



## WELCOME To AMERICA

JOE GLAZER  
Sings Songs of  
The American  
Immigrants

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**SIDE ONE:** AMERICA, AMERICA! • NO IRISH NEED APPLY • PAT WORKS ON THE RAILWAY • KILKELLY • WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS LAND • OLEANNA • I'M A SWEDE FROM NORTH DAKOTA **SIDE TWO:** SONG OF THE GOLDEN LAND • MEIN YINGELE (MY LITTLE BOY) • THE RAFTSMEN • I LIE IN THE AMERICAN LAND • FARM WORKERS' SONG • DEPORTEE • WELCOME TO AMERICA • WE SHALL OVERCOME

The U.S. has been the setting for the largest human migration in history. In a period of 100 years, 35 million people entered the U.S. and they are still coming, more than 600,000 per year.

They come with their dreams, their customs, their songs. Here is a small selection of songs by and about immigrants to America. "These strange people became us." (From the film, "Journey to America" shown at Ellis Island)

### SIDE ONE

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.

NO IRISH NEED APPLY — The potato famines of 1845-7 in Ireland led tens of thousands to migrate to the U.S. They were welcomed for the back-breaking work of building the railroads and canals, but for better jobs they were greeted by signs saying, "No Irish Need Apply."

PAT WORKS ON THE RAILWAY — The hours

were long, the pay was low, the conditions were harsh for the Irish immigrant working on the railroads. But a song and a sense of humor helped to make a hard life a bit more bearable.

KILKELLY — This story describes the aching pain of family separation suffered by so many immigrants. It was written by Peter and Steven Jones based on actual letters from Ireland retained by the Jones family.

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS LAND — This amusing song written by Oscar Brand was based on an idea in a folk song sung by early German immigrants in Pennsylvania.

OLEANNA — Ole Bull was a successful Norwegian violinist who planned to build a Utopia, "Oleanna," for poor Norwegian immigrants on land he purchased in Pennsylvania. It was an unmitigated disaster. This song mocks Ole Bull and his Utopian dream.

I'M A SWEDE FROM NORTH DAKOTA — Many Scandinavian immigrants became hard-working farmers in the Midwest. This song pokes fun at the rural rube

when he comes to the big city. However, these "rubes" helped to develop some of the most productive farms in history.

## SIDE TWO

**SONG OF THE GOLDEN LAND** — Beginning in the 1880's large numbers of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe came to the United States. They dreamed of the "golden land" but often ended up in the infamous sweatshops of the garment and clothing trades.

**MEIN YINGELE (My Little Boy)** — Written by Morris Rosenfeld, known as "the sweatshop poet," this song describes the difficult family life resulting from 12- and 14-hour days.

**THE RAFTSMEN** — The early French Canadians who came to the United States worked in the lumber trades and sang songs like this one.

**I LIE IN THE AMERICAN LAND** — Written in Slovak in the early 1900's by steelworker Andrew Kovaly after he had seen a good friend killed in the Bessemer mill in McKeesport, Pennsylvania; "My friend was very proud of America. It was with pride and happiness that he had looked for-

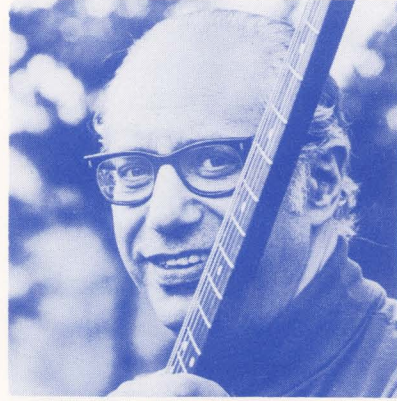
ward to raising his children as Americans."

**FARM WORKERS' SONG** — Written by Augustin Lira, this song relates the struggles of Mexican-American farm workers in California. Viva la huelga! (Success to the strike!) Viva la causa! (Long live our cause!)

**DEPORTEE** — Woody Guthrie wrote this song when he learned of a crash of a planeload of illegal Mexican workers who were being deported from California to Mexico. No names were listed in the newspaper reports. The music is by Martin Hoffman.

**WELCOME TO AMERICA** — This was written by Joe Glazer based on a story in the Washington Post of a swearing-in ceremony on July 4, 1980. The names used are from the story.

**WE SHALL OVERCOME** — Negro slaves were unwilling "immigrants" brought from Africa in chains. This song, made popular by the civil rights movement of the 60's, movingly describes the hopes of disenfranchised people for full equality. It has spread all over the world.



**JOE GLAZER**

The songs on this cassette were recorded over a period of time at various studios in the Washington, D.C. area. Principal artists include: Phil Rosenthal (mandolin, guitar, bass, banjo); Alan Bennett (banjo, guitar); Alan Oresky (fiddle, mandolin); Mike Aldrich (dobro); the Charlie Byrd Quartet; Steve Jones (guitar, bass, mandolin). All vocals are by Joe Glazer. Principal engineers were Phil Rosenthal and Ron Freeland.

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