

PEOPLE'S SONGS

Bulletin of People's Songs Inc., organized to create, promote and distribute songs of labor and the American people.

Peter Seeger, Executive Secretary

130 West 42 St., N.Y., N.Y.

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The people are on the march and must have songs to sing. Now, in 1946, the truth must reassert itself in many singing voices.

There are thousands of unions, people's organizations, singers, and choruses who would gladly use more songs. There are many song-writers, amateur and professional, who are writing these songs.

It is clear that there must be an organization to make and send songs of labor and the American people through the land.

To do this job, we have formed PEOPLE'S SONGS, INC.

We invite you to join us.

To Unions

Do you want to publish a songbook for your members? Write us for help in putting one together.

Do you want a song composed especially for your union? Would you like to have phonograph records of your own songs for use in your locals?

These are jobs which we are prepared to do. Activities directors should subscribe to this Bulletin with its regular song supplement.

To Songwriters

We are going to print the songs of both amateur and professional songwriters in this Bulletin, which goes to singers, leaders of choruses and to organizations all over the country.

Here is a new way of reaching your audience. Arrangments can be made through us to have your songs printed in sheet music form. You are assured of complete copyright and royalty protection.

Singers, Leaders of Choruses...

and performers may become members of PEOPLE'S SONGS, and receive this Bulletin. You will get many new songs you can use, and some of the older ones. If you need lyrics for other songs, we can help you find them.



PHONOGRAPH RECORDS

Recordings are being used more and more in sound trucks, union halls, and wherever people's songs have a job to do. At present the following albums of union songs are available. They should be ordered through your own dealer wherever possible.

ASCH RECORDS (Stinson Trading Co., 27 Union Square, New York City.)
#349 CITIZEN CIO (3-10" records,) by Tom Glazer...\$2.75
#360 AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY #1 (3-10") Woody Guthrie...\$3.50
KEYNOTE RECORDS (522 5th Ave., New York
#K106 TALKING UNION (3-10") Almanac Singers...\$2.89

In addition to these union records, there are many albums of folksongs, and other people's music:

COLUMBIA RECORDS

M534 SONGS OF FREE MEN (Sung by Paul Robeson)...\$3.68
C-22 CHAIN GANG SONGS (Josh White and group)...\$2.62

VICTOR RECORDS

F-20 BALLAD FOR AMERICANS...\$1.57

DECCA RECORDS

#375 LONESOME TRAIN (Lincoln Cantata) ...\$3.67

ASCH

#330 SONGS OF THE LINCOLN BATTALION ...\$2.75

#432 FOLKSAY (4-10" records) \$3.50

KEYNOTE

K109 CHEE LAI (China)...\$2.89

K101 SIX SONGS FOR DEMOCRACY
(Made in Spain)...\$3.15

This is a partial listing. A more complete one will be published later.

AN ARCHIVE OF PEOPLE'S SONGS

PEOPLE'S SONGS already has, at this date of writing, one of the country's largest collections of folksongs and labor songs, farmer's songs, etc. It will rapidly be added to, not only with songs from this country, but through exchange with foreign countries, with the people's songs of South America and Canada, of Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia. So anyone needing to learn the words of a song they are unable to find in their local library, anyone needing advice in putting a songbook together (for their union, for instance) will be able to get assistance from PEOPLE'S SONGS.

HOW TO COPYRIGHT A SONG -

Every song printed in this bulletin remains the possession of the composer and should be copyrighted by him. Write to the Library of Congress Copyright Office, Washington 25, D.C., and ask for a copy of Form E2. This you must fill out and return with copies of your song and a small fee, for which you'll receive a copyright.

WHAT KIND OF SONGS ARE NEEDED? -

Many kinds, to suit America's varied traditions. Folksongs for some, songs with a solid beat for others, mass songs, performance songs, and cantatas for trained choruses.

Write us and tell us what kind of songs you would like to see printed in the Bulletin.

