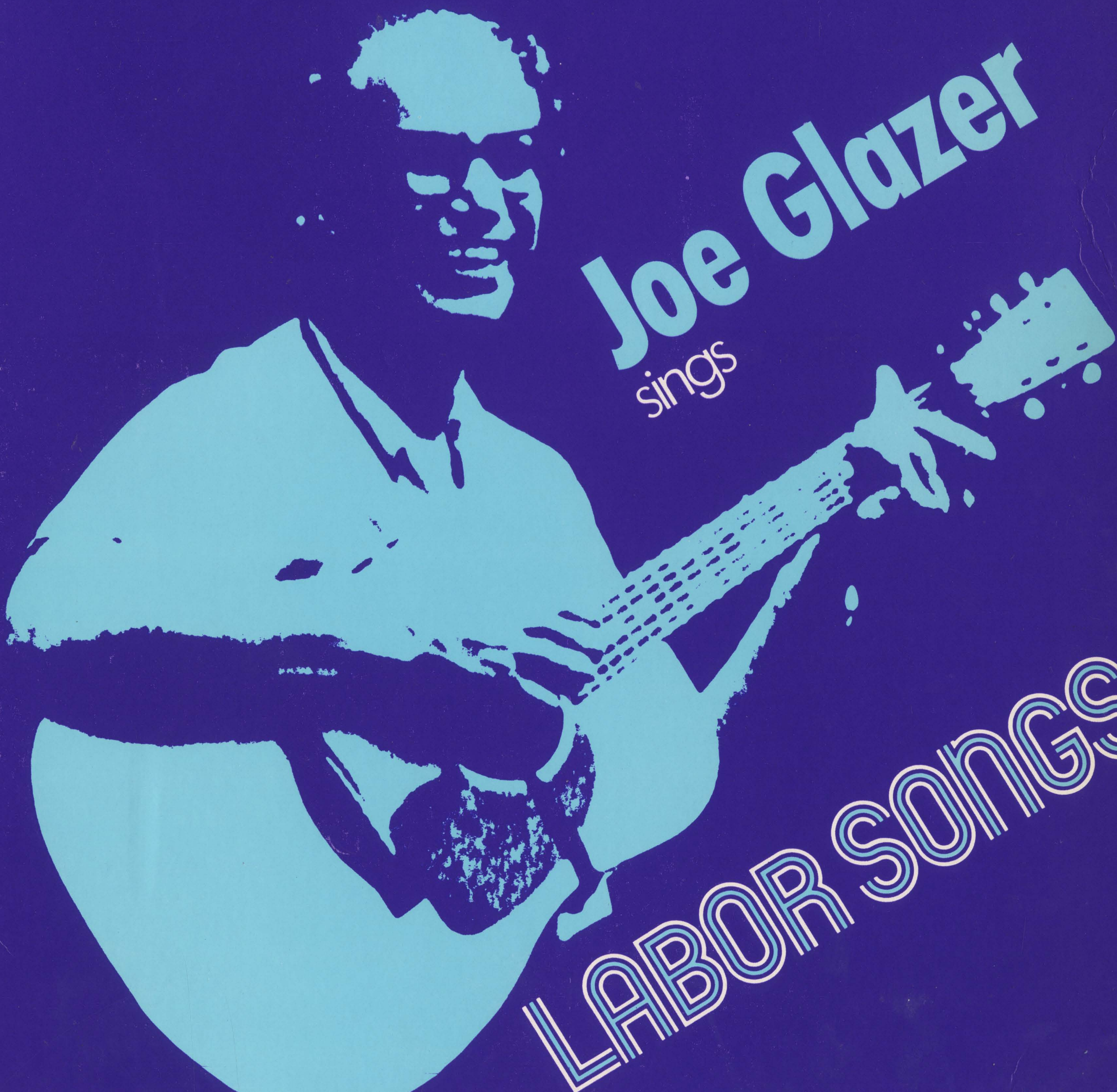


Collector Records 1918

JOE GLAZER SINGS LABOR SONGS

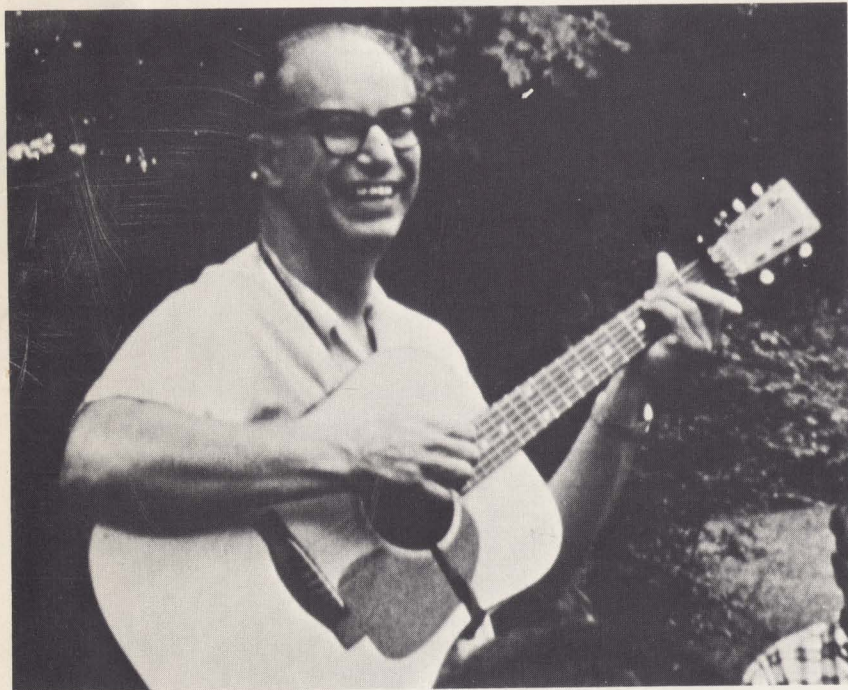


Joe Glazer
sings

LABOR SONGS

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JOE GLAZER SINGS LABOR SONGS



