

IRREVERENT SONGS
BALLADS and AIRS

My Darling Party Line



JOE GLAZER
ABE BRUMBERG

MY DARLING PARTY LINE

Irreverent Songs, Ballads and Airs

Sung by Joe Glazer and Abe Brumberg

This album is for you if you belong to any (or all) of the following categories: (1) present radicals, young or old; (2) former radicals with a nostalgic bent; (3) "Sovietologists," "Kremlinologists" and sundry other experts and students of the Communist movement and ideology; (4) regular readers of *The New York Times*.

Some of the songs, written in the late 1930's and early 1940's, merrily satirize the American Communist Party, which like any other Communist Party throughout the world, began as a protest movement against social equality and injustice, and ended up as little more than a tool of Soviet foreign policy, the intentions of its members notwithstanding. Whenever Moscow changed its policy, its loyal followers abroad did the same. One day the Socialists were "social fascists," next day they were wooed as potential allies; for years Nazi Germany was regarded as the No. 1 enemy of the working people, then suddenly its philosophy became — in the words of the then Soviet Foreign Minister, Vyacheslav Molotov — "a matter of taste." "The Song of the Old Bolsheviks," "Our Line's Been Changed Again," "In Old Moscow" and many other songs in this album record this sad yet somehow amusing chapter in the history of American radicalism, when to thousands of people all that seemed to matter was the "darling Party line."

The last few songs are about the Party Line in Russia proper — the story of Nikita Khrushchev, victim of his own "cult of personality," "The Lady from Siberia," and "Sovietology" — all about how American professors make the study of the USSR seem more complex and incomprehensible than it need be. All told, a tuneful and spirited collection that is bound to please almost anyone with an interest in radical politics.

The Performers

Joe Glazer (voice guitar): One of America's best known singers and composers of songs of labor, protest and social commentary, Mr. Glazer has sung in almost every state in the Union as well as Latin America, Europe and Asia. He is the author with Edith Fowke of *Songs of Work and Freedom*. He has made many recordings, including an earlier version of this album, called *Ballads for Sectarians*, recorded in 1952 with Bill Friedland. It contained nine of the fifteen songs presented here.

Abe Brumberg (voice, harmonica): A well-known authority and writer on Soviet affairs, Mr. Brumberg has frequently entertained his colleagues with his own musical parodies of their subjects and profession. He lives in Washington, D. C.

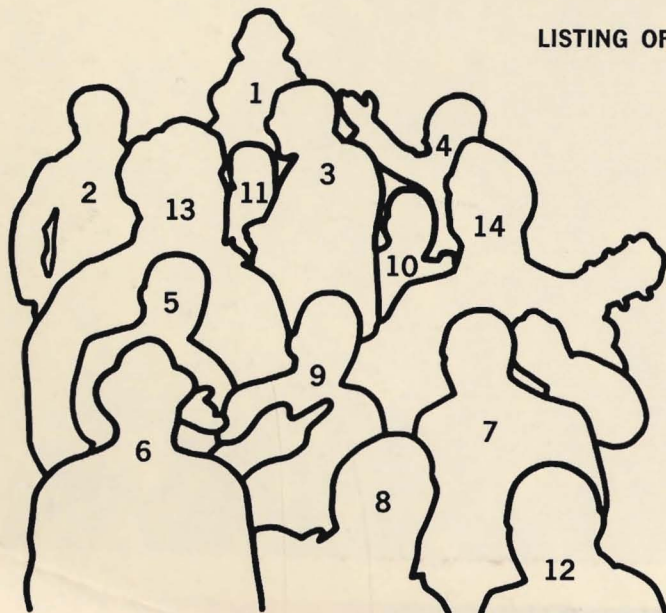
Joe Byrd (bass, guitar): A versatile member of the Charlie Byrd quintet, Joe Byrd plays the bass throughout the record, except for two songs when he switches to the guitar.

Cover by Dorothy Fall

Produced by:

Sound Studios, Inc., 306 Sixth Street, N.W.,
Washington D. C. 20001

LISTING OF PHOTOGRAPHS ON JACKET



1. KARL MARX
2. V. I. LENIN
3. LEON TROTSKY
4. MAO TSE-TUNG
5. JOSEF STALIN
6. LEONID BREZHNEV
7. NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV
8. FIDEL CASTRO
9. JOSEF BROZ-TITO
10. EARL BROWDER
11. JAY LOVESTONE
12. MAX SHACHTMAN
13. ABE BRUMBERG
14. JOE GLAZER

SIDE ONE

Song of the Old Bolsheviks

When I was a lad in 1906,
I joined a band of Bolsheviks.
I read the Manifesto and Das Kapital
And I even learned to sing the Internationale.

The Cloakmakers' Union

The Cloakmakers' Union is a no-good union
Is a company union by the bosses.

Our Line's Been Changed Again

Kaleidoscopic, what I mean,
Our line's been changed again.
Now we're red and now we're green,
Our line's been changed again.

The Lady With the Popular Front

She used to be an agitator,
Let all the boys in the party date her,
She started going with the bosses later —
The lady with the popular front.

The Land of the Daily Worker

All around our Union Square
Is the land of the Daily Worker.

In Old Moscow

In old Moscow, in the Kremlin
In the fall of '39,
Sat a Russian and a Prussian
Writing out the party line.

Unite for Unity

The common man
Is an integral part of our plan
'Twas all decided at Teheran.
His future is fine now,
Just follow the line now,
Unite for Unity.

Bill Bailey

Bill Bailey belonged to every radical party
That ever came to be.
Till he finally decided to start his own party
So he wouldn't disagree.

The Last International

There's the First International
The Second International, the Third International,
The Fourth International,
But we are the members of the Last International!

SIDE TWO

The Ballad of Harry Pollitt

Harry was a worker,
One of Lenin's lads.
He was foully murdered
By counter-revolutionary cads.

Little Joe the Rustler

He rustled all through Europe,
And he rustled through the world,
From Germany out to the China Sea.
Joe Stalin purged and plundered,
As his black mustache he twirled —
And he did it in the name of liberty.

Nikita's Lament

As I walked out on the streets of old Moscow,
As I strolled in Moscow one late afternoon,
I spied a round figure all wrapped in a fur coat,
Wrapped in a fur coat with a face like a moon.

Something Has Gone Awry

Surely something has gone awry
Perhaps it is time to bid goodbye
To the Marxist dream of workers' unity.

The Lady from Siberia

There was a certain Russian,
An ordinary Russian,
His name was Mischa and he lived in Dvinsk.

Sovietology

Conferences all year long
On Marxist ideology,
Is Brezhnev getting weak or strong?
That is Sovietology.

For complete texts of the songs,
see folder inside

FULL TEXT OF SONGS WITH EXPLANATIONS ENCLOSED.