



## **Concert Productions International**

**Presents**

# **Pete Seeger: The Power of Song**

Run time: 93 minutes

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**A Jim Brown Film**

**Executive Producer**

Norman Lear

**Executive Producer**

Toshi Seeger

**Producer**

Michael Cohl

**Producer**

William Eigen

**Producer**

Jim Brown

**Line Producer**

Sarah Cullen

**Line Producer**

Nicole Craig

**Associate Producers**

Lara Bergthold

Kitama Jackson

**Editors**

Sam Pollard

Jason L. Pollard

**Director**

Jim Brown

## **Pete Seeger: Power of Song Summary**

In PETE SEEGER: POWER OF SONG, the only authorized biography, Jim Brown documents the life of one of the greatest American singer/songwriters of the last century. Pete Seeger was the architect of the folk revival, writing some of its' best known songs including "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," "Turn, Turn, Turn" and "If I Had A Hammer." Largely misunderstood by his critics, including the US government, for his views on peace, unionism, civil rights and ecology, Seeger was targeted by the communist witch hunt of the Fifties. He was picketed, protested, blacklisted, and, in spite of his enormous popularity, banned from American television for more than 17 years. With a combination of never-before-seen archival footage and personal films made by Seeger and his wife, PETE SEEGER: POWER OF SONG chronicles the life of this legendary artist and political activist. The film serves as testament of Seeger's belief in the power of song above all else and his conviction that *individuals can make a difference*. Musicians including Joan Baez, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, Natalie Maines, Tom Paxton and Peter, Paul and Mary appear in this intimate portrait and discuss Seeger's lasting influence on the fabric of American music. PETE SEEGER: POWER OF SONG was directed by Jim Brown and produced by Jim Brown, Michael Cohl, and William Eigen and executive produced by Norman Lear and Toshi Seeger.

## **Pete Seeger: Power of Song Director's Statement**

For me, Pete Seeger has been one of the most important voices and influential musicians in America. He got a whole generation interested in playing guitar and banjo, got them singing together, and helped introduce America to its own folk heritage, while using music as an instrument for social change.

For a brief period, Pete was a member of the American Communist Party and used music to organize labor unions. Subsequently, he was blacklisted. While Pete sang about unions, civil rights, the environment and peace, the government tried to censor him. He was kept off commercial television for 17-years. In addition, his concerts were often picketed. He never backed down and always stood by his beliefs.

Pete Seeger's ethics are pure. He believes that everyone is equal. He is an American patriot who built his own log cabin and lives simply in the woods. Pete has a complete distrust of commercial forces, pop culture, technology, greed, fame and the corporate and military influences on democracy. He hates the word career, and has no interest in personal gain, shuns publicity and works tirelessly with his wife, Toshi, because he believes we are blindly destroying the world. He might be right. There are lessons to be learned by exploring his life and music.

**Jim Brown/Jim Brown Productions/Ginger Group (Producer/Director).** Three-time Emmy Award winning producer/director Jim Brown is responsible for some of the most popular and critically acclaimed television documentary programs in the last two decades. He heads Jim Brown Productions, LLC and Ginger Group Productions, Inc., film and television production companies specializing in cultural and social documentaries, concerts, home videos, CDs and records, and electronic press kits that has produced award winning television programs for ABC, Fox, the Disney Channel, Showtime, PBS, Nickelodeon, Bravo and Polygram, Sony Music, Universal Studios, Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus, Walt Disney's World on Ice, The Children's Television Workshop, The Smithsonian Institution, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Bozell Advertising.

Currently, Brown is producing and directing another biographical documentary for theatrical release on world renown actor/musician/political activist Harry Belafonte. Recent productions include: Isn't This a Time!, Peter, Paul and Mary, Carry it On: A Musical Legacy, The Three Pickers, Barbara Cook in Mostly Sondheim, American Roots Music: A Portrait of Marc and Ann Savoy, American Roots Music, An Evening with Harry Belafonte and Friends.

Ginger Group has also produced many award-winning music specials and concerts, including: In the Spotlight with Mary Chapin Carpenter, Child of Mine: Songs To Our Children, The Emmy Award winning, We Shall Overcome, Songs of the Civil War (Co-produced by Ken Burns), A Vision Shared: A Tribute to Woody Guthrie and Lead Belly, Musical Passage, 125th Edition of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's Greatest Show on Earth, Woody Guthrie: Hard Travelin', In the Hank Williams Tradition, Pete Seeger's Family Concert, The Weavers: Wasn't That a Time!

For the last 15 years, Brown has often collaborated with Sam Pollard as an editor and co-producer, who is perhaps best known as editor of six of Spike Lee's features and served as co-producer on his documentary Four Little Girls. Pollard co-executive produced the PBS series I'll Make Me a World for which he received a Peabody. He has also received 3 Emmy awards for his documentary work. Brown and Pollard are one of the few integrated teams working in American television.

