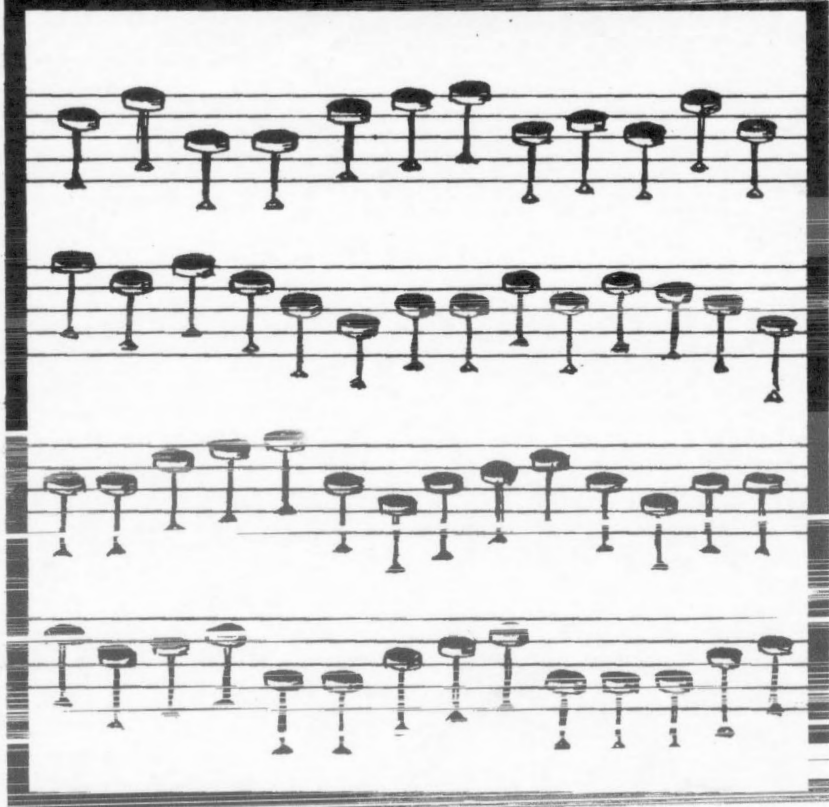




sit-in songs



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FOREWORD

In this booklet you will find a number of the songs recorded in the album shown on the back cover. The singers on the record were participants in CORE's Freedom Highways project in the summer of 1962. Freedom Highways was designed to open chain restaurants along major federal highways to all persons.

The other songs are some of those which have been favorites in the civil rights movement North and South. The well-known writer, Nat Hentoff, said "The music which has emerged from these experiences has restored the fiery art of American topical song." In his book The Folk Songs Of North America, Alan Lomax mentions of Negro slave songs that they "proclaimed that some day justice would triumph and that an end for sorrow and shame would come..."

This, then, is what these songs are all about. As you and your friends "sing along with CORE" we hope you will not only enjoy singing, but will also feel the vibrancy of the great movement for FREEDOM NOW.

CERTAINLY, LORD

Have you been to the jail? Certainly, Lord.
Have you been to the jail? Certainly, Lord.
Have you been to the jail? Certainly, Lord.

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord.

Have you did your thirty days? Certainly, Lord.
Have you did your thirty days? Certainly, Lord.
Have you did your thirty days? Certainly, Lord.

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord.

Did you serve your time? Certainly, Lord.
Did you serve your time? Certainly, Lord.
Did you serve your time? Certainly, Lord.

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord.

Will you go back again? Certainly, Lord.
Will you go back again? Certainly, Lord.
Will you go back again? Certainly, Lord.

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord.

Will you fight for Freedom? Certainly, Lord.
Will you fight for Freedom? Certainly, Lord.
Will you fight for Freedom? Certainly, Lord.

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord.

Will you tell it to the world? Certainly, Lord.
Will you tell it to the world? Certainly, Lord.
Will you tell it to the world? Certainly, Lord.

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord.

Will you tell it to the judge? Certainly, Lord.
Will you tell it to the judge? Certainly, Lord.
Will you tell it to the judge? Certainly, Lord.

Certainly, Certainly, Certainly, Lord.

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON

1. Come all you Freedom lovers
Good news to you I tell
About that good old Freedom fight
That's coming here to dwell.

CHORUS:

- Oh, Which Side Are You On, boy
Which Side Are You On.
Which Side Are You On, boy
Which Side Are You On.
2. My father was a Freedom fighter
And I'm his grateful son.
I'll stick to that Freedom fight
'Till every battle's won.
3. They say in Hinds County,
"No neutrals have we met.
You're either for the Freedom Ride
Or you'll Tom for Ross Barnett."
4. Oh, brothers can't you stand it
Oh, tell me how you can
Will you be an "Uncle Tom"
Or will you be a man.
5. No time for Mr. Charlie,
Don't listen to his lies.
Us dark folks haven't got a chance
Unless we organize.

