

Something to Sing About



In 1963, Winnipeg-born folksinger and songwriter Oscar Brand, who some 18 years earlier had been lured to the United States by Broadway, was asked to be the host of an hour-long television special on Canada. Brand also wrote the show's theme song—"Something to Sing About"—which became immediately popular. The song was recorded by The Travellers and The Raftsmen and someone even suggested that it become the national anthem. But not until Brand recorded it for use as the theme song of the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 67 did anyone question the first line of his lyrics, which then went "I have walked 'cross the sand on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland." An Expo official telephoned Brand and suggested that he change the first line. "Why?" asked Brand and then he realized why. You can't walk on the Grand Banks: they're off the Newfoundland coast—and at least 180 feet below the surface of the Atlantic.

Words and music by Oscar Brand

Moderately, in 2 ($\text{J}=1$ beat)

1. I have walked many a mile
 2. (I have) welcomed the dawn on the shores of Prince Edward Isle,
 mp
 Lazed on the ridge of the Mir-a-van-cou- chi, Seen the
 Fol-lowed the sun to the the Mi-Ver shore, Watched it

C

F

waves tear and roar at the stone coast of Lab - ra - dor,
 climb shin - y new up the snow peaks of Car - i - bou,

C

G7

C

Watched them roll back to the great north - ern wild Rock - ies sea. soar.

Chorus

G7

C

From the Van - cou - ver Is - land to the Al - ber - ta

f

Am7 G D7

High - land, Cross, the prai - rie, the Lakes to On - tar - i - o's

gliss.

Sheet music for piano and voice. The vocal part includes lyrics and dynamic markings (mf). Handwritten annotations include a guitar chord diagram for 'C' and a note '2 times last line'. The piano part shows a bass line and harmonic progression. The vocal line continues with lyrics and a piano accompaniment.

towers. From the sound of Mount Roy - al's chimes out to the
mf

C G7

2 times last line

Mar - i - times, Some - thing to sing a - bout, this land of

1. C 2. C

ours. 2. I have ours.

3. I have heard the wild wind sing the places that I have been,
 Bay Bulls and Red Deer and Strait of Belle Isle.
 Names like Grand' Mère and Silverthrone, Moosejaw and Marrowbone,
 Trails of the pioneer, named with a smile.
(Chorus)
4. I have wandered my way to the wildwood of Hudson Bay,
 Treated my toes to Quebec's morning dew,
 Where the sweet summer breeze kissed the leaves of the maple trees,
 Sharing this song that I'm singing to you.
(Chorus)
5. Yes, there's something to sing about,
 Tune up a string about,
 Call out in chorus or quietly hum,
 Of a land that's still young
 With a ballad that's still unsung,
 Telling the promise of great things to come.
(Chorus)