IN FUTURE ISSUES -

Articles on people's music of other lands: on soldier songs; the democratic heritage of America and the world as reflected in folksongs.

Letters from all 48 states, from our members, telling about the way they use music in their parts of the country.

Reviews of current songs, records and books.

SONGBOOKS

There are a few good up-to-date union songbooks available. PEOPLE'S SONGS will publish one this year. However, there are many books of folksongs and people's songs which have been issued in the past few years. A future Bulletin will list them.

ORGANIZATION PAGE

TEMPORARY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Robert Claiborne
Horace Grenell
Herbert Haufrecht
Lee Hays
Lydia Infeld
George Levine
Simon Rady
Peter Seeger

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Saul Aarons
Charlotte Anthony
Edith Allaire
Dorothy Baron
Bernie Bell
Oscar Brand
Agnes Cunningham
G. Gabor
Jack Galin
Tom Glazer
Michael Gold
Woody Guthrie
Baldwin Hawes
Burl Ives
Robert Kates
Paul Kent
Lou Kleinman
Millard Lampell
John A. Leary
Mildred Linsley
Bess Lomax
Walter Loewenfels
Frances Luban
Shaemas O'Sheel
David Reif
Earl Robinson
Bob Russell
Betty Sanders
Naomi Spahn
Norman Studer
Mike Stratton
Josh White
Hy Zaret

PEOPLE'S SONGS was formed Dec. 31, 1945, at a meeting in New York City of songwriters, singers, union representatives, and workers in allied cultural fields.

Persons present constituted themselves an advisory committee, and elected a temporary organizing committee. Peter Seeger was elected chairman of the organizing committee.

This group was charged with the following tasks: renting an office; getting legal advice on incorporation and business procedure; organizing a songwriters working committee; issuing a first bulletin and song supplement; arranging for exchanges of songs, with foreign countries; financing; and getting new members.

Office space has been secured at 130 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y., through the courtesy of STAGE FOR ACTION, a labor drama group with which PEOPLE'S SONGS hopes to work closely. Incorporation papers have been drawn up and filed, and legal advice obtained.

The songwriters working committee has met. It's first job was to write verses for a song voicing the feelings of soldiers overseas, and copies were sent to protesting GI's in Manila.

This bulletin goes out to 3000 people in all 48 states. Its aim is to be a medium of communication, a forum for criticism, between unions, songwriters, and performers.

*Buy A Loose Leaf
Notebook, And Save
These Bulletins And
Songs For Future
Reference*

SONG SUPPLEMENT

#7

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

Words by Ralph Chaplin

Tune: John Brown's Body

Many people have forgotten the verses of this old and great union song. Sing these words slowly, so they can be heard. They are great poetry.

1. When the union's inspiration through the workers blood shall run
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one
But the union makes us strong.

Chorus: Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!
For the union makes us strong.

2. It is we who plowed the prairies, built the cities where they trade
Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid
Now we stand, outcast and starving, 'mid the wonders we have made
But the union makes us strong.

REPEAT CHORUS

3. They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel would turn
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn
That the union makes us strong.

REPEAT CHORUS

4. In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold
Greater than the might of atoms⁹ magnified a thousandfold
We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old
For the union makes us strong.

REPEAT CHORUS

#2

THE RANKIN TREE*

Words and music by Lee Hays and Walter Loewenfels

An allegory in song. It should be sung by one singer, with the whole audience repeating each phrase right after him thus: "Well I had a farm...WELL I HAD A FARM... and on that farm...AND ON THAT FARM..." etc. The singer can make the song his own by varying the melody or words to suit himself.



Well, I had a farm // and on that farm // there was a tree // and the

A PAGE OF PICKETLINE SONGS

ROLL THE UNION ON

#3 This song, which came out of Commonwealth College, Arkansas, in the early thirties, was made up by farming people who came there to learn about unionism for the first time. It is a great "zipper song". By that we mean that you can put the name of anyone or anything you don't like in the verses, and "roll it over them."

