

SINGING LIKE PETE SEEGER LIKED

Rick Harlan, ricksongrick@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	Songs	Songs alphabetically
2	Oh Sacred World To Everyone in All The World Carry It On She Moved Through The Fair Step by Step	Blessed Be The Nation – p 6 Blue Skies – p 7 Bring 'Em Home – p 14 Carry It On – p 2 Do It Now – p 10 From Way Up Here – p14 Get Up and Go – p 11 God Bless the Grass – p15 Golden Thread – p 9 How Can I Keep From Singing – p 8 I Wish I Knew – p10 If I Had A Hammer – p 4 Light is Returning – p 6 Little Boxes – p 8 My Rainbow Race – p 9 Of Time and Rivers Flowing – p 3 Oh Sacred World – p 2 Old Devil Time – p 7 Quite Early Morning – p 7 Sailing Down My Golden River – p 4 Sailing Up My Dirty Stream – p 3 She Moved Through The Fair – p 2 Step by Step – p 2 The Voice of Pete – p15 The Water is Wide – p 3 Three Little Birds – p 6 To Everyone in All the World – p 2 To My Old Brown Earth – p 3 Turn! Turn! Turn! – p 5 We Sing Out – p 12 Well May The World Go – p13 What Did You Learn In School Today – p 13 Where Have All The Flowers Gone – p 8 You'll Sing To Me Too – p12
3	Sailing Up My Dirty Stream Of Time and Rivers Flowing The Water is Wide To My Old Brown Earth	
4	Sailing Down My Golden River Well May the World Go If I Had a Hammer	
5	The Voice of Pete Turn! Turn! Turn!	
6	Light Is Returning Three Little Birds Blessed Be the Nation	
7	Quite Early Morning Old Devil Time Blue Skies	
8	Where Have All the Flowers Gone Little Boxes How Can I Keep From Singing	
9	My Rainbow Race Golden Thread	
10	I Wish I Knew Do It Now	
11	Get Up and Go	
12	You'll Sing to Me Too We Sing Out	
13	Well May the World Go What Did You Learn in School Today?	
14	Bring 'Em Home From Way Up Here	
15	God Bless the Grass The Voice of Pete	
16	Hootenanny! Good songs to sing any time!	

OH SACRED WORLD now wounded, we pledge to make you free –
Of war, of hate, of selfish cruelty. And in this small corner, we
Plant a tiny seed. May it grow in beauty, to shame the face of greed!
Oh sacred world, now wounded, we pledge to make you free!

TO EVERYONE IN ALL THE WORLD i reach my hand, i shake their hand.
To everyone in all the world I shake my hand like this
All, all together, the whole wide world around,
I may not know your lingo, but I can say “By jingo,
No matter where you live, we can shake hands!”

Carry It On—Gil Turner

There's a sister by my side walking
There's a voice within me talking,
There's a voice, within me saying,
Carry on, carry it on.

They will tell their empty stories,
Send their dogs to bite our bodies,
They will lock us up in prison,
Carry on, carry it on.

When you can't go on any longer,
Take the hand, hand of your brother,
Every victory brings another,
Carry it on, carry it on.

Carry on, carry it on!

Repeat 1st Verse
Carry it on, carry it on.

SHE MOVED THROUGH THE FAIR

My young love came to me; she moved through the fair
So softly she wandered, both here and there
And she laid her hand on me, and this she did say:
It will not be long, long 'til our wedding day

My young love came to me, she softly came in
So softly she came that her feet made no din
Then she made her way homeward, with one star awake
Like the swan in the evening moves over the lake

*[as sung and played on whistle by Pete Seeger on Folkways
LOVE SONGS FOR FRIENDS AND FOES, 1956]*

STEP BY STEP the longest march, can be won, can be won
Many stones can form an arch, singly none, singly none
And by union what we will, can be accomplished still
Drops of water turn the mill, singly none, singly none

From the constitution of the American Miners Union c. 1860. Traditional Irish melody.

SAILING UP MY DIRTY STREAM

**Still I love it and I'll keep the dream
That some day, though maybe not this year
My Hudson River will once again run clear.**

She starts high in the mountains of the north
Crystal clear and icy trickles forth
With just a few floating wrappers of chewing gum
Dropped by some hikers to warn of things to come.
At Glens Falls, five thousand honest hands
Work at the Consolidated Paper Plant
Five million gallons of waste a day,
Why should we do it any other way?

