

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 1 (00:11:30):

The be the

Speaker 2 (00:12:12):

It, you know, it's really keep that in. I've had a really great time. I just need to get this and I'm pretty sure all of you have also you what the spirit comes into music and, uh, and one of the songs that's going bring that spirit on is we woke up this morning

Speaker 3 (00:13:58):

And morning. Come on, come talk about it. Talk about it. Talk, talk about freedom. Cause it ain't no harm.

Speaker 4 (00:16:01):

The freedom singers, uh, were organized by Cordell Reagan and, um, Cordell Reagan got involved in the movement in Nashville, trained in nonviolence by Reverend Jim Lawson. And one of the first things he did when he got to Albany, Georgia, where Ruth and I are from was to set up nonviolent workshops, a great tenant. And he's not with us in person tonight, but we'd like for you to look at this video clip Cardell Harrigan,

Speaker 3 (00:17:01):

You better segregation, love, love, like love dog, dog, dog, dog,

Speaker 5 (00:17:21):

Dog.

Speaker 6 (00:17:27):

And again, we turn to the song. We were young black students, our freedom,

Speaker 7 (00:18:25):

The down in the,

Speaker 8 (00:18:50):

To, and there was the freedom saying, can you imagine

Speaker 8 (00:19:00):

I got back from visiting Albany, Georgia in the spring of 62? I think it was. I stopped in at the office of

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

SNCC and Atlanta told Jim foreman, you got some great singers down there. You ought to be booking them around the country. You raise money for SNCC and he spread the world. I don't know if I was the only person that told him this. I'm sure I will say it at any rate. Uh, within a year, uh, four young people officially call themselves the freedom singers and my wife booked them on a tour of colleges around the north and the west coast. Uh, and I bet them reached hundreds of thousands of people in person during that next year. I think one of the significant things about this group is that we not single, but that all of us were organized. I mean, out there working in the, so we all did those kind, that kinda, uh, work too. So outside

Speaker 8 (00:21:06):

Sometime then, especially this week going on, we are celebrating a holiday here and which has to do with civil rights movement in this country that we created and the process of working throughout the south and going to jail and giving beat and being in mass meetings and singing there's one particular song that became theme on this movement and is a powerful song. You can go anywhere in the world today with a struggle and you will find this song and you will still see people in this streets, marching and singing it. It is our gift to the world, the world, people in struggle. We want you to stand up and cross your right and sing with us. We shall,

Speaker 2 (00:24:06):

It's one thing I'm gonna say Cordell. He was dedicated to the music of the movement. There would be a time he was so ill, but if you call him, he'd find a way to make it. And his voice was still strong. Yeah. A lot of us have been, uh, have done a lot of things. We've been in jail. We've been on the picket lines, but this is one song that, uh, I did when I was in the jail in Carol, Illinois, and Ray, Charles was one of my favorite singers at the time. I wrote a long ways with him. And, uh, I wrote while I was in jail and it's called fighting for my rights. You're you're no tired of segregation now, my equal, right? Well, respect dinner, education, this ion. That's why my ride. That's why I'm fighting for my ride. That's why I'm fighting for my ride. You know, my sail had no window. So hold up, come through. No, I felt so happy. And to do ever for my, was for, was fighting for my rice. You know, my dad be free to now own is dying big. Now if my son Don get here's a freedom, I had rather seemed good for my, for my right, for, for my

Speaker 3 (00:26:49):

We.

Speaker 2 (00:28:39):

And I found out that they were doing freedom songs in Alabama in the fifties. And it was about three young girls. They had a group called, uh, uh, I think it was a Birmingham trio. Montgomery trio. Okay. Montgomery. All right. All right. She got my back <laugh> and there was a time where the, they had a lot of bus boycotts and her name is she, she told me she was like 13, 12 or 13 years old when they

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

started that group and they were singing for Dr. King, uh, singing in that movement. And one of the songs we want to hear her do sing about some buses,

Speaker 9 (00:29:42):

Right? With no, no ain't gonna ride no bus, no

Speaker 1 (00:31:11): Ride

Speaker 9 (00:31:19):

Vote. Right? Ain't going ride no buses door, ride, ride

Speaker 1 (00:32:29):

No more.