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a G chord symbol. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes: "We're goin' to roll, we're goin' to roll, we're goin' to roll the union". The second staff begins with a D7 chord symbol. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "on we're goin' to roll, we're goin' to roll, we're goin' to roll the union". The third staff begins with a G chord symbol. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "on. If the boss is in the way, we're gonna roll it over him, we're gonna". Below the third staff, the word "(VERSE)" is written. The fourth staff begins with a G chord symbol. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "roll it over him, we're gonna roll it over him roll the un-ion on." There are some additional markings above the notes, including "1 0 7" and "2 0 1".

WE PITY OUR BOSSES FIVE

Tune: Farmer in the Dell

We pity our bosses five
We pity our bosses five
A thousand a week is all they get
How can they stay alive?

We pity the boss's son
We pity the boss's son
He rides around in a Cadillac
The lousy son of a gun!

Another good picketline song is, of course, "We shall not be moved." Besides the regular verses such as: "Black and White Together," "We are fighting for our Freedom," ".....is our leader" any other phrases to fit the occasion can be invented on the spot. Many a fine picketline song has been made by changing the words of a well-known song only slightly, as did some little children who once danced outside a factory gate singing "Scabs in the factory, that won't do" to the tune of "Skip To My Lou, My Darling."

A SONG IS NO GOOD ON A PIECE OF PAPER; SING IT, SEE HOW IT SOUNDS

#5

VIVA LA QUINCE BRIGADA*

Many a union chorus will want to include songs that people the world over have sung in their struggles for freedom. This is one of the greatest ones, made up by the men of the 15th International Brigade who fought against Franco in Spain, 1936-8.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the chorus, with lyrics 'Viva la quince brigada RHUMBALA RHUMBALA RHUM-BA-LA, Viva la quince brigada'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'RHUMBALA RHUMBALA RHUM-BA-LA. Que se a cubierta de gloria, AI MANUELA'. The third staff concludes the phrase with lyrics 'AI MANUELA. Que se a cubierta de gloria, AI MANUELA, AI MANUELA.....'. Chord markings (Gm, D, F, Eb) are placed above the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

AI MANUELA. Que se a cubierta de gloria, AI MANUELA, AI MANUELA.....

2. Luchamos contra los Morros
RHUMBALA RHUMBALA RHUM-BA-LA
Luchamos contra los Morros
RHUMBALA RHUMBALA RHUM-BA-LA
Mercenarios y fascistas
AI MANUELA, AI MANUELA!
Mercenarios y fascistas
AI MANUELA, AI MANUELA!
3. Soloex nuestro deseo...(etc.)
Acabar con el fascismo (etc.)
4. En el frente de Jarama (etc.)
No tenemos ni aviones
Ni tankes, ni canones
AI MANUELA (repeat)
5. Ya Salimos de Espana...(etc.)
Por Luchar en otras frentes (etc.)

TRANSLATION

1. Long live the 15th Brigade,
They covered themselves with glory.
2. We are fighting against the moors,
mercenaries and fascists
3. It is our only desire...to destroy
fascism
4. On the Jarama front we have no
airplanes, no tanks, no artillery.
5. Now we are leaving Spain, but we
will fight on other fronts.

For Spanish pronunciation: Roll your R's, J sounds like H, E like AY, U like OO, A like AH, AI like I in 'kite', C when followed by an i or an e is like TH (soft).

