

A Century of Labor Song

SUNG BY JOE GLAZER



"WE'VE ONLY
JUST
BEGUN."



Sponsored by the
AMERICAN
FEDERATION
OF TEACHERS
AFL/CIO

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Message from the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS:

In November 1981, the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) observed the 100th anniversary of the modern American labor movement. To help celebrate that important occasion, the AFT is proud to present this unique album of labor songs by Joe Glazer, labor's troubadour. It has been designed to assist social studies and history teachers make their classes on labor and labor problems more effective and exciting.

Subjects covered in the 14 songs include: child labor, the fight for shorter hours, the problems of unemployment and technological change, job discrimination, labor organizing, labor struggles and strikes, women's role in the trade union movement, and union accomplishments.

The songs are performed in a warm and lively style with excellent musical accompaniment and should make it easier for teachers to accent and develop important labor themes.

A full set of lyrics and a sample study guide are included with this album. We in the AFT hope that teachers will find this record a useful tool in helping students to obtain a better understanding of the American labor movement.

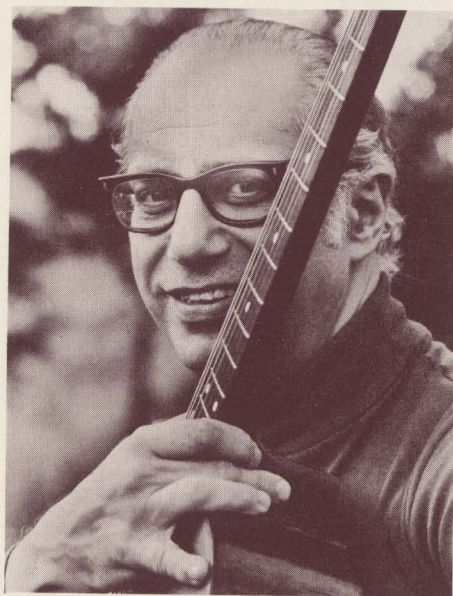
Albert Shanker, President
American Federation of Teachers, AFL/CIO

Joe Glazer has been known for many years as "Labor's Troubadour." For thirty-five years his voice and guitar have been heard on scores of picket lines, at rallies and demonstrations and in a hundred union halls.

He has performed at numerous labor conventions including the merger of the AFL-CIO in 1955 and the AFL-CIO convention in 1981 commemorating the 100th anniversary of the labor movement.

On Labor Day, 1980, he sang for the President at the White House. On the historic Solidarity Day in September, 1980, Glazer stood in the shadow of the Capitol Dome, leading a record crowd of 400,000 union members and their allies in *Solidarity Forever*.

He is co-author of the book, *Songs of Work and Protest* and is the star of a documentary film *Songs and Stories of Labor*, produced by Parker Film Associates, Inc. Public television has made two half-hour programs of his songs and commentary. He has recorded twenty LP albums and has appeared in almost every state and province in the U.S. and Canada and in sixty countries around the world.



This record produced by Collector Records for the American Federation of Teachers. For other records on labor themes write for free brochure to Collector Records, 1604 Arbor View Rd., Silver Spring, MD, 20902

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS / AFL-CIO
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SIDE ONE

1. HARD TIMES IN THE MILL—This song is about the twelve to fourteen hour day, common in the early days of the Industrial Revolution. On May 1, 1886 there were many union-led strikes and demonstrations for the eight-hour day but it was not until 1938 with the passage of the Wage and Hour Law that the eight-hour day became firmly established in the United States. (2:12)

2. NO IRISH NEED APPLY—The potato famines of 1845-7 in Ireland led thousands of men and women to flee their country and migrate to the United States. They were welcomed for the back-breaking work digging the railroads and canals, but for better jobs they met signs saying, "No Irish Need Apply." America was truly a land of opportunity compared to the old country, but many immigrants had to battle discrimination based on race, religion or nationality. (2:13)

3. JOHN HENRY—This historic ballad records the exploits of John Henry, a black steel driving man who fought the machine—the steam drill—and won, but died with his hammer in his hand. The song symbolizes man's constant fear that he will be destroyed by the machines he has created, and raises the challenge of creating full employment despite the increasing use of robots and automatic machinery. (4:00)

4. WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON—Workers have had to struggle and sacrifice to build unions in the United States, particularly before 1935 when the National Labor Relations Act gave workers the legal right to organize. Many songs have depicted these struggles, including this classic by Mrs. Florence Reece, a coal miner's wife. She wrote this song in 1931 from her own experiences in bloody Harlan County, Kentucky. (The J. H. Blair mentioned in the song was the county sheriff.) (2:45)

5. JOE HILL—Joe Hill, a composer of union songs and an active member of the Industrial Workers of the World, was convicted of murder and executed by a firing squad in Salt Lake City in 1915. Many believed he was innocent and he has become a symbol of the hundreds of men and women who have given their lives fighting for labor's rights. This moving song by Alfred Hayes and Earl Robinson has helped perpetuate Joe Hill's memory. (4:11)

6. UNION MAID—This lively favorite was written by the legendary folk-composer, Woody Guthrie in 1940. With the rise in the number of female workers and the stimulation of the women's movement of the 1970's, women have become increasingly active in the labor movement. (2:00)

7. SOLIDARITY FOREVER—This unofficial anthem of the American labor movement was written in 1915 by Ralph Chaplin, a poet writer and organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), a militant singing union known as the Wobblies. "Solidarity" is a sacred word in the trade union movement. (2:25)

STEREO

COLLECTOR RECORDS 1934



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SIDE TWO

1. 1930's ORGANIZING MEDLEY—Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal government, beginning in 1933, encouraged workers to organize. There were great organizing drives in the coal, auto, steel, clothing, rubber and other industries. These two songs, *We Shall Not Be Moved* and *Roll the Union On*, emerged from this period and they are still sung today. (2:25)

2. BABIES IN THE MILL—Child labor in textile mills, garment sweatshops and even in coal mines, was common in the early years of this century. Dorsey Dixon, a textile worker in South Carolina, wrote this song, based on the experiences of his sister Nancy, who went to work in the mills at the age of eight. (3:25)

3. LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL—The union label tells the public that the item or service they are buying was produced under union conditions. This song was part of the nationwide campaign of the International Ladies' Garment Worker' Union to get people to look for the union label when purchasing women's clothing. It has been played widely on television. (2:40)

4. WHEN A FELLOW IS OUT OF A JOB—This song is from the Great Depression of the 1930's when many millions were unemployed. It reminds us of the pain and indignity people suffer when they can't find a job. The song refers to "fellows" and "men", reflecting a time when little thought was given to women workers. Today, when women make up approximately half of the work force, perhaps the song title should be changed to *When a Person is Out of a Job*. (2:35)

5. FARM WORKERS' SONG—Hispanic workers, from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and elsewhere, are an important and growing force in America. This song, in Spanish, tells about the struggles of one of these groups, the Mexican-American farm workers in California. (2:30)

6. TOO OLD TO WORK—In 1949 the big industrial unions in the United States began a drive for company-paid pensions to supplement the meager social security payments of that day. The union slogan was "too old to work, too young to die," and Joe Glazer used that slogan in this song, composed in 1950 for an auto workers' pension strike. Since that time, union/company pension plans have become quite common. (2:50)

7. WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN—This song was written by Paul McKenna, for the one hundredth anniversary of the modern labor movement. The predecessor of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) was formed in 1881 in Pittsburgh, with a handful of members. One hundred years later, the AFL-CIO with 15 million members, celebrated labor's accomplishments, but insisted, "We've Only Just Begun." (2:58)

THE PERFORMERS: Joe Glazer sings all lead vocals except for the song, *Joe Hill*, which is sung by Joe Uehlein. Uehlein also plays lead guitar and sings harmony on many of the selections. Other performers are Mike Auldridge on dobro guitar; Phil Rosenthal on guitar, mandolin and banjo; Laurel Blaydes, harmony singing on several selections and lead on *Look for the Union Label*; Steve Jones, guitar on *Farm Workers' Song*.

ALBUM COVER: Photo of young coal miners was taken by Lewis Hine in 1908. They were among 15,000 boys under 16 years of age who worked a full day in Pennsylvania coal mines. Bottom photo by Robert Gumpert in 1980 shows J. P. Stevens textile workers in 1980, celebrating first collective bargaining agreement with company after 17 years of struggle. Design by DOROTHY FALL.