HALLELUJAH, I'M A TRAVELING

1. In Nineteen Fifty-four,
the Supreme Court has said,
Listen here, Mr. Jim Crow
It's time you were dead.

CHORUS:

Hallelujah, I'm a-Traveling,
Hallelujah ain't it fine
Hallelujah, I'm a-Traveling
Down Freedom's main line.

2. At Howard Johnson's one day,
We will all buy a Coke
And the waitress who serves us
Will know its no joke.
3. I'm taking a trip
On the Greyhound Bus Line
I'm riding the front seat
To Jackson this time.
4. In Fayette County,
Set off and remote,
The polls are not open
For Negroes to vote.
5. Three hundred Freedom Riders,
When offered a choice
Six months, Three hundred dollars,
Respond in one voice

Reprise :

Hallelujah, I'm a jailbird
And I ain't paying no fine.
Hallelujah, I'm a Traveling
Down Freedom's main line.

HOLD ON

1. Paul and Silas bound in jail
Had no money to go their bail.
Keep your eyes on the prize, Hold On.

CHORUS:

Hold on, Hold On,
Keep your eyes on the prize, Hold On.

2. Guy and Joycelyn* bound in jail,
No permission to pay their bail.
Keep your eyes on the prize, Hold On.
3. The only thing we did wrong,
Let segregation stay so long.
Keep your eyes on the prize, Hold On.
4. Got my hand on the Freedom plow,
Wouldn't give nothing for my journey now.
Keep your eyes on the prize, Hold On.
5. We've fought jail and violence, too,
But God's love has seen us through.
Keep your eyes on the prize, Hold On.
6. Work all day and work all night,
Trying to gain our civil rights.
Keep your eyes on the prize, Hold On.
7. The only chain that a man can stand
Is the chain of a hand in hand.
Keep your eyes on the prize, Hold On.

*Guytanna Horton and Joycelyn McKissick had just finished 30 day sentences for "trespassing" during CORE's Freedom Highways project in Durham, North Carolina.

I WOKE UP THIS MORNING

1. I Woke Up This Morning with my mind set on Freedom.
Woke Up This Morning with my mind set on Freedom.
Woke Up This Morning with my mind set on Freedom.
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah.

CHORUS:

Oh well-a walk, walk, Oh well-a walk, walk,
Oh well-a walk, walk, with your mind on Freedom.
Talk, talk, Oh well-a talk, talk
Oh well-a talk, talk, with your mind on Freedom.
Oh, hallelujah.

2. Walking and talking with my mind set on Freedom.
Walking and talking with my mind set on Freedom.
Walking and talking with my mind set on Freedom.
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.
3. Folks in Albany got their minds set on Freedom.
Folks in Albany got their minds set on Freedom.
Folks in Albany got their minds set on Freedom.
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.
4. Ain't no harm in keeping your mind set on Freedom.
Ain't no harm in keeping your mind set on Freedom.
Ain't no harm in keeping your mind set on Freedom.
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.
5. All God's children got their minds set on Freedom.
All God's children got their minds set on Freedom.
All God's children got their minds set on Freedom.
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

DO YOU WANT YOUR FREEDOM

(Tune Jacobs Ladder)

Do you, do you want your Freedom.
Do you, do you want your Freedom.
Do you, do you want your Freedom,
Fighters of the cause.

Yes I, yes I want my Freedom.
Yes I, yes I want my Freedom.
Yes I, yes I want my Freedom,
Fighters of the cause.

Will you, will you go to jail for Freedom.
Will you, will you go to jail for Freedom.
Will you, will you go to jail for Freedom,
Fighters of the cause.

Yes I'll, yes I'll go to jail for Freedom.
Yes I'll, yes I'll go to jail for Freedom.
Yes I'll, yes I'll go to jail for Freedom,
Fighters of the cause.

Will you, will you give your life for Freedom.
Will you, will you give your life for Freedom.
Will you, will you give your life for Freedom,
Fighters of the cause.

Yes I'll, yes I'll give my life for Freedom.
Yes I'll, yes I'll give my life for Freedom.
Yes I'll, yes I'll give my life for Freedom,
Fighters of the cause.

I KNOW WE'LL MEET AGAIN

by James Bevel

I Know, I Know We'll Meet Again
I Know, I Know We'll Meet Again
And then you and I, we'll never say goodbye
When we meet again.

I Know, I Know We'll Meet Again
I Know, I Know We'll Meet Again
And then you and I, we'll never say goodbye
When we meet again.

You came from Atlanta, Georgia, yes you did.
And I came from Tennessee, Oh yes.
We met here in this Mississippi jail
Because we want to be free.