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#6

CASEY JONES

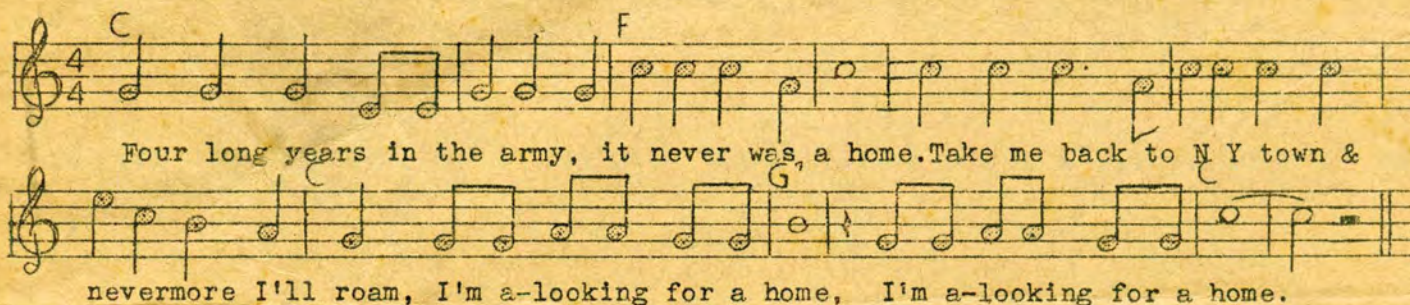
This is the union version which was made up 25 years ago by Joe Hill, and was one of the most popular of his songs.

The workers on the S.P. line for strike sent out a call
But Casey Jones, the engineer, he wouldn't strike at all
His boiler, it was leaking, and the drivers on the bum
And the engines and the bearings, they were all out of plumb.
Casey Jones, kept his junkpile running
Casey Jones, was working double time
Casey Jones, got a wooden medal
For being good and faithful on the S.P. Line.

The workers said to Casey, "Won't you help us win this strike?"
 But Casey said, "Let me alone, you'd better take a hike."
 Well, Casey's wheezy engine ran right off the wheezy track
 And Casey hit the river with an awful whack.
 Casey Jones, hit the river bottom,
 Casey Jones, broke his blooming spine.
 Casey Jones, became an angelino.
 He took a trip to heaven on the S.P. Line.
 When Casey got to heaven, way up to the pearly gate
 He said, I'm Casey Jones, the guy that pulled the S.P. freight.
 You're just the man, said Peter. Our musicians are on strike.
 You can get a job a-scabbing any time you like.
 Casey Jones, got a job in heaven.
 Casey Jones, was doing mighty fine.
 Casey Jones, went scabbing on the angels
 Just like he did to workers on the S.P. Line.
 The Angels got together and they said it wasn't fair
 For Casey Jones to go around a-scabbing everywhere.
 The angels union, Number 23, they sure were there
 And they promptly fired Casey down the golden stair.
 Casey Jones, went to Hell a-flying
 Casey Jones, the Deveil said, Oh, fine.
 Casey Jones, get busy shovelling sulphur.
 That's what you get for scabbing on the S.P. Line.

I'M A-LOOKING FOR A HOME*

#7 This 1946 version of the old song, "The Boll Weevil" was originally made up by "The Priority Ramblers", union singers of Washington, D.C. The first and last verses were added by Bernie Bell, just discharged from the army. You can change around the words to make it fit your own home town.



(CHORUS)

(REPEAT CHORUS)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>2. My first day in N.Y. town
 I spent looking for a bed
 Searching all the avenues
 For a place to lay my head
 (Chorus after each verse.)</p> <p>3. One lady said she had a room
 I said, "Is that correct?"
 "You can have it on one condition
 "That the dog does not object."</p> <p>4. I answered an advertisement
 I went down in a crowd
 The Landlady, she made a speech
 "No dogs, no cats, no kids,
 No chickens, no workingmen allowed."</p> | <p>5. The first time I saw my bedroom
 It had just a bed and chair
 The next time I saw my bedroom
 There were five guys sleeping there.</p> <p>6. I left my room for a minute
 Just to get a glass of beer
 When I got back there were 4 more men
 Swinging on the chandelier.</p> <p>7. If you should see anybody
 Come round here looking for me
 I spend my days in Central Park
 And my nights on the I.R.T.</p> |
|--|---|

*Copyright 1946.