

## **Tallgrass Express Comes Back (2005)**

Annie's album notes about the songs:

**1. Corner Post** (by Annie Wilson) *My husband has built miles of fence in the Flint Hills, and this song reflects what I've learned from his philosophy of work, cattle, weather, land, and permanence.*

**2. Little Old Sod Hut** (traditional, adapted by Loren Ratzloff) *By turning the log cabin into a sod hut, Loren "Kansafied" this tune about an old farmer on his last winter night. It is typical of traditional folk tunes that paradoxically depict tragic themes in upbeat melodies*

**3. Pickaway** (Vic Jordan/Southern Music Pub Co) *Loren busts out this terrific banjo tune while the rest of just try to keep up!*

**4. Indian Cowboy** (by Joe Ely/Eiffel Tower Music/ BMI) *Could there possibly be better story ingredients than a circus and a heroic Indian cowboy? I especially enjoy Charlie's concertina and Loren's dobro parts on this piece. (Charlie on mandolin)*

**5. Gathering the Wild Horses** (by Annie Wilson) *This is about a time I helped gather yearlings off some mustangs adopted into Kansas from Nevada. It was hair-raising and memorable!*

**6. Eyes of My Mind** (by Annie Wilson) *Though it purports to be an older speaker looking back at her life, I actually wrote this lost-love song a long time ago in my early 20's (I thought I was old then). (Charlie on mandolin)*

**7. Roving Gambler/Blue Jay** (traditional) *No offense intended here to farmers, railroaders, and gamblers! We learned this set off a terrific Foghorn String Band CD.*

**8. Evelina** (by Buck Graves and Jake Lambert) *This tune was introduced to Loren by Vern Whitesell, a master dobro player from Newton, Kansas. Loren plays some beautiful harmonics on this song.*

**9. Sweet Years** (by Annie Wilson) *This is my "empty nest" song, looking back on the most intense but gentlest time of my life raising three daughters on the ranch. (Loren on mandolin)*

**10. Scuffalong** (by Charlie Laughridge) *Charlie “scuffs” his bowing on this tune, just like he used to scuff his shoes as a kid when reluctantly complying with adult directions to go to church, school, etc.*

**11. Kemo Kimo** (traditional, adapted by Charlie Laughridge) *We think this tongue-twisting children’s tune goes clear back to 1500’s Scotland. Charlie adds to the multitude of versions with his creative Kansas verses.*

**12. Ballad of Stiller Ben** (by Annie Wilson) *This is the true story of my great-great-great-great-great grandfather who perished at the hand of river pirates while attempting to market his “value-added” corn products. Interestingly, one of the men who helped him build his raft was neighbor Peter Sibert, best man at the marriage of Abe Lincoln’s parents in 1806. (Charlie on mandolin)*

**13. Miss McCloud’s/Kansas Aristocracy** (traditional) *We play this set frequently at contra dances, giving us a chance to show off Loren’s terrific banjo frailing.*

**14. Grin Lines** (by Annie Wilson) *Time is the ultimate journey, and as I see the “footprints of emotion” on my face, they remind me of all the years—hard and easy—I’ve been blessed to have on this earth. (Loren on mandolin)*

**15. Night Rider’s Lament** (Michael Burton Music) *We all love this timeless song about cowboys’ love of their outdoor life despite the lack of financial reward. I’ll never tire of hearing Charlie’s great Camp Cookie yodel.*

**16. Morpeth Rant** (William Shield) *Charlie and Carole play some beautiful harmonies in this 18<sup>th</sup> century Northumbrian hornpipe.*

**17. Black Pony** (Marshall Wilborn / Flying Pig Music-Happy Valley Music, BMI) *Everyone can relate to this wonderful story-song about children, music, and love of horses. We also added Misty River’s great version of the break.*

**18. Niel Gow’s Lament** (Niel Gow) *Charlie and Carole interpret one of the prettiest melodies we’ve ever heard as they play this slow air written by the early Scottish fiddler. It was the first tune Gow played after intense grief on the death of his beloved second wife in 1805.*

Charlie’s comment about this recording:  
“We did everything we could to sound better than we really are!”