Down the valley one million toilet chains
Find my Hudson so convenient place to drain
And each little city says, "Who, me?
Do you think that sewage plants come free?"
*They say out on the ocean, water's clear
But we live downstream, on the river here
Half way between the mountains and the sea,
Tacking to and fro, this thought returns to me:

**Sailing up my dirty stream
Still I love it; and I'll dream:
That some day, though maybe not this year
My Hudson River AND my country will run clear.**

**Last lines edited RH 2017*

OF TIME AND RIVERS FLOWING

The seasons make a song
And we who live beside her
Still try to sing along
Of rivers, fish, and men
And the season still a-coming
When she'll run clear again.

The circles of the planets
The circles of the moon
The circles of the atoms
All play a marching tune
And we who would join in
Can stand aside no longer
Not let us all begin.

*Words by Pete Seeger (1973)
Music: "Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming"*

**THE WATER IS WIDE, I can't cross o'er/and neither have I wings to fly
Give us a boat that's meant for two/and both shall row, my love and I.
A ship there is and she sails the seas/She's laden deep, as deep can be
But not so deep as the love I'm in/I know not if I sink or swim.
Oh love is handsome and love is kind/gay as a jewel when first it's new
Love grows old and waxes bold/and lights my life like morning dew*.**

**Last line changed by what Pete called "the folk process."*

TO MY OLD BROWN EARTH

*And to my old blue sky
I'll now give these last few
molecules of "I."*

*And you who sing,
And you who stand nearby,
I do charge you not to cry.*

*Guard well our human chain,
Watch well you keep it strong,
As long as sun will shine.*

*And this our home,
Keep pure and sweet and green,
For now I'm yours
And you are also mine.*

SAILING DOWN MY GOLDEN RIVER

Sun and water all my own

Yet I was never alone.

Sun and water, old life givers
I'll have them where e'er I roam

And I was not far from home.

Sunlight glancing on the water
Life and death are all my own

Yet I was never alone.

Life to raise my sons and daughters

Golden sparkles in the foam

And I was not far from home.

Sailing down this winding highway
Travelers from near and far

Yet I was never alone.

Exploring all the little by-ways
Sighting all the distant stars

And I was not far from home. (1971)

WELL MAY THE WORLD GO

The world go, the world go

Well may the world go, when I'm far away.

Well may the skiers turn. the swimmers churn, the lovers burn
Peace may the generals learn, when I'm far away. **Well may the...**

Sweet may the fiddle sound, the banjo play the old hoe down
Dancers swing round and round, when I'm far away. **Well may the...**

(added verse, RH]

Yummy may the butter be, apples fallen from the tree
Babies bouncing on your knee, when I'm far away. **Well may the...**

Fresh may the breezes blow, clear may the streams flow,
Blue above, green below, when I'm far away. **Well may the...**

IF I HAD A HAMMER *(changed to sing "love between my sisters and my brothers")*

If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the morning
I'd hammer in the evening, all over this land
I'd hammer out Danger, I'd hammer out a Warning,
I'd hammer out Love between my Sisters and my Brothers
All over this land.

If I had a bell, I'd ring it... I'd ring out danger...,warning...,love....
If I had a song, I'd sing it... I'd sing out danger...,warning...,love....

Well I have a hammer, and I have a bell, and I have a song...
It's the hammer of Justice, the bell of Freedom, the song about the Love...

Now we have our hammers, and we have our bells, and we have our songs to sing....
They're the hammers of Justice, the bells of Freedom,
The songs about the Love between our Sisters and our Brothers
All over this land!

THE VOICE OF PETE

Music: Earl Robinson ("Joe Hill") © 2014 Paul Kaplan Music ASCAP

I dreamed I heard the voice of Pete singing strong and free
Says I, "But Pete, you lost your voice," "It never died," said he
"It never died," said he.

You used it up at concert halls, and all those picket lines
Says Pete, "I lost my vocal cords, my voice is doing fine
My voice is doing fine.

"Though some would say my voice has died, it's never been as strong
As when it comes back amplified by those who sing along
By those who sing along.

"For I am like the shantyman who stands before the gale
And helps us pull together so we all can raise the sail
We all can raise the sail.

