

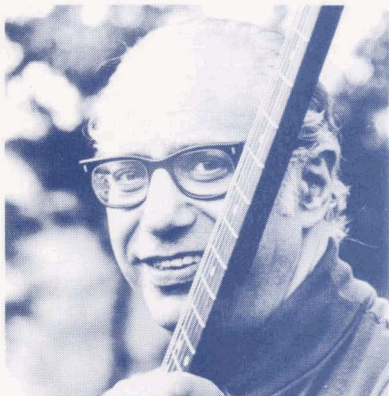
A black and white photograph of Joe Glazer, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is playing an acoustic guitar. The background is dark and out of focus.

**Joe Glazer**  
sings

**LABOR SONGS**  
II

# Joe Glazer Sings Labor Songs II

★ Joe Glazer ★



JOE GLAZER has been known for many years as "Labor's Troubadour." For 60 years his voice and guitar have been heard in a hundred union halls, on dozens of picket lines and at scores of political and protest rallies. He has performed in almost every state in the union and in sixty countries around the world. He has made more than 30 LP albums, cassettes and CDs of labor and political songs. Most of these are available from Collector Records.

1. Operating Engineer (3:02)
2. Fight That Line (2:55)
3. Dancing Boilerman (3:08)
4. I Never Did It (2:15)
5. I'm Union And Damn Proud Of It (2:33)
6. Taxi Song (3:56)
7. Down At The Union Hall (2:52)
8. To Labor (2:33)
9. Truck Driver Man (4:20)
10. Press Room (2:53)
11. Babies In The Mill (3:29)
12. Hospital Workers (1:40)
13. Buffalo Creek Flood (3:02)
14. Talking Import Blues (2:33)
15. Union Card (2:35)
16. VDT (2:19)
17. Death Of Mother Jones (2:00)
18. Sixteen Tons (2:10)
19. Pie In The Sky (2:00)
20. The Right To Know (2:55)
21. Talking Union (3:05)
22. We Shall Overcome (2:40)

**1. OPERATING ENGINEER** — The workers who run the big cranes, the bulldozers and other heavy construction equipment, usually members of the Operating Engineers International Union (OEIU), take great pride in the results of their work. In the old days, they followed the construction jobs by “spiking out” with fellow workers, i.e., by pitching a tent. Lyrics by Reese Hammond, music by Joe Glazer. (3:02)

**2. FIGHT THAT LINE** — Describes the tyranny of the assembly line, where you can’t take a break, get a cup of coffee, or even, when needed, run to the bathroom. Composed by Joe Glazer. (2:55)

**3. DANCING BOILERMAN** — This is one man’s answer to boredom on the job. Based on a true story. Composed and copyrighted by Charlie King. (3:08)

**4. I NEVER DID IT** — “Never crossed a picket line.” One of the best anti-scab songs. Written by Stanley Celsthorpe with two verses added by Joe Glazer. (2:15)

**5. I’M UNION AND DAMN PROUD OF IT** — Joe Glazer saw this on a sign at a big union rally in Baltimore. By the time he drove the 40 miles to his home in Washington, D.C., he had this rousing song worked out in his head. (2:33)

**6. TAXI SONG** — If you don’t own your own taxicab but rent it by the day, paying the company from your receipts, you are considered an independent “contractor” with no benefits, no pension, nothing. Peter Jones wrote this song about a cab driver who was killed on the job. (3:56)

**7. DOWN AT THE UNION HALL** — Joining the union could be akin to a religious experience, a spirit captured by composer Kenny Winfree. (2:52)

**8. TO LABOR** — This stirring hymn to labor, written in the early part of the century by Charlotte Perkins Gilmore, has been adapted by Joe Glazer and sung to the tune of “Maryland, My Maryland.” (2:33)

**9. TRUCK DRIVER MAN** — “A lot of the trucking songs coming out of Nashville are written by guys who never spent much time in a truck,” comments Larry Penn, composer of this song. Larry Penn has spent a lot of time — 40 years — driving trucks. He is now a retired member of the Teamsters. Copyright by Larry Penn. (4:20)

