

# **Cordillera**

## **Theme Song of the Cordillera Campaign**

### **by Peter Brunette**

1. Once an English queen called Victoria  
Named a province British Columbia,  
But it seems to me that the monarch got it wrong.  
'Cause it ain't all that British anymore,  
Chris Columbus never came to explore,  
And we need a name we can fit into a song.

CHORUS:      Cordillera, Cordillera—  
                  Ancient forests climb her mountain stair.  
                  Cordillera, Cordillera—  
                  Temple of the salmon and the bear.

2. When the Brits arrived on their sea patrols,  
There were cedar log-boats and totem poles  
Where the great longhouses stood by the salty foam,  
Where the people lived in such fine estate  
They threw potlatches to celebrate  
All the lavishness of the coastline they called home.

CHORUS

3. Pretty soon there followed from far and wide  
The intrepid swell of a human tide,  
From the Punjab, from East Asia, from the Sudan.  
Yes, they came from Latin America,  
Even from the proper Colombia,  
And they wove their lives in the fabric of the land.

CHORUS

4. From the Rocky Mountains and Monashees  
Down to Haida Guaii and the Salish Sea  
Lies a country too majestic to describe.  
Now we've milled her timber and plucked her fruit,  
Let us come together to constitute  
The unrivalled paradigm of a rainbow tribe.

CHORUS

ENDING: Temple of the salmon and the bear.  
Temple of the salmon and the bear.