Wisconsin down to Texas, California to Wall Street
When folks Sing Out! for justice then you'll hear the voice of Pete
You'll hear the voice of Pete.

And just before my dream was o'er he left me with these words
"When what you sing comes from the heart you always will be heard
You always will be heard."

(Re-Pete the first verse)

To everything - TURN, TURN, TURN

There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven
A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep

To everything - turn, turn, turn

There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven
A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones
A time to gather stones together

To everything - turn, turn, turn

There is a season - turn, turn, turn

And a time to every purpose under heaven
A time of love, a time of hate
A time of war, a time of peace
A time you may embrace
A time to refrain from embracing

To everything - turn, turn, turn

There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven
A time to gain, a time to lose
A time to rend, a time to sew
A time for love, a time for hate
A time for peace! I swear it's not too late!

To everything - turn, turn, turn

There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven

LIGHT IS RETURNING

Even though this is the darkest hour
No one can hold back the dawn

Let's keep it burning
Let's keep the light of hope alive
Make safe our journey through the storm

One planet is turning
Circles on her path around the Sun
Earth Mother is calling her children home
-Charlie Murphy

THREE LITTLE BIRDS -Bob Marley

Don't worry, about a thing,
'Cause every little thing gonna be all right.
Singin': Don't worry about a thing,
'Cause every little thing gonna be all right!

Rise up this mornin'
Smile with the risin' sun
Three little birds
Each by my doorstep
Singin' sweet songs
Of melodies pure and true
Sayin': This is my message to you-ou-ou
[repeat all]

BLESSED BE THE NATION (Pete poem)

Cursed be the nation of any size or shape
Whose citizens behave like naked apes
And drop their litter where they please,
Just like we did when we swung from trees.

But blessed be the nation and blessed be the prize
When citizens of any shape or size
Can speak their mind for any reason
Without being jailed or accused of treason.

Cursed be the nation without equal education
Where good schools are something that we ration
Where the wealthiest get the best that is able
And the poor are left with crumbs from the table.

Blessed be the nation that keeps its waters clean
Where an end to pollution is not just a dream
Where factories don't blow poisonous smoke
And we can breathe the air without having to choke.

Cursed be the nation where all play to win
And too much is made of the colour of the skin
Where we do not see each other as sister and brother
But as being threats to each other.

Blessed be the nation with health care for all
Where there's a helping hand for those who fall
Where compassion is in fashion every year
And people, not profits, is what we hold dear.

QUITE EARLY MORNING

(1969, lyrics mostly* as altered & sung
by Peggy Seeger)

**We know it's darkest before the dawn
The coming light keeps us movin' on
We must heed these early warnings
The time is now quite early morning
We must heed these early warnings
The time is now quite early morning**

Some say that humankind won't long endure
They sound so sad, they sound so sure
Stop your cryin' it's time for singin'
Make those morning bells go ringin'
Stop your cryin' it's time for singin'
Make those freedom* bells go ringin'!

And so we go, go on while we live
Until we have, have no more the give
And when our fingers can play no longer
Hand the old guitar to someone stronger
And when our fingers can play no longer
Give your old banjo* to someone stronger

So tho' it's darkest before the dawn
Work together, keep movin' on
Through all this world of joy and sorrow
We still have hope, hope for tomorrow
Through all this world of joy and sorrow
We're sure to sing, sing for tomorrow!*

**My meld of Pete's and Peggy's lyrics – Rick*

OLD DEVIL TIME (1969/1970)

Old devil time, I'm goin' ta fool you now
Old devil time, you'd like to bring me down
When I'm feeling low, my lovers gather round
And help me rise to fight you one more time

Old devil fear, you with your icy hands
Old devil fear, you'd like to freeze me cold
But when I'm sore afraid, my lovers gather round
And help me rise to fight you one more time

Old devil pain, you often pinned me down
You thought I'd cry and beg you for the end
But at that very time, my lovers gathered round
And help me rise to fight you one more time

Old devil hate, I knew you long ago
Then I found out the poison in your breath
Now when we hear your lies my lovers gather round
And help me rise to fight you one more time

No storm or fire can ever beat us down
No wind that blows but carries us further on
And you who fear, oh lovers gather round
And we can rise to sing it one more time

BLUE SKIES - Irving Berlin

Blue skies smiling at me, Nothing but
blue skies do I see

Blue birds singing a song, Nothing but
blue skies from now on

Never saw the sun shining so bright,
Never saw things going so right

Noticing the days hurrying by, When
you're in love, my how they fly

Blue days, all of them gone, Nothing
but blue skies from now on

Blue skies smiling at me, Nothing but
blue skies do I see

Bluebirds singing a song, Nothing but

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE? Long time passing.
Where have all the flowers gone. Long time ago.
Where have all the flowers gone? Gone to young ones every one...