Joe Glazer has long been known as "Labor's Troubadour." His career began officially in 1944 as Assistant Education Director for the Textile Workers Union of America. From 1950 to 1961 he was Director of Education for the United Rubber Workers. Since then he has worked for the U.S. Information Agency, as Labor Information Officer in Mexico and, since 1965, as Labor and Equal Opportunity Advisor in Washington, D.C.

His voice and his guitar have been heard on a hundred picket lines and in a thousand union halls. He has sung at scores of labor conventions including the historic merger convention of the AFL-CIO in 1955. He has recorded more than a dozen albums, alone or with such performers as Charlie Byrd. These include *Songs of Work and Freedom*, *Songs of the Wobblies*, *Songs of Coal*, *Songs of Joe Hill*, and *My Darling Party Line*.

Glazer has composed numerous labor and social protest songs including *The Mill Was Made of Marble*, *Automation*, and *Too Old To Work*. He is a widely recognized authority on labor songs and folk music in general. With Edith Fowke he co-authored the book, *Songs of Work and Freedom*. He is the star of a documentary film, *Songs and Stories of Labor*, produced by Parker Film Associates, Inc. It is frequently said of Joe Glazer that his guitar is a weapon in the battle for social justice.

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This album, JOE GLAZER SINGS LABOR SONGS, was released initially as a private LP for members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The original recording—*AFSCME Sings with Joe Glazer*—was made in 1967 in Washington, D.C. when Glazer sang to a group of AFSCME members who were participating in a training program. From the private LP this album was re-mastered with some minor editing and re-recording in January 1971.

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JOE GLAZER SINGS LABOR SONGS is the first in a projected series of COLLECTOR albums in the area of industrial folklore and folksong. Forthcoming discs will include songs of textile workers, coal miners, railroaders, and Wobblies.

SIDE ONE

1. **WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED** is based on the gospel hymn *I Shall Not Be Moved*. It was first sung by coal miners in West Virginia in 1931 but it was quickly adopted by the entire labor movement. In altered form, it was also used in the civil rights movement during the 1960's.

2. **MINER'S STRAWBERRIES**—Merle Travis, composer of *Sixteen Tons* and *Dark As a Dungeon*, wrote this humorous piece.

3. **HARD TIMES IN THE MILL**—This textile workers' song about the twelve hour day first appeared in Columbia, South Carolina at the turn of the century.

4. **WE ARE BUILDING A STRONG UNION** was written during the textile strike at Marion, North Carolina in 1929. It is based on the spiritual *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*.

5. **THE MILL WAS MADE OF MARBLE**—Joe Glazer wrote this popular union song in 1947. It was based on a poem which appeared during a Rockingham, North Carolina strike.

6. **UNION MAID**—This lively favorite was composed by Woody Guthrie in 1940.

7. **ROLL THE UNION ON**—John Handcox and Lee Hays made up this song in 1936 at an Arkansas labor school. It was based on the sacred song *Roll the Chariot On*.

8. **THAT'S ALL**—This song by Joe Glazer was composed in 1949 and was based on the gospel tune of the same name.

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SIDE TWO

1. **SOLIDARITY FOREVER**—This classic union song was written by Ralph Chaplin, an artist, poet, and organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World (Wobblies).

2. **IT COULD BE A WONDERFUL WORLD**—Hy Zaret and Lou Singer wrote this ditty in 1947 as part of a booklet and record called *Little Songs on Big Subjects*.

3. **UNION TRAIN** is based on the spiritual *The Old Ship of Zion*. It was made popular during World War II by the Almanac Singers.

4. **JOE HILL**—Alfred Hayes wrote this poem during the 1920's and Earl Robinson set it to music in the 1930's. This song has helped keep the legend of Joe Hill alive. Hill, the Wobbly poet-organizer, was executed by a firing squad on November 19, 1915 in Salt Lake City.

5. **JOHN HENRY**—This great ballad records the exploits of John Henry, a mighty steel driving man. It originated after steel drivers completed drilling the Big Bend Tunnel on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in West Virginia during 1872.

6. **AUTOMATION** was written by Joe Glazer in 1952 and was first performed at a labor conference in Denver, Colorado.

7. **TOO OLD TO WORK**—This piece, composed by Joe Glazer in 1950, aided the Chrysler workers during their long strike to win company paid pensions as a supplement to low social security payments prevalent at that time.

8. **WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO**—This song, the most recent on the album, was written by Joe Glazer in 1967.

Cover designed by Dorothy Fall

17



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