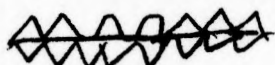
I Know, I Know We'll Meet Again
I Know, I Know We'll Meet Again
And then you and I, we'll never say goodbye
When we meet again.

We've had fun in this jailhouse my friend
And now we all must go, go back home
But we'll get along and if you are gone
My friend, I'll miss you so.

I Know, I Know We'll Meet Again
I Know, I Know We'll Meet Again
And then you and I, we'll never say goodbye
When we meet again.

HOW DID YOU FEEL

Leblanc



Oh, tell me How Did You Feel when you
Come out the wilderness,
Come out the wilderness,
Come out the wilderness,
How Did You Feel when you
Come out the wilderness,
Oh, praise the Lord.

Oh, did you feel like fighting when you
Come out the wilderness,
Come out the wilderness,
Come out the wilderness,
You feel like fighting when you
Come out the wilderness,
Oh, praise the Lord.

Oh, will you fight for Freedom when you
Come out the wilderness, etc.

Oh, will you walk the line when you
Come out the wilderness, etc.

Oh, will you carry a sign when you
Come out the wilderness, etc.

Oh, will you go to jail when you
Come out the wilderness, etc.

Oh, will you join with CORE when you
Come out the wilderness, etc.

Oh, tell me How Did You Feel when you
Come out the wilderness, etc.

MICHAEL ROWED THE BOAT ASHORE

1. Michael Rowed the Boat Ashore, Hallelujah.
Michael Rowed the Boat Ashore, Hallelujah.
2. I never been to Heaven but I've been told, Hallelujah,
The folks up there don't tell me where to go, Hallelujah.
3. I never been to Heaven but this I know, Hallelujah.
Folks up there don't have Jim Crow, Hallelujah.
4. Mississippi jails are chilly and cold, Hallelujah.
Chill my body but not my soul, Hallelujah.
5. Mississippi River is deep and wide, Hallelujah. •
Gonna get my Freedom on the other side, Hallelujah.
6. Just like Joshua at Jericho, Hallelujah.
Mississippi is next to go, Hallelujah.

WE SHALL OVERCOME

1. We Shall Overcome, We Shall Overcome
We Shall Overcome some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We Shall Overcome some day.
2. Truth will make us free, truth will make us free
Truth will make us free some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
Truth will make us free some day.
3. We are not afraid, we are not afraid
We are not afraid today
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We are not afraid today.
4. The Lord will see us through,
The Lord will see us through,
The Lord will see us through some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
The Lord will see us through some day.
5. We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We'll walk hand in hand some day.
6. Black and white together,
Black and white together,
Black and white together some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
Black and white together some day.

Reprise :

We Shall Overcome, We Shall Overcome
We Shall Overcome some day.
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
We Shall Overcome Some Day.

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

We shall not, We Shall Not Be Moved.
We shall not, We Shall Not Be Moved.
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We Shall Not Be Moved.

CORE shall not be silenced,
We Shall Not Be Moved.
CORE shall not be silenced,
We Shall Not Be Moved,
Just like a tree that's planted by the water,
We Shall Not Be Moved.

(Additional verses)

We're fighting for our Freedom, etc.

We'll fill up all the jails, etc.

We're fighting segregation, etc.

Black and white together, etc.

We shall all be brothers, etc.

OH, FREEDOM

Oh, Freedom, Oh, Freedom
Oh, Freedom over me.
And before I'll be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

No more Jim Crow, No more Jim Crow,
No more Jim Crow over me.
And before I'll be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

No more lynchings, no more lynchings,
No more lynchings over me.
And before I'll be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

No segregation, no segregation,
No segregation over me.
And before I'll be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

No more mourning, no more mourning,
No more mourning over me.
And before I'll be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

Reprise: Oh, Freedom, Oh, Freedom,
Oh, Freedom over me.
And before I'll be a slave
I'll be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free.

FREEDOM

(This antiphonal chant is based on
the Negro spiritual "AMEN.")

ALL: Freedom, Freedom, Freedom,
Freedom, Freedom.

Leader: Everybody wants

ALL: Freedom

Leader: Everybody wants

ALL: Freedom

Leader: Everybody wants

ALL: Freedom, Freedom, Freedom.

Leader: Got to have my

ALL: Freedom

Leader: Got to have my

ALL: Freedom

Leader: Got to have my

ALL: Freedom, Freedom, Freedom.

(Additional verses)

Let me hear you sing for (Freedom)

Don't you want to have your (Freedom)

Tell the people 'bout your (Freedom)

Sing it louder 'bout your (Freedom)

Reprise:

Freedom, Freedom, Freedom,
Freedom, Freedom.

LET MY PEOPLE GO

If Ross Barnett won't take it slow
Let My People Go
He'll have to reap just what we sow
Let My People Go.

Go down, Freedom, way down in Mississippi
Tell Old Barnett to Let My People Go.