2) soldiers...3) graveyards...4) flowers (verses 3 and 4 by Joe Hickerson)

Where has Pete Seeger gone? ...Long time passing....Long time ago.
Pete you haven't really gone. We learned from you to sing along
Live brave and sing out strong, Live peace and carry it on!

(Last verse by Gary Paine)

LITTLE BOXES by Malvina Reynolds*

Little boxes on the hillside
Little boxes made of ticky tacky
Little boxes on the hillside
Little boxes all the same.

There's a green one and a pink one
And a blue one and a yellow one
And they're all made out of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.

And the people in the houses
All went to the university
Where they were put in boxes
And they came out all the same
And there's doctors and lawyers
And business executives
And they're all made out of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.

And they all play on the golf course
And drink their martinis dry
And they all have pretty children
And the children go to school.
And the children go to summer camp
And then to the university
Where they are put in boxes
And they come out all the same.

And the boys go into business
And marry and raise a family
In boxes made of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.
There's a green one and a pink one
And a blue one and a yellow one,
And they're all made out of ticky tacky
And they all look just the same.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

(1957 in SING OUT #7; orig. 1860 H.W. Lowry)

My life flows on in endless song
Amidst earth's lamentation.
I hear the real, though far off hymn
That hails the new creation
Above the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing;
It sounds an echo in my soul
How can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars,
I hear the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness round me close,
Songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of Heaven and earth
How can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
And hear their death-knell ringing,
When friends rejoice both far and near,
How can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile
Our thoughts to them are winging.
When friends by shame are undefiled,
How can I keep from singing?

[re-Pete first verse]

**Pete's recording of Little Boxes reached #1
in the Top 40 in 1963.*

MY RAINBOW RACE (1967)

One blue sky above us, one ocean lapping all our shore
One earth so green and round, who could ask for more?
And because I love you, I'll give it one more try
To show my rainbow race, it's too soon to die

Some folks want to be like an ostrich
Bury their heads in the sand
Some hope that plastic dreams
Can unclench all those greedy hands

Some hope to take the easy way
Poisons, bombs, they think we need 'em
Don't you know you can't kill all the unbelievers?
There's no shortcut to freedom

One blue sky above us, one ocean lapping all our shore
One earth so green and round, who could ask for more?
And because I love you I'll give it one more try
To show my rainbow race, it's too soon to die

Go tell, go tell all the little children
Tell all the mothers and fathers too
Now's our last chance to learn to share [This could be our last chance to share]
What's been given to me and you

One blue sky above us, one ocean lapping all our shore
One earth so green and round, who could ask for more?
And because I love you I'll give it one more try
To show my rainbow race, it's too soon to die

One blue sky above us, one ocean lapping all our shore
One earth so green and round, who could ask for more?

Oh Had I a GOLDEN THREAD

And a needle so fine
I would weave a magic spell
Of rainbow design
Of rainbow design

In it I would weave the courage
Of women giving birth
And in it I would weave the innocence
Of the children of all the earth
Children of all the earth

Won't you show our human family
My rainbow design
'Cause I I would bind up this sorry world
With hand and my heart and mind
Oh hand and heart and mind

Oh had I a golden thread
And a needle so fine
I I would weave a magic spell
Of rainbow design
Of rainbow design

I WISH I KNEW how it would feel to be free

I wish I could break all the chains holding me
I wish I could say all the things that I should say
say 'em loud, say 'em clear for the whole round world to hear.

I wish I could share all the love that's in my heart
Remove all the bars that keep us apart
I wish you could know what it means to be me
Then you'd see and agree that every one should be free.

I wish I could give all I'm longing to give
I wish I could live like I'm longing to live
I wish that I could do all the things that I can do
Though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.

