

*The Doc Watson Family*  
TRADITION



The Doc Watson Family “**Tradition**” Rounder Records

There’s two dozen cuts on the Ralph Rinzler produced “**Tradition**,” a collection of “field recordings” – for instance, you can hear the night-time sounds of an assortment of bugs and such in the background of Dolly Greer’s reading of “Bill Banks” - that first saw the light of day in 1977. The sessions organised by Rinzler [+] involved the extended Watson Family, and took place during September 1964 and May 1965. This Rounder reissue includes the original [and insightful] liner notes by A. L. Lloyd [a British folk music legend, d. 1982] and by Rinzler [d. 1994], one of America’s finest folk music archivists.

The tracks vary in length from sixteen seconds [!] to three and a half minutes, and are a mix of instrumentals, nursery rhymes, murder ballads, love songs and religious music. Some songs are performed a cappella, others with a banjo and/or fiddle accompaniment. The contributors are Doc Watson, his wife Rosa Lee, their son Merle, Rosa Lee’s father Gaither Carlton, Doc’s mother Annie and his older brother Arnold, plus cousins Dolly Greer and Tina Greer.

**Note.**

[+] – Rinzler’s first recordings with the Watson Family took place during 1960, and appeared on the Folkways Records release “**The Watson Family.**”

Folkwax Score 7 out of 10

**Arthur Wood.**

Kerrville Kronikles 12/05.