

FOLK SONGS OF



The

American

Dream



JOE GLAZER

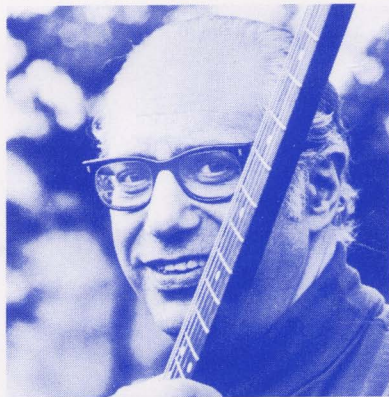
Collector Records specializes in cassette tapes, records and CD's with songs of labor, protest, politics and social commentary. For free brochure, write to Collector Records, 9225 Wendell St., Silver Spring, MD 20901.

1. AMERICA, AMERICA! — Most immigrants to the United States brought with them "a glorious, shining dream." This song written by Joe Glazer reflects their ideals. Reality, as pictured in some of the songs that follow, could be quite different. (2:23)
2. NO IRISH NEED APPLY — The potato famines of 1845-7 in Ireland led thousands to migrate to the U.S. in search of the American Dream. They were welcomed for the back-breaking work of building the railroads and canals, but for better jobs they were greeted by signs: "No Irish Need Apply." (2:07)
3. WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS LAND — A good part of the American Dream of European settlers was the lure of plentiful farmland. But back-breaking labor was necessary to make the dream come true. This composition by Oscar Brand is loosely based on a folk song sung by early German immigrants in Pennsylvania. (4:00)
4. OLEANNA — The American Dream went sour in a new settlement in Pennsylvania in the 1840s. This planned paradise by the Norwegian Ole Bull was an unmitigated disaster. This song mocks Ole Bull and his Utopian dream. (3:04)
5. STARVING TO DEATH ON MY GOVERNMENT CLAIM — The Homestead Act was passed in 1862 giving each settler 160 acres in Kansas, Nebraska and other states. You had to live and work on the land for five years but many settlers gave up their dream of owning a farm when the conditions proved too harsh. (2:53)
6. SWING LOW SWEET CHARIOT — The American Dream did not exist for the millions of Africans who came to these shores, not as immigrants hoping for a better life, but as slaves in chains. However, in their songs they did dream of escaping to the Promised Land in a chariot of gold. (2:50)
7. HARD TIMES IN THE MILL — Factory workers in the 1880s, 1890s and early 1900s had a hard time appreciating the American Dream when they were working 12 hours a day, six days a week. (2:12)
8. BABIES IN THE MILL — Children under 12 years old who worked long hours in textile mills and coal mines at the turn of the century did not share in the American Dream. Dorsey Dixon, a textile worker in South Carolina, 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)
9. ANTI-SUFFRAGETTE SONG — Participating in politics was truly a dream for the nation's women who did not win the right to vote until 1920. Women marched and sang demanding the right to vote. But there were many snide and condescending anti-suffragette songs like this one written in 1867. (1:13)
10. BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A DIME — The American Dream was shattered by the Great Depression of 1929. This classic by Yip Harburg and Jay Gorney gives us a heartbreaking and unforgettable account of these hard times. Copyright 1932, Warner Brothers, Inc. (Renewed) (3:00)
11. IDA MAE (SOCIAL SECURITY SONG) — Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal beginning in 1933 helped to restore many aspects of the American Dream. The Social Security Act of 1935 was one of the New Deal's major accomplishments. Joe Glazer wrote this song about Ida Mae Fuller, the first pensioner, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Social Security Act. (2:15)
12. IT COULD BE A WONDERFUL WORLD — If we all could live up to the sentiments expressed in this song we could make the American Dream come true in record time. Composed by Hy Zaret and Lou Singer. (2:30)
13. I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS — The search for the American Dream has been periodically interrupted by bloody and bitter wars. World War II, which was fought to preserve the American Dream, saw a flood of songs about soldiers dreaming about family and home. Sung by Greg Artzner. (1:29)
14. TWENTY-TWO MINUTES FROM TOWN — After World War II many Americans dreamed about a home in the suburbs. But as the suburbs became crowded and roads became jammed, the dream turned into a nightmare for many commuters. (A GS-3 referred to in the song is near the bottom of the Federal Bureaucratic ladder.) (3:11)
15. TRUCK DRIVER MAN — "I dream about playing all day in the sun/While somebody younger is making the run." Larry Penn's song about a day in the life of a truck driver reminds us that it is not always easy making a living in today's world. Dreams help keep us going. Copyright by Larry Penn. (4:20)
16. GARBAGE — Will the American Dream be smothered under a mountain of garbage? This musical warning is by Bill Steele. Last three verses by Joe Glazer. Copyright by Bill Steele. (4:55)
17. TOUCH TONE TELEPHONE BLUES — Americans dream about faster, more up-to-date, modern conveniences. But sometimes these drive a person nuts. Composed by Joe Glazer. (2:29)
18. I DREAMED OF MARTIN LUTHER KING — "Though Martin Luther King is gone/His dream of love still lingers on." This song by Joe Glazer is based on the writings of elementary school children in Washington, D.C. after the assassination of King in 1968. (3:21)
19. THE WORLD OF TOMORROW — The dream of a world at peace, a world without hunger, is still elusive. Irving Ceaser's lovely song reminds us that this dream is still alive. (1:50)
20. I WANNA BE PRESIDENT — One of the persistent American dreams is that every boy (now perhaps every girl too!) can aspire to become president. Fred Moore's song tells boys and girls how to get the job done if this particular dream comes true. (2:00)
21. THE MILL WAS MADE OF MARBLE — This idealistic dream of a textile worker can be the dream of any American who works on a tough job in a factory, a store, an office, a school or wherever. Let us all dream together. Composed by Joe Glazer. (3:58)



# Folk Songs of The American Dream

★ Joe Glazer ★



JOE GLAZER has been composing and singing songs of social commentary for fifty years. His voice and guitar have been heard in almost every state and in sixty countries. He has recorded 25 albums, available from Collector Records.

These songs were recorded in Washington, D.C. All vocals are by Joe Glazer except where otherwise indicated. Principal artists include: Maggie (Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino), Ralph Gordon, Phil Rosenthal, Alan Bennett, Alan Oresky, Mike Aldrich, the Charlie Byrd Trio, and Steve Jones. Principal engineers were Ron Freeland, Phil Rosenthal and Bill McElroy.

1. America, America! (2:23)
2. No Irish Need Apply (2:07)
3. When I First Came To This Land (4:00)
4. Oleanna (3:04)
5. Starving To Death On My Government Claim (2:53)
6. Swing Low Sweet Chariot (2:50)
7. Hard Times In The Mill (2:12)
8. Babies In The Mill (3:29)
9. Anti-Suffragette Song (1:13)
10. Brother Can You Spare A Dime (3:00)
11. Ida Mac (Social Security Song) (2:15)
12. It Could Be A Wonderful World (2:30)
13. I'll Be Home For Christmas (1:39)
14. Twenty-Two Minutes From Town (3:11)
15. Truck Driver Man (4:20)
16. Garbage (4:55)
17. Touch Tone Telephone Blues (2:29)
18. I Dreamed Of Martin Luther King (3:21)
19. The World Of Tomorrow (1:50)
20. I Wanna Be President (2:00)
21. The Mill Was Made Of Marble (3:58)