Well I wish I could be like a bird in the sky
How sweet it would be if I found I could fly
Oh I'd soar to the sun and look down at the sea
And I'd sing cos I'd know.... and I'd sing cos I'd know
How it feels to be free.

[Billy Taylor 1952; recorded by Nina Simone 1967]

DO IT NOW - Sing for the Climate 2012 (*tune: Bella Ciao*)

We need to wake up, we need to wise up
We need to open our eyes, and do it **now now now!**
We need to build a better future
And we need to start right now.
(repeat last two lines)

We're on a planet, that has a problem.
We've got to solve it, get involved and do it **now now now!**
We need to build a better future,
And we need to start right now.
(repeat last two lines)

Make it greener; make it cleaner;
Make it last, make it fast, and do it **now, now now!**
We need to build a better future,
And we need to start right now.
(repeat last two lines)

No point in waiting, or hesitating
We must get wise, take no more lies, and do it **now now now!**
We need to build a better future,
And we need to start right now.
(repeat last two lines)



Get Up and Go (1960)

*Words collected, adapted and set to
original music by Pete Seeger (1960)*

**How do I know my youth is all spent?
My get up and go has got up and went
In spite of it all, I'm able to grin
When I think of the places my get up has
been**

Old age is golden, I think I've heard said
But sometimes I wonder as I crawl into bed
My ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup
My eyes on the table until I wake up
As sleep dims my vision I say to myself
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
But nations are warring and business is vexed
So I'll stick around to see what happens next
How do I know.....

When I was younger, my slippers were red
I could kick up my heels right over my head
When I was older my slippers were blue
But still I could dance the whole night thru
Now I am old, my slippers are black
I huff to the store and I puff my way back
But never you laugh, I don't mind at all
I'd rather be huffing than not puff at all
How do I know.....

I get up each morning and dust off my wits
Open the paper and read the obits
If I'm not there, I know I'm not dead
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed
How do I know.....

YOU'LL SING TO ME TOO

We don't know, where we go, but we're here, and we're near
And so I'll sing to you, and someday you'll sing to me too.
I will sing to you, I will sing to you, I will sing to you
And someday, you'll sing to me too.

I don't know, where I'll go, but I'm here, and I'm near
And so I'll sing to you, and someday, you'll sing to me too.
YOU'LL sing to me too, YOU'LL sing to me too, I will sing to you
And someday, you'll sing to me too.

...I will sing to you, I will sing to you, I will sing to you,
And someday, you'll sing to me too.

We Sing Out

Lyrics by 4th grade Rivertown Kids, on Tomorrow's Children CD with Pete Seeger 2010
Tune by Tom Paxton: I Can't Help But Wonder Where I'm Bound, 1962

Well you're only kids, they say, and you'll run the world someday
In the meantime just relax, don't say a word
We can't vote, but don't you see we can speak out musically
We sing out so our voices can be heard.

CHORUS:

We sing out so our voices can be heard, can be heard
We sing loud so our voices will be heard

Cars and factories everywhere, fossil fuels pollute the air
And it's making our earth warmer every day
With the water, wind and sun, green energy for everyone
And we don't have a moment to delay
CHORUS...

And every time it rains all the waste goes down storm drains
But you know it doesn't really go away
We put trash and gasoline into rivers, lakes and streams
And it shouldn't always have to be that way
CHORUS...

A factory farm's an unhealthy place, animal cruelty's a disgrace
And you know they use up too much energy
Family farms are the way to go, their food is fresher, this we know
And the money stays in our community
CHORUS...

We can help the sick and poor, the world's people deserve more
We sing out for justice, and equality
We'll give voices to the meek, help all others hear them speak
And the earth will be the best that it can be

Well May the World Go (Pete Seeger, 1973)

*Well may the world go
The world go, the world go.
Well may the world go, When I'm far away.*

Well may the skiers turn, The swimmers churn, the lovers burn
Peace may the generals learn, When I'm far away. CHORUS: . .

Sweet may the fiddle sound, The banjo play the old hoe down
Dancers swing round and round, When I'm far away. CHORUS: . .

Yummy may the butter be, Apples fallen from the tree
Babies bouncing on your knee, When I'm far away* CHORUS: . .

Fresh may the breezes blow, Clear may the streams flow
Blue above green below, When I'm far away. CHORUS: . . .