Ginger Group has worked with musical talent that includes: Harry Belafonte, B.B. King, Keith Richards, Bonnie Raitt, Earl Scruggs, Michael Bolton, Bruce Springsteen, Johnny Cash, Mary Chapin, Carpenter, David Sanborn, Carol King, Gloria Estefan, John Mellencamp, Tony Bennett, U2, Flaco Jimenez, Keb' Mo', All 4 One, Little Richard, Buddy Guy, Robert Junior Lockwood, James Cotton, Dionne Warwick, Randy Travis, Willie Nelson, Kathy Mattea, Dwight Yoakum, Mark Knofler, Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson, Merle Haggard, Hank Williams Jr., Chet Atkins, Ricky Skaggs, Emmylou Harris, Trisha Yearwood, Wynona Judd, Ralph Stanley, Gillian Welch, Doc Watson, Robert Mirabal, Floyd Westerman, Robbie Robertson, Dave Grusin, John and Bucky Pizzarelli, Edwin Hawkins, Mavis Staples, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Cissy Houston, Peter, Paul, and Mary, Judy Collins, Kate and Anna McGarrigle, Travis Tritt, Taj Mahal, Joan Baez, Richie Havens, Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, Holly Near, Maura O'Connell, Ellis and Jackson Marsalis, and Jon Secada. The Ginger Group has also worked with: Presidents Clinton, Bush, Ford and Carter; Colin Powell, John Travolta, Oprah Winfrey, Richard Dreyfus, Jimmy Smits, and Brooke Shields.

Ginger Group Productions owns production equipment and maintains AVID editing facilities in New York.

## **PETE SEEGER**

### **The Power of Song**

This film is dedicated to  
Lee Hays and Harold Leventhal.

#### **Creative Consultants**

Dusty Cohl  
Ed Redlich  
Dan Seeger

#### **Camera**

Jim Brown  
Tom Hurwitz  
Bobby Shepard

#### **Additional Camera**

Dave Berliner  
Chris Coco  
Michael Crain  
Bob Fiore  
Ethan Mass  
Peter Pilafian  
Tim Smith

#### **Additional Editors**

Adam Browne  
Brian DiLeo  
Melody London  
Dan Marks  
Emily Paine  
Darren Peister

#### **Assistant Editors**

Arielle Amsalem  
Alex Berger  
Michael Capitelli  
Kitama Jackson

Jacob Okada  
Carla Beth Smith

**Documentary Sound**

Sarah Brown  
Anton Gold  
Chat Gunter  
Kitama Jackson  
Matt Janson  
Glen Marullo  
John McCormick  
Peter Miller  
Brad Schirmer  
Joy Setton  
James Williams  
Peter Zivkovic

**Gaffers**

Ned Hallick  
Lance Phox  
Chris Rosen  
Charles Wing

**Archival Research/Licensing Coordinator**

Chelsea Hoffman

**Additional Research**

Pamela Bloom  
Ron Cohen  
Joan Mathys

**Production Coordinators**

Michaela McKee  
Joy Setton  
Sunny Setton

**Cameras Provided By**

Broadcast Video Rentals

**Multi-Track Recording**

Chris Andersen, Nevessa Productions

**Online Editor**

Niels Dachler

**Post Production Services**

Beyond Our Reality Productions  
GRS Systems  
Soundtrack F/T  
Dolby Laboratories, Inc.

**Music Restoration and Mastering**

Alan Silverman for Arf! Mastering

**Re-Recording Mix**

Bob Chefalas

**Supervising Sound Editor**

Allan Zaleski

**Digital Film Services by Technicolor New York**

**Digital Film Producer**

Barbara Jean Kearney

**Project Manager**

Ralph Costanza

**Imaging and Laser Recording**

James Ahern  
Daniel Silverman

**Lab Timer**

Don Ciana

**Graphics and Stills Restoration**

Victoria Nece  
Raafi Rivero

**Production Assistants**

Sarah Brown  
Tiffany Chung  
Anne Fagnani  
Erika Frankel  
Olga Gourianov  
Pooja Gupta  
Laura Hughes  
Moraya Jackson  
Jim McGibbon  
Josh Mueller

Julie Ott  
Emma Pildes  
Lerone Wilson

**Interns**

Claire Guehenno  
Dan Leventhal  
Zack Schaefer  
Chris Supino  
Jonathan Waldrip

**The Producers Would Like To Thank**

Beacon Sloop Club  
Steve Bing  
Shangri-La Productions  
Barbara Carr  
Clearwater  
John Cohen  
Ron Cohen  
Bill Cosby  
Jon Landau  
Lori McGoran  
Larry Richmond  
Jeff Rosen  
The Seeger Family  
Michael Smith  
George Travis  
Cora Weiss

**Additional Thanks**

Abraham Lincoln Brigade  
Cheryl Antonio  
Avon Old Farms School  
Belleayre Mountain  
Roy Berkeley  
David Bernz  
Mitch Blank  
John Bishop  
Father Roy Bourgeois  
Ginger Brown  
Mary Schmidt Campbell  
Alan Chartok  
RJ Cutler  
Jonathan Demme  
Ennio & Michael's



Forrestal Elementary School

Burt Glassburg

Adam Green

Nora Guthrie

Harvard University

April Hayes

Connie Hogarth

David Irving

Rose Jackson

Kathy Kane

Dan Kircheff

Natalie Leventhal

Michael Nash

Holly Near

New York University

Jerry Oberwanger

Alicia Preston

Dorothy Sams

Lamar Sanders

Tommy Sands

Mike Seeger

Sing Out!

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings

George Stoney

Chris Storjohann

Walkabout Clearwater

George Wein

Henrietta Yurchenko

Bob Zahn

**