2. Through Alabama we did ride
Let My People Go
The bus was burned while we were inside
Let My People Go.

Go down, Freedom, way down in Alabama
Tell old Patterson to Let My People Go.

3. In North nor South is Freedom won
Let My People Go
CORE must fight on till the job is done
Let My People Go.

Go down, Freedom, we need our civil rights
Tell the segregationists
To Let My People Go.

OLD FREEDOM SPIRIT

(Old Time Religion)

CHORUS:

Give me that Old Freedom Spirit
Give me that Old Freedom Spirit
Give me that Old Freedom Spirit
It's good enough for me.

1. It was good for Ronnie Moore
It was good for Ronnie Moore
It was good for Ronnie Moore
It's good enough for me.
2. It was good for Dion Diamond
It was good for Dion Diamond
It was good for Dion Diamond
It's good enough for me.
3. It was good for James Farmer
It was good for James Farmer
It was good for James Farmer
It's good enough for me.

(For additional verses, this song uses names of either local or national leaders; either little-known or well-known persons who are actively attached to the Freedom struggle.)

THEY GO WILD

They go wild, simply wild over me
And I've never done no wrong that I could see.
There's no freedom in the land,
They would throw you in the can,
They go wild, simply wild over me.

Oh the judge, he went wild over me
And I plainly saw he never could agree
So I let his nibs obey
What his conscience had to say
And he went wild, simply wild over me.

They go wild, simply wild over me
Every time I go downtown and set for tea.
They make up all sorts of rules
Even try to remove the stools
They go wild, simply wild over me.

Will my children go wild or go free
When it's their turn to go and set for tea?
Will those bed-sheet wearin' whites
Still yell, "Down with civil rights?"
Or will justice have come to Tennessee?

The words were written by Candy Anderson in Jail in
Nashville, Tennessee.

FIGHT ON

(Tune of Old Black Joe)

Gone are the days, when tradition had its say
Now is the time for the South to integrate.
We will fight on for a better land we know
For the Constitution tell us
Fight on, Fight on.

Gone to the jail, without paying our bail
Justice will come right over the trail.
Soon we will live, as first class citizens
That's why we're here to prove we're right
Fight on, fight on.

CHORUS:

We're fighting, we're fighting, for a better
land we know.
For the Constitution tells us so
Fight on, fight on.

This song was written April 1960 by Barbara Broxton,
Patricia and Priscilla Stephens while serving 49 days
in the Leon County Jail for sitting in at a Woolworth
lunch counter.

MEN OF THE SOIL

Danish Folk Tune

Words by Harold Hildreth

Men of the Soil! We have labored unending,
We have fed the world upon the grain that we have grown,
Now with the star of the new day ascending,
Giants of the earth, at last we rise to claim our own.
Justice throughout the land, happiness as God has planned,
Who is there denies our right to reap where we have sown!

Men of the Soil! Now the torch we have lighted,
Kindles fire in ev'ry land where rings the harvest song!
Shoulder to shoulder in courage united for ev'ry race,
We come to join the tiller's mighty through.
Earth ne'er shall eat again bread gain'd through
 blood of men,
We have sworn to right for evermore the ancient wrong.

Men of the Soil! We are coming in judgment,
To tell the world "Till justice rules there is no liberty."
We, in our strength, are arising as prophets,
Marching on to show the world the dawn that is to be.
There's a lightning in the sky,
there's a thunder shouting high;
We will never stop until the sons of men are free.

WE ARE SOLDIERS IN THE ARMY

CHORUS:

We Are Soldiers in the Army
We've got to fight although we have to cry
We've got to hold up the bloodstained banner
We've got to hold it up until we die.

1. My mother was a soldier,
She had her hand on the gospel plow.
But one day she got old
She couldn't fight anymore;
She said, "I'll stand there and fight anyhow!"
2. I'm glad I am a soldier
I've got my hand on the gospel plow.
But one day I'll get old
I can't fight any more.
But I'll stand there and fight anyhow.
3. I know my soul's been converted
Of that I'm not ashamed
I was standing
There at the table
When the angel signed my name.

Reprise:

We are soldiers in CORE's army
We've got to fight although we have to cry
We've got to hold up the bloodstained banner
We've got to hold it up until we die.

CORE, THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY, is a national organization with affiliated groups, committed to the goal of erasing the color line through methods of interracial direct nonviolent action. All groups affiliated with national CORE pledge themselves to nonviolence in all actions which they sponsor.

THE NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION APPROACH to racial discrimination assumes that a lasting resolution of problems can best be obtained through a spirit of good will and understanding. This spirit must be combined with a determination to end discrimination through action programs directed to specific problems. The ultimate goal is an integrated society where each member is judged solely on the basis of his individual worth.

NATIONAL CORE is financed largely by contributions from interested individuals. Churches, unions and local CORE groups also contribute to its financial support.

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