

# SINGING LIKE PETE SEEGER LIKED

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**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 see. 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

**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.*

## **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"*

### 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 breath 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*

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## 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?**

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**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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