



CHARLES GOODGER

# *The Music of Travel*

FOR TRAVELLERS YOUNG AT HEART





# *The Music of Travel*

*The Steps of Caltagirone, Some time in Verona, Eaton Reverie, Clifftop Ramble, and Cinque Terre, are just some of the names of the pieces in this album, representing places, feelings, and people met along the way: all elements that enrich the good memories of a world traveller.*

Composer, educator, entrepreneur, and world traveller **Charles Goodger** delights us with this album dedicated to the timeless pleasures of discovery.

***Calling all travellers, young and old: get on board.***

***The adventure is about to begin!***



# Tracklist

01. The Steps of Caltagirone
02. Labedoyère
03. Some time in Verona
04. Genoa Genova
05. Eaton Reverie
06. Open Country
07. Lakes
08. Clifftop Ramble
09. Olindo Air
10. Cinque Terre
11. Capetian dynasty
12. I Love Christmas





# *Charles Goodger's Music of Travel*

*Melodic piano compositions inspired by people and places I've loved*

## *The Steps of Caltagirone*

On a trip to Sicily in 2022, Maria Teresa, my wife and I visited the ancient hillside town of Caltagirone, famous for its coloured stairway, 130 mt long, leading up to a church. In the B&B we were staying in, there was an upright piano and that's where the idea for this piece came to me. I've tried to reproduce the sensation of climbing up the steep steps with ascending chords in different keys.

## *Labedoyère*

Composed on the day my great uncle, Count Michael de la Bedoyère, was laid to rest. He was a well known literary figure, editor of the London-based Catholic

Herald magazine. He introduced my parents to each other when my mother was working as his secretary.

## *Some time in Verona*

Verona is a beautiful city full of history and romance and where Shakespeare set Romeo and Juliet. On the upright piano at our friend Stefania del Bravo's house, after a long day visiting the city including the amazing Roman amphitheatre, this syncopated tune took shape.

## *Genoa Genova*

On one of my first trips to Italy, I arrived at Brignole Station from Paris only to discover I'd lost my passport which meant I had no money as you needed ID to cash



cheques. I managed to survive by busking with my guitar under the station where there's a long subway with great acoustics. This is the instrumental version of the happy song Genoa I wrote in memory of that bohemian period, surviving off the odd tip playing Neil Young and Simon and Garfunkel songs and crashing in an abandoned car.

### ***Eaton Reverie***

Written when I was living in London with my parents in South Eaton Place back in the 1980s. A different world in so many respects. I still have the half-grand Velmar piano on which this was composed at home today in Bologna inherited from my father and shipped to Bologna after he died in 2001. I hope you sense this piece's nostalgic, *temps perdu* feel.

### ***Open Country***

An instrumental adaption of a song I wrote when living with former girlfriend Serena in Bergamo, Italy in the

late 1980s. Listen out for its F - Cm7 - Bb - Dm - C7 arpeggios and delicate middle section. The original song had lyrics about the beauty and dangers of the American Wild West in the 19th century.

### ***Lakes***

In the summer before covid we spent a weekend out in the Bologna Apennine mountains staying in a small hotel alongside beautiful Lake Brasimone. Part of the melody (the Em/C section) I wrote on guitar on the hotel terrace facing the lake and then transferred the arrangement to piano.

### ***Clifftop Ramble***

This was inspired by a trip to Northern Ireland for an IATEFL teachers conference. I was staying with a Servas host and after the conference he took me off for a delightful trek through the woods alongside the rocky coast near Belfast. I like to feel this piece has a kind of Irish lilt.



## ***Olindo Air***

Olindo Guerrini was an Italian poet, literary critic and librarian at Bologna University in the early 20th century. My street in Bologna is named after him and this wistful three-four time idea is dedicated to his memory. Written appositely on the Velmar piano in Via Olindo Guerrini.

## ***Cinque Terre***

Here I've tried to create something in Philip Glass, Yann Tiersen style. It came to me after a few days spent strolling around Italy's famous Cinque Terre. Despite the tourist bustle, some of the picturesque little ports had a kind dream-like atmosphere which I've tried to capture in the repetitive motif.

## ***Capetian dynasty***

There's something devastatingly romantic about this turbulent period in early medieval French history. The original motif was written years ago with my musician friend Mark Williams at school inspired by history lessons about medieval French history. I perfected this version on a recent trip to Lyon where my son was starting an Erasmus course. The hotel we stayed at had an amazing collection of pianos some of which were in tune.

## ***I Love Christmas***

The instrumental version of a simple FunSongs action song. Kids around the world sing and perform *I Love Christmas* and you'll find videos on YouTube. It's a testimony to the importance of having a memorable tune in a language-learning song. If you like it do visit [funsongs.co.uk](http://funsongs.co.uk) for other action songs and materials!



# Charles Goodger

## *Biography*

I'd been learning classical piano since age 5, but in my early teens it was guitar that truly captivated me. Late sixties and early seventies England were a magical time for music. In my final years at school, I returned to the piano and collaborated with a talented musician, Mark Williams. We composed semi-classical piano duets. One was "Capetian Dynasty," the medieval period we were studying in history class at the time.

My passion for languages and music emerged after trips to Spain where I was first exposed to flamenco-related melodies. At 13 I had the chance to study Spanish alongside French. I later came to learn Italian and have lived on and off in Italy for many years -

several of the pieces in this album are inspired by places and people in beautiful Italy.

After school my language and literature studies continued in Oxford and London, unknowingly laying the foundation for my later educational venture, FunSongs Education, a music-based program that teaches children basic English and intelligible pronunciation through action songs and related materials.

I set up FunSongs in Windsor, UK in 2000 and since then it has taken me round the world. From a count of all the schools in 50 countries that have used the program, it is estimated that over 100,000 children have benefitted from it. The FunSongs website is where schools, teachers and parents go to download songs and e-books. I have been told that the key to its success is the strong melody of the language songs. Kids love to learn, sing and act them out.





You can hear an instrumental adaption of the simple action song *I Love Christmas* published by Prima Classic.

In 2020 the world famous Italian tenor, Al Bano recorded my song *Terra d'Ambra e di Emozioni - Land of Amber* an ode to the beauty and spirit of Latvia where I lived for five years while Maria Teresa was teaching Italian language and culture at Riga University.

I have also written for one of the world's most famous opera singers, the beautiful soprano Marina Rebeka. She recorded my song *Tell the World* backed by the Budapest Philharmonic orchestra in 2023.

These pieces represent a quest for beauty tinged by a special connection to the places and people that inspired them. You may also find them relaxing background music when studying or working. Enjoy!



# Credits

Executive Producer: **Edgardo Vertanessian**

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Mixing and Mastering: **Edgardo Vertanessian**

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