**[added verse,RH]*

WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN SCHOOL TODAY,

Dear little girl of mine?

What did you learn in school today,

Dear little boy of mine?

I learned that Washington never ...

I learned that soldiers seldom...

I learned that ev-er-ybody's....

And that's what the teacher said

That's what I learned in school today.

That's what I learned in school.

What did you learn ...?

I learned that Officers are ...

I learned that justice ...

I learned that murderers die ...

Even if we make a mistake ...

That's what I learned in school today...

What did you learn ...?

I learned our government must be ...

It's always right and never ...

Our leaders are [still] the finest [*men*]

And we elect them again ...

That's what I learned in school today....

What did you learn ...?

I learned that war is not so ...

I learned of the great ones we have ...

We fought in Germany and in ...

And some day I might ...

That's what I learned in school today.

That's what I learned in school.

And that's STILL what we learn in school today.

Still what we learn in school.

[The Voucher/Charter School Verse]

I learned the climate is not hot

Earth's to blame and we are not

I learned that evolution's wrong

And Heaven's here before too long...

That's what....

[Young People's Liberation Verse]

I learned that adults run the show

They tell us what we need to know

USA all brave and free -

And if I'm good, including me

I learned that it's adults in charge

Because they're old, because they're large

They tell us what we need to know

To be good actors in their show

And if I have a good idea

Wait my turn and state it clearer

All about how, and not much why

Don't worry much before I die

Which I might do, as I wait my turn

To have a say about how I learn - AND

That's what we're changing in school today

That's what we're changing in school

Bring 'Em Home

by Pete Seeger, lyric changes by Bruce Springsteen, edit. Rick Harlan

If you love this land of the free
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
Bring them back from overseas
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home

Politicians we all know
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
Want us to tangle with their foes
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home

They wanna test their grand theories
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
With the blood of you and me
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home

Now we'll give no more young lives
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
For the gleam in someone's eyes
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home

We will all turn out
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
We'll raise a cheer and shout
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home

Town bells will ring with joy
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
For our darlin' girls and boys
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home

We want 'em safe and sound
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
Yeah, when Johnny comes marching
home
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home

Sons and daughters now be kind
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
Safe in body, safe in mind
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home

Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home
Bring 'em home, bring 'em home

From Way Up Here *Words Malvina Reynolds, Music Pete Seeger © 1962*

From way up here, the earth looks very small,
It's just a little ball of rock and sea and sand,
No bigger than my hand.
From way up here the earth looks very small,
They shouldn't fight at all
Down there upon that little sphere.

Their time is short, a life is just a day,
You think they'd find a way.
You think they'd get along
And fill their sunlit days with song.

From way up here the earth is very small,
It's just a little ball, so small, so beautiful and dear.

Their time is short, a life is just a day,
Must be a better way
To use the time that runs among the distant suns.

From way up here the earth is very small,
It's just a little ball, so small, so beautiful and dear.



GOD BLESS THE GRASS Malvina Reynolds

(Can be sung as "Let's Bless the Grass")

God bless the grass that grows through the crack.
They roll the concrete over it to try and keep it back.
The concrete gets tired of what it has to do,
It breaks and it buckles and the grass grows thru,
And God bless the grass.
God bless the truth that fights toward the sun,
They roll the lies over it and think that it is done
It moves through the ground and reaches for the air,
And after a while it is growing everywhere,
And God bless the grass.
God bless the grass that breaks through cement,
It's green and its tender and it's easily bent,
But after a while it lifts up its head,
For the grass is living and the stone is dead.
And God bless the grass.
God bless the grass that's gentle and low
Its roots they are deep and its will is to grow.
And God bless the truth, the friend of the poor,
Like the wild grasses springing up in freedom at our
door,
And God bless the grass

The Voice of Pete *Music: Earl Robinson ("Joe Hill") © 2014 Paul Kaplan Music*

1. I dreamed I heard the voice of Pete, singing strong and free.
Says I, "But Pete, you lost your voice," "It never died," said he.
"It never died," said he.
2. You used it up at concert halls, and all those picket lines.
Says Pete, "I lost my vocal cords, my voice is doing fine.
My voice is doing fine.
3. "Though some would say my voice has died, it's never been as strong.
As when it comes back amplified by those who sing along.
By those who sing along.
4. "For I am like the shantyman who stands before the gale.
And helps us pull together so we all can raise the sail.
We all can raise the sail.
5. Wisconsin down to Texas, California to Wall Street.
When folks Sing Out! for justice then you'll hear the voice of Pete.
You'll hear the voice of Pete.
6. And just before my dream was o'er he left me with these words:
"When what you sing comes from the heart you always will be heard.
You always will be heard."
7. (Re-pete #1.]

