own unique traditions which reflect the culture of the people and the language they speak" (2). For example, this reviewer and her family particularly enjoyed learning about the Mexican legend of the Poinsettia (*La Leyenda de la flor de nochebuena*) and the French treat of glazed chestnuts (*marrons glacés*), both seen through the eyes of a child.

What truly distinguishes the Teach Me More Christmas titles from other holiday books/music CD combinations is the continuous narrative thread of following a family that is reflecting on memories of seasons past and celebrating the holiday with their favorite Christmas songs. A full transcript of the target language narration and its English translation are provided in the books. Most importantly, the English translation is not narrated on either CD. Moreover, the songs are first sung in the target language, then in English, and then again in the target language. Lyrics for the songs are provided in both the target language and English except for traditional Mexican and French songs, which are not translated. Truly pleasing is the fact that all target language text is in bold while the English text is minimized, to create the illusion of margin glossing.

The Mexican songs featured are: "Feliz Navidad" ("Merry Christmas"), "Canción de Adviento" ("The Advent Song"), "Adornemos Nuestras Casas" ("Deck the Halls"), "Venid, Adoremos" ("O Come All Ye Faithful"), "La Primera Navidad" ("The First Noel"), "Felicidad al Mundo" ("Joy to the World"), "La Marimorena" (Traditional Song), "Jesús en Pesebre" ("Away in a Manger"), "Campaña Sobre Campaña" (Traditional Song), "Los Peces en el Río" (Traditional Song), "Canción de las Posadas" (Traditional Song), "Canción de la Piñata" (The Piñata Song), "Dale Dale Dale" (Traditional Song), "Noche de Paz" ("Silent Night"), "Noche Sagrada" ("O Holy Night"), "A la Nanita, Nana" (Traditional Lullaby), "Fum Fum Fum" (Traditional Song), "Cascabel" ("Jingle Bells"), "Los Tres Reyes" ("We Three Kings"), "El Niño del Tambor" ("The Little Drummer Boy"), and "Si Quiero Que Haya Paz" ("Let There Be Peace on Earth").

The French songs featured are: "C'est bientôt Noël" (Traditional Song), "Bougies de l'Avent" ("The Advent Song"), "D'où viens-tu bergère?" ("What Did You See, Shepherdess?"), "Dans la crèche" ("Away in a Manger"), "Chanson des écoliers"

(“Saint Nicholas Poem”), “Boules de gui” (“Deck the Halls”), “Mon beau sapin” (“O Christmas Tree”), “L’enfant au tambour” (“The Little Drummer Boy”), “Joie sur la terre” (“Joy to the World”), “Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle” (“Bring a Torch”), “Il est né le divin Enfant” (“He is Born, the Holy Child”), “Minuit, Chrétiens” (“O Holy Night”), “Les anges dans nos campagnes” (“Gloria”), “Entre le boeuf et l’âne gris” (“The Ox and Grey Donkey”), “Petit Papa Noël” (“Father Christmas”), “Guillau prends ton tambourin” (“Pat-a-Pan”), “Douce nuit, sainte nuit” (“Silent Night”), “Ce n’est qu’un au revoir mes frères” (“Auld Lang Syne”), “Vive le vent” (“Jingle Bells”), “Marche des Rois” (“March of the Kings”), and “Que la paix règne sur terre” (“Let There Be Peace on Earth”). Probably the only thing that this reviewer would want to see included about the songs would be some information about the origins of each one. For example, “Jingle Bells” appears on both CDs, but it would be interesting to know how the song was adapted to fit the Mexican and French cultures.

Rounding up these two delightful books are traditional recipes and one-page vocabulary lists. The Mexican recipes are *Rosca de Reyes* (Three Kings Cake), *Chocolate Caliente* (Mexican Hot Chocolate), and *Buñuelos* (Mexican Fritters). The French recipes are *Galette des Rois* (Three Kings Cake; Shortbread type) and *Gâteau des Rois* (Twelfth Night Cake, Creole version). Indeed, Anna Maria Mahoney’s *Feliz Navidad: Learning Songs and Traditions in Spanish* and Judy Mahoney’s *Joyeux Noël: Learning Songs and Traditions in French* would not only be a tremendous asset to any FLES classroom but would also very easily become a family treasure to be shared for many years to come.

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