Semigroups, lattices, algebras: the GAIA song

By Brian Davey and friends (July, 2013)
(To aid with singing, important beats are in bold.)

Unless otherwise stated, the words are by Davey with editorial advice from Pitkethly. In the great tradition of folk songs, the tune is stolen from "*Lift us your voices for Bernhard*" a song written by Davey and other friends at a conference in Canberra to celebrate Bernhard Neunamm's eightieth birthday in 1989: see *Gazette of the Australian Mathematical Society,* **17** (1990), 87–88.

Chorus
Semigroups, lattices, algebras,
At **GAIA** in Melbourne belong.
But if **you** make a slip
Or come **up** with a quip,
It's **sure** to end up in this song.

1. I'll **sing** you a song about GAIA,
    I'm **told** that it's based on the truth.
    If **some**times it's stretched
    Or a **little** far fetched
    I **hope** you won't go through the roof.

2. Mar**cel** says to **ac**cept your fate,
    For the **lecture**, you'll just have to wait.
    So **please** eat a scone,
    They just **go** on and on,
    The com**puter's** installing updates.

3. There **is** an old gent from Down Under
    Who's **known** as a passionate wonder.
    It's **scary** to see
    What he **gets** naturally
    From **two** contra**var**iant functors.   Willard

4. An aero**gramme** from Davey to "Priestly"
    Got **Brian** into the game.
    With **research** on the go,
    They **wrote** ILO.
    Too **bad** he could **not** spell her name!

5. This **speaker** came here on the cheap
    And you **won't** see him down at the shops.
    With **not** much to pay
    Just ten **dollars** a day
    He can **still** afford plenty of FLOPs.   Pitkethly

6. Mixing **C**-S-P with counting
    Is **exciting** I have to confess.
    So I **thought** he was bluffing
    When he **said** he'd prove nothing.
    But **at** that he had great success!

7. This **fellow** is certainly smart.
   And his **maths** is the state of the art.
   So we **don't** give him flack
   When he **takes** a side track
   And **never** get back to the start.

8. With **bi**-ordered sets he's a star.
   His **i**-dempotents go far.
   But **he** came down under
   To **free** Stevie Wonder
   And **give** us a chocolate bar.

9. For our **search** for terms to succeed,
   Evo**lution** gives us what we need.
   Our **search** will be final,
   Our **instinct** is primal,
   A **male** and female should breed.   Johansen

10. **Mixed** C-S-Ps are so scary,
    "Please **help** us!" the audience begs.
    "If a **monster** is hairy,
    You'd **better** be wary,
    And **shave** it before **counting** its legs."   Johansen/Pitkethly

11. A **young** bloke whom I will not name here
    Made a **statement** that seemed not quite clear.
    He **said**, "Before long
    I'll prove **most** theorems wrong.
    Just **think** of absorption and beer."   Kowalski

12. Drinks **coffee** and that makes him sleep.
    Drinks **beer** and his mind takes a leap.
    He **tells** us that Mal'cev
    Is **not** such a Mal'cev,
    And his **G**-to-the-G is quite deep.

13. **You** should all go for a walk
    Be**fore** you go to the pub.
    It was **not** such a thrill
    The **sightings** were nill
    And we **all** got lost in the scrub.   Rentsch

14. He **mixed** up his a, b and c
    In his **lin**ear covering tree.
    His **tools** are great fun
    If you **don't** have type 1,
    And he **gave** us "some Lemma" for free.

15. From where **partition** monoids are best,
    We **have** the Big East from the West.
    We've **always** been smitten
    By **slides** all hand written,
    But **today** it was all in LaTeX.   Rentsch

16. Con**sider** now if we took
    A **verb**al congruence and look
    At all interesting cases;
    I'll **fill** in the spaces
    If you **go** out and purchase my book.   Rentsch

17. His **first** day in town was a thrill,
    But that **night** he was terrible ill.
    He could **finally** walk,
    And he **gave** a great talk,
    Although his potence was nill.

18. He **gave** us a line of best fit.
    For a **sci**entist, that would be it.
    But in **maths** we're aloof
    We re**quire** a proof.
    Till he **gets** one he simply won't quit.   Davey/Pitkethly

19. **Last** but not least there are three.
    George, **Misha** and Ross it could be.
    They **think** they're immune
    From a **verse** in this tune,
    But it's **never** too late, wait and see.   Pitkethly

20. A **beautiful** talk it is true.
    The **variable** count should be 'few'.
    "To the **soup**, add some spice",
    Was his **expert** advice,
    And we **finally** saw kangaroos.

21. The re**sult** in his talk was so sweet
    Though he **mixed** up his join and his meet.
    When **Ralph** said, "You cheated!"
    He **quickly** retreated.
    With a **diff**erence term, Park-ing's complete.

22. The last **talk** of the day was a beaut.
    The **speaker** was ancient but cute.
    "Cross **your** eyes and stare,
    You can **search** anywhere,
    But it's **hard** not complete – Oh, damn, shoot!"

23. At the **end** of it all comes this song,
    We're a**fraid** to complain that it's long.
    Al**though** we had warning
    That **it** might get boring,
    No **one** dares to give him the gong.   Davey/McConnell