**10. PRESS ROOM** — This humorous and ironic variation of the ancient theme of “man versus machine” was composed by John O’Connor. Copyright by John O’Connor. (2:53)

**11. BABIES IN THE MILL** — A textile worker in South Carolina, Dorsey Dixon, wrote this song based on the experiences of his sister Nancy, who went to work in a textile mill at the age of eight. (3:29)

**12. HOSPITAL WORKERS** — This is the only labor song written to a John Philip Sousa march. Lyrics by Paul McKenna of the Service Employees International Union to the music of “Stars and Stripes Forever.” (1:40)

**13. BUFFALO CREEK FLOOD** — Over 130 million gallons of water swept through 16 coal mining communities on February 26, 1972 along Buffalo Creek, in Logan County, West Virginia. One hundred and twenty-five people were

killed. The Pittston Company, owner of the dam that was illegally constructed, declared it "an act of God." Composed by Doug Yarrow and Ruth Yarrow. (3:02)

**14. TALKING IMPORT BLUES** — This song shows how pervasive imports are in our everyday life and how it affects our jobs. Composed by Joe Glazer. (2:33)

**15. UNION CARD** — This song stresses the importance of the union card and the membership it symbolizes. Written by Kenny Winfree, a member of two unions. (2:35)

**16. VDT** — Working in an office and operating a Video Display Terminal (VDT), is not the "nice job" we always thought it to be. It can cause eye damage, headaches and carpal tunnel damage to the wrist. Composed and copyrighted by Tom Juravich. (2:19)

**17. DEATH OF MOTHER JONES** — Mary "Mother" Jones was the most remarkable woman produced by the American labor movement. She was born in 1830 and lived for a full hundred years. She spent fifty of those years fighting fiercely on behalf of her "children": the coal miners, textile workers, steel workers and others. This song began to circulate soon after she died in 1930. Writer unknown. (2:00)

**18. SIXTEEN TONS** — Merle Travis wrote this song in 1947. When Tennessee Ernie Ford recorded it in 1955 it became a smash hit. Travis' coal mining father said, "I can't afford to die. I owe my soul to the company store." This became a key line in the song. This selection is from Joe Glazer's performance at the 1964 United Mine Workers convention. Written by Merle Travis. (2:10)

**19. PIE IN THE SKY** — This parody of the old hymn, "Sweet Bye and Bye," was written by Joe Hill, the best-known songwriter of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), popularly known as the Wobblies. Wobblies were a great singing union, and many of their songs ridiculed what they called "Pie in the Sky Preachers." Joe Hill was executed in Salt Lake City in 1915 by the state of Utah and became one of the American labor movement's famous martyrs. (2:00)

**20. THE RIGHT TO KNOW** — Every year workers are exposed to new chemicals and processes on the job. What will the substances do to their eyes, lungs, and the rest of their bodies as the years go by? Labor unions are demanding the right to know what risks workers are exposed to when they are using these new chemicals. Composed by Sam Stark. (2:55)

**21. TALKING UNION** — This organizing speech set to music was first recorded in 1940 by the Almanac Singers. Joe Glazer performs the song for organizers of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Cities mentioned in the original recording were changed to places where AFSCME made history. (3:05)

**22. WE SHALL OVERCOME** — This started out as a gospel song. It was turned into a union song with verses like "We shall organize some day." The union version was recorded by Joe Glazer in 1950. In its final form, it became the anthem of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. It is known all over the world and sung in many places where people hope to overcome poverty, injustice and tyranny. (2:40)



---

---

Most of these songs were recorded in Washington, D.C. between 1978 and 1996 with a varied group of backup musicians, including the Charlie Byrd Trio, Mike Auldridge, Phil Rosenthal and Tom Gray of the Seldom Scene Bluegrass Band, Joe Uehlein, Laurel Blaydes, Steve Jones, Magpie (Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino), Ralph Gordon and others. Cover design by Dorothy Fall. All vocals are by Joe Glazer.

COLLECTOR RECORDS specializes in cassette tapes and CDs with songs of labor, protest, politics and social commentary. Labor songbooks are also available. For free brochure, write to: Collector Records, 9225 Wendell St., Silver Spring, MD 20901.

Most of the songs on this CD are also available on cassette.

---

---

