

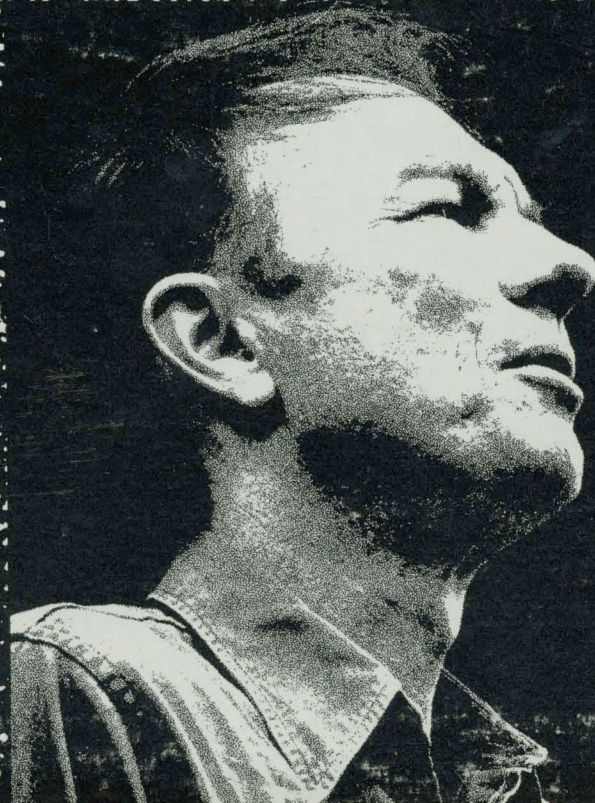
FOLKWAYS RECORDS FTS 31018

I'M ON MY WAY  
WIMOWEH  
WASN'T THAT A TIME  
FREIHEIT  
DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE  
HOLD ON  
WE ARE SOLDIERS IN THE ARMY  
MRS. McGRATH  
WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN CONGRESS  
HYMN TO NATIONS

# Pete Seeger

## WIMOWEH

### and other songs of Freedom & Protest



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1630.18  
S456  
W757  
1968

MUSIC LP



# Pete Seeger

## WIMOWEH and other songs of Freedom and Protest

Taped during live performances, this powerful collection of freedom and protest songs is enriched by the soaring Pete Seeger style known throughout the country and the world. His involvement with his material, his pace and rhythm, his sensitivity to the people, the times, and the songs — all work together to create an extraordinary album, deeply moving in its exaltation and unifying power.

Along with the modern freedom and protest songs, Pete sings several old Negro spirituals that have special significance in our times. Created during slavery days, these songs express the need of a people to be free from oppression, poverty, degradation. Now, in Pete's inspired interpretations, the old songs dramatically voice the aspirations of modern Americans fighting for freedom and the good life. The true folk process is at work here, making past experience meaningful for present-day life.

## Side I

## Band 1 — I'M ON MY WAY TO CANAAN LAND 4:06

Popularized in the 30's by the Almanac Singers, who added verses on then current economic topics, this spiritual probably originated in slavery days. More recently created stanzas ("I'm on my way to Freedom's land . . . and I won't turn back") bring the old-time song into the very center of the Negro's present-day struggles.

## Band 2 — WIMOWEH 2:38

Written by Solomon Lindo of Johannesburg, South Africa, as "an instrument number for voices," this song derives from an older Zulu form. The original words mean: "The lion is sleeping, the lion, the lion." Vigorous audience response to this song shows Pete's ability to excite active participation. His voice soars over the audience's free harmonies, inspiring the fervent hope that one day the lion will indeed awake!

## Band 3 — WASN'T THAT A TIME 3:19

Written during the oppressive McCarthy years of the 50's when "free men (went) to jail," this song links the American Revolutionary years when "our fathers bled at Valley Forge" with the heroic "No Pasaran" cry at the defense of Madrid in 1936. Newer verses speak of contemporary America where the struggles "to free one's native land" may "try the soul of man," but also "free the soul of man" and turn the "terrible time" into a time of inspirational purpose.

## Band 4 — FREIHEIT 2:55

A song of the 1936 Spanish Civil War first popularized by a group of German volunteers called "the Thaelmann Brigade." Only a handful of these German fighters survived the defense of Madrid. Of the 3200 American volunteers, more than 1500 gave their lives to fight fascism in Europe. (Original German text by Karl Ernst and music by Paul Dessau.)

Band 5 — DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE (STUDY WAR NO MORE) 5:07  
with Big Bill Broonzy

The deep yearning for love, peace, and friendship vividly expressed in this old Negro spiritual gains new significance today with the addition of words by Pete Seeger, Lee Hays, Fred Hellerman and Ronnie Gilbert. The aspirations of the Negro people come to stand for those of oppressed men the world over.

## Side II

Band 1 — HOLD ON 3:18  
with Memphis Slim and Wee Willy Dixon

In slavery days Negroes sang of an inner strength derived from Mary's "links of chain" bearing Jesus' name. Recreated to serve current needs, the song turns hopefully to the United Nations, where "every link" could be bearing "freedom's name."

## Band 2 — THE HAMMER SONG 2:12

A strong, broad rhythm "hammers" out the emphatic message of "Love between my brothers and my sisters all over this land" and warns against the evils of injustice. The song first became popular during the late 40's and early 50's.

## Band 3 — WE ARE SOLDIERS IN THE ARMY 3:52

An old Negro gospel song comes alive again, inspiring new generations with its stirring melody, rhythm, and message.

## Band 4 — MRS. McGRATH 4:10

One of the most powerful anti-war satires to come out of Ireland. Bitterly sardonic, a victim's mother describes the cruelty and tragedy of a war which has cost her son both his legs. The mother vows: "By the heavens I'll make them rue the time/That they swept the legs from a child of mine . . ."

## Band 5 — WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN CONGRESS 1:50

Satirizes the brutal destructiveness of war and "the people at the top" who wage it with such "efficiency" — with everything to be paid for "by and by." Patterned after the old gospel song WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS.

## Band 6 — HYMN OF THE UNITED NATIONS 1:48

Set to the inspiring melody of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony ("Ode to Joy") and a fitting conclusion to this collection of freedom songs. English text: Tom Glazer.

## NOTES BY RUTH RUBIN

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