Speaker 9 (00:32:40):

But if we going we side by alright now to the front side, Don know what we know what 50,000 we didn't go. Right?

Speaker 1 (00:33:46):

Ain't

Speaker 9 (00:33:50):

We what we hate and, and white folks. No, we ain't. Okay. That's what like everybody and you misses me from my back, the boss. Bye

Speaker 1 (00:35:36):

You.

Speaker 9 (00:36:07):

And if you, and

Speaker 9 (00:36:46):

I'll the driver of there. And I want to say that that first phone was written by a band teacher over at Alabama state university. Oh, in 1955, when we were 12 years old. And we sung that song all throughout the city of Montgomery and may have been, uh, the first group at that time to be called freedom, says all. And at the same time, while we were 12 years old, we wanted one of the first groups

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

to fundraise through our songs. And so we S song all at all the mass meeting, not all mass meetings, I'm sorry, the teases throughout the city, every Sunday, they call 'em teas at that time. And that's how they fundraised. But then we met guy and went to Mon Eagle, Tennessee, and, uh, at Highlander. And then we were called people call on by guy to go to Carnegie hall, to do a fundraiser for, uh, ack. Thank

Speaker 2 (00:38:14):

The snack song was written by a guy named God. He was people who have found state. I know he was in the Nashville movement in the beginning of that, he and candy. And they wrote a song that I think told a story about the sits. And we've been on him for a few days. And we told him he had to do this song. And it's called the ball of the sits.

Speaker 10 (00:39:33):

The time was 1960 placed the USA that February 1st became a history making

Speaker 1 (00:39:40):

Day

Speaker 10 (00:39:41):

From Greenboro across land news. Spring was Lee bravely took a giants drive. He to know bill Alabama national Tennessee. There was pride for freedom for human.

Speaker 1 (00:40:20):

Look

Speaker 10 (00:40:20):

At constitution. Say you can, and people you should know.

Speaker 1 (00:40:25):

Jesus

Speaker 10 (00:40:25):

Died. That time has come to prove our faith in all humanity serve the cause of justice of all humanity soldiers in the army with Martin Luther king among good people and take a seat to violence and hate shelter us from Margo, no Jim Crow loan or poly state and stop first treatment. So first soldiers in the army with Martin Luther king, he of weapons. Nonviolence are he

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 2 (00:42:26):

Is Bob Zel. Send him up here. I'm bringing to freedom from south Collins, from south democratic and also for the president at the inaug sing. But one song he can really do sing that's well in heaven, but think come by

Speaker 1 (00:43:27):

The

Speaker 2 (00:43:28): South

folks in heaven, bow and

Speaker 1 (00:43:47):

Down into the

Speaker 2 (00:43:52):

Well is

Speaker 1 (00:43:56):

Down into

Speaker 2 (00:43:59):

Thes the body, but not the soul. So did we just do that?

Speaker 1 (00:44:33):

We've to hell to Jackson, freedom, freedom, all

Speaker 2 (00:45:17):

Projects, civil rights projects, everybody sang freedom songs. So what we're gonna do is bring up some freedom singers from

Speaker 11 (00:45:44):

Mississippi in Mississippi. We want all the help that you can get.

Speaker 1 (00:45:49):

Want somebody

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 11 (00:45:50):

Watching the back. We're not afraid. Cause we sing the song long enough to not be afraid, but we like as much help as we can get. And that's why we say ain't

Speaker 12 (00:46:04):

Scared of nobody. Cause I want my freedom. I want my freedom. I want my freedom. Ain't of, cause I want my want my want. Cause I want my freedom. I want my freedom. I want my freedom. I mark. Cause I want my freedom. I want my freedom.

Speaker 11 (00:46:36):

Ain't scared to

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker

12 (00:46:37):

Go to jail. Cause I, my freedom. I want my freedom and scared to go to jail. Cause I want my freedom. I want my freedom.

Speaker 1 (00:46:51):

My I

Speaker 12 (00:46:54):

Good, nice. Cause I want my freedom. Want my freedom. I want my freedom. I owe God.

Speaker 1 (00:47:04):

Cause I want

Speaker 12 (00:47:05):

My freedom. I want my freedom. Ain't scared of your dogs. Cause I want my freedom. Want my freedom. I want my freedom. Cause I want my freedom. I want my freedom.