Hootenanny!

All time, good 'American' singing-songs

-Oh My Darlin Clementine

In a cavern, in a canyon, excavating for a mine...
Light she was and like a fairy, and her shoes...
Drove she ducklings to the water every morning...
Ruby lips above the water, blowing bubbles soft...

-Sweet Betsy From Pike

Oh don't you remember Sweet Betsy from Pike
She crossed the wide prairie with her husband Ike
With 2 yoke of cattle, a large yellow dog,
A tall Shaghai rooster and one spotted hog
Hoodle dang fol-dee-di-do, hoodle dang fol-dee-day

-Red River Valley: From this valley they say you
are going. We will miss your bright eyes and sweet
smile. For they say you are taking the sunshine, that's
brightened our path for a while.

Come and sit my side if you love me
Do not hasten to bid me adieu.
But remember the Red River Valley, and the one who
has loved you so true. (& all of us who have..)

-Down in the Valley (valley so low, hang ...)
Roses love sunshine, violets love dew, angels in...
If you don't love me, love whom you please...
Write me a letter, send it by mail, send it in c/o...

-Turkey in the Straw, turkey in the hay (2)
Roll 'em up 'n twist em up, a high tuck a-haw
And hit 'em up a tune called Turkey in the Straw!
Well I came to a river and I couldn't get across
I paid five dollars for a big bay hoss
Well he wouldn't go ahead & he w'dn't stand still
So he went up and down like an old saw mill

-Oh Shenandoah I long to see you, away you
rollin' river. Oh.....
Away, we're bound away, cross the wide Missouri.
For 7 yrs I've been a-rovin'

-The Water is Wide, I can't cross o'er, and
neither have I wings to fly.... There is a ship, she..

-Blue Tail Fly When I was young I used to wait

-Skip to my Lou... Lost my partner what'll I do?/I'll
getter another one that's what I'll do/Little red wagon
painted blue/Flies in the buttermilk, shoo

I Ride an Old Paint I lead an old dan, I'm goin' to
Montan for to throw the hoolihan. They feed in the
coolies, they water in the draw. Their tails are all
matted, their backs are all raw
Ride around little dogies, ride around them slow
For the fiery and the nuffy are rarin' to go

-16 Tons (and wha' do ya get, another day older)
I was born one mornin' when the sun didn't shine...

-Tenn. Waltz- I was waltzing with my darlin'

-Freight Train ...run so fast (2) Please don't tell
what train I'm on, so they won't know what route I'm
gone. When I'm dead & in my grave, no more good
times here I crave. Place a stone at my head and feet,
tell them all that I've gone to sleep
When I die Lord bury me deep, Way down on old
Chestnut Street, So I can hear old number 9, as she
comes rollin' by. Freight Train, freight train...

-I've Been Workin' on the Railroad...

-Keep On the Sunny Side always on the sunny
side, Keep on the sunny side of life. It will help us ev'ry
day, it will brighten all the way, If we'll keep on the
sunny side of life.
There's a dark and a troubled side of life
There's a bright and a sunny side too
Tho' we meet with the darkness and strife
The sunny side we also may view....

Blue Skies smiling at me, Nothing but blue skies do I
see, Bluebirds singing a song, Nothing but bluebirds all
day long./ Never saw the sun shining so bright, Never
saw things going so right, Noticing the days hurrying
by, When you're in love, my how they fly. Oh, blue
skies smiling at me, Nothing but blue skies do I see

-I Can See Clearly Now the rain is gone,
I can see all obstacles in my way, Gone are the dark
clouds that had me blind, It's gonna' be a bright bright
sunshiny day...a bright bright ...
I think I can make it now, the pain is gone, All of the
bad feelings have disappeared. Here is the rainbow
I've been praying for. It's gonna' be....
Look all around, there's nothing but blue skies
Look straight ahead, nothin' but blue skies. I can...

-Here Come the Sun..little darlin...long/smil