Speaker 1 (00:47:28):

I'll speak

Speaker 12 (00:47:29):

The truth. Cause I want my freedom.

Speaker 1 (00:47:32):

I want

Speaker 12 (00:47:33):

My freedom.

Speaker 1 (00:47:35):

Want

Speaker 12 (00:47:35):

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

My freedom, the truth. Cause I want my freedom. Want my freedom overcome. Cause I want my freedom. I want my freedom. I want my freedom. I fear. Cause I want my freedom. I want my freedom.

Speaker

Ain't cause I want sing it free. Bring it over your own. Will you fight for free? Will you fight for, will you fight for

1 (00:50:37):

Free?

Speaker 12 (00:50:48):

Will you?

Speaker 1 (00:50:52):

Yes

Speaker 12 (00:50:55):

You for

Speaker 2 (00:52:48):

It's another young man from Nashville, Tennessee. He sang with a group called the Nashville quarte, but see James Bevo and did Ko Joe Connors, Sam, Sam. And we want to call up here. Who's one of those qu members and saying for you,

Speaker 10 (00:53:35):

Uh, what they want me to do is sing dog. I Don. So we bring our dog. Where is the

Speaker 13 (00:54:03):

Well,

Speaker 10 (00:54:03):

Uh, Jim bell and I, we just kind of horse me around and the other was Sam cotton, the Sam cotton fact base substitute. And we were so proud that they, the dog song and freedom. They took off all across to the United States and the world. And uh, Harry Belafonte, has it own his album? Uh, Harry Belafonte on campus. Yeah, but he been his dog song.

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 1 (00:54:30):

<laugh>

Speaker

Speaker 10 (00:54:31):

He finished with it. I mean, you know, popular ride. So we gonna just jump right into it. Okay. Alright dog.

Speaker 13 (00:54:58):

I'm I'm dog.

1 (00:56:23):

You

Speaker 2 (00:57:19):

Uh, come on break. Uh, you know, Dan deal with tenure was very, very important. A lot of music came out of there and um, Matthew Jones has written a lot of music and a lot of us coming of his experiences in the civil rights movement. And uh, we want call him when the number of people died. Give of people just know Jim, he spoke he's dignity. He, yes he did in me had some C of Selma that we

Speaker 1 (01:05:14):

Give that I

Speaker 2 (01:06:38):

The only, well I read the paper and airplane, if you, I don't vote, no I'm going freedom. The, he was on his way. He was trying to make it

Speaker 14 (01:11:55):

Count

Speaker 12 (01:11:56):

3, 5, 3,

Speaker 14 (01:11:58):

Do

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 12 (01:12:02):

Four,

Speaker Speaker 14

(01:12:14): But you count
and we were,

Speaker 12 (01:12:53):

And you can count

Speaker 14 (01:13:03):

And

Speaker 12 (01:13:03):

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

You can count. Okay. We want you to do another songwriting and the movement. One of the,

Speaker 12 (01:15:54):

You saw a wonderful piece on the Cordell reman and the civil rights. Um, Cordell was one of the people that, um, brought me into direction, act direct action arrangement. Typically to Nashville got me arrested three times in the week we were in this conference in uh, in Alabama, some other place, he said, call up your wife and tell her you're not coming home on the road between SEL Montgomery on highway 80, a woman named VI. So who was murdered. And I was with Cordell who were coming up on the scene with this, had taken place and saw FBI Ben over at the race, looking for, uh, discarded shells. After we got about three or four miles past that they arrested us and told us we had failed the dinner, our headlights, and it took all the money that we had. And so thats are fine. Um, in the basement of the church, uh, that night I wrote this song and as so many of the movement, songs are really easy to sing. When you hear something twice, sing it you'll sing, you'll sing, you know? And uh, whoever wants to come and singing
this, I

Speaker 12 (01:17:51):

Murder on the that's. What y'all, if you let see

Speaker 1 (01:18:09):

This,

Speaker 12 (01:18:10):

If you white, if you fighting for what's right, you are target in the night as we March, right by that. As we March right by that as we March, right by that spot where the Claman by the shot where the fired the yes, we know who yes we know who is to blame. She caught to full in the brain before we learn to say her name. And now by the sovereign state Sal root state, there's a boys and pit of hate. And George Wallace is the heart. The there's behind there is

Speaker 1 (01:20:28):

Behind

Speaker 12 (01:20:29):

The, he kills what came for for fun. And George Wallace is top gun, but listen, you there's some movement on the white man. Christian Jew. The time for change is over to this. Uh, everybody knows about of Republic. These are some new words to it. And it says, my eyes seen justice. Any city town, state, your chairs of filled with Blackman and your courts are right with hate. And with every bid for

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

freedom, someone refers to the inspired to keep a silent in the feeling in Islam. They promise us the vote that saying we, but John Brown knew what freedom was about and he died, win, and I Speaker 1 (01:22:55):

Move,

Speaker 12 (01:23:01):

Wait, wait. I declare my independence from the, and from the, I declared my independence from the coward and the slave. And I declared that I shall fight for right and fear. No for the movement.

Speaker 1 (01:23:26):

For the sake

Speaker 12 (01:23:27):

Of time, I just wanna go onto this. It says a dove piece with its bloody beak, six pounds in a child. You've been the out branch to make a bow. Then with a smile. Yes. String it with the rope. You've been a

Speaker 1 (01:23:52):

Hiding.

Speaker 12 (01:24:31):

Many locals are done by small invoice. This man, many noble deeds are done the righteous to defend, but I'm here John Brown to say, I'm here today for DeKa to say, I'm here today. Malcolm X to say, I'm here today, Martin king to say, we,

Speaker 2 (01:26:05):

You know, uh, the us government sent on GIGO dinger now to Atlanta on a state department too. You want to explain that how, uh, Atlanta was still integrated. It was integrated and they wanted old G Oringer to see that most people don't know that old G or dinger. And, uh, Barack farmer's was from the same tribe. They did an article in the paper the other day. They called it of something about two nations, but in the same drive. And that's unbelievable, I think to together like that, we went the, you know, a white folks, a little car here, what's going down a, you know, white. Now what we wanna do now is a song that we harvest it from a great singer named Haron. He was sing in his banana, but song said, we heard it a little different way. So he, and, uh, we would like to do that with him if we could in some kinda way.

Speaker 11 (01:32:15):

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

All right, thank let me, uh, take this moment to just explain something. Fellow records, nothing to word. I like doing more than singing and, uh, audiences all over have filled me with their generosity and my cut run over couple years ago, I left. I ain't got a para paralysis. I, and that just, uh, forced me there to give it up. I went surgery four times. He did the best they could, but, uh, I was just grateful that found analysis. I could continue to just speak. So the spirit of that, just give an indication as to what key you

Speaker 9 (01:35:04):

And Parkman penitent. Alright, this song became a freedom song. Freedom free freedom, free

Speaker 1 (01:35:54):

Love

Speaker 9 (01:36:13):

Alabama violence. Will the judge say local law must be prevail

Speaker 1 (01:37:29):

Freedom.

Speaker 9 (01:37:33): And we

say no. And we land in

Speaker 2 (01:38:45):

Amen, bro. The next song to gonna do we, everybody to sing its known as the theme song of the Mississippi movement.

Speaker 15 (01:38:59):

Beautiful.

Speaker 2 (01:39:00):

And we must sing this with a lot of respect. Now we're not gonna cross hands, but we stand everybody stand. We, this song turn back.

Speaker 1 (01:40:46):

We have

Speaker 11 (01:42:41):

Freedom Concert
SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #36
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Was a black man from county, Mississippi working with voter registration, along with the NAACP person,

Forman commented by the name of E w step. He was killed by a state representative by the name of Eugene Hurst, which was never brought to justice for killing Herber B people that saw it were so afraid that they would not come forward and testify. However, one man eventually did come forward by the name of Louis Allen. His children and grandchildren is fighting today to have the case met with justice around their father and grandfather, as we see not only in the south, but definitely in Mississippi in many, many instances, justice does come slow if it comes at all. I just wanted to share that bit with people that may not have known that building history

Speaker 2 (01:44:00):

At this time. Uh, could we turn the, please remain silent. All the lights turn up. We should overcome at this time we going to, we overcome don't get up. We on everybody to put your right hand over your left and connect with a person beside you. And if you can blink, we shall overcome that great band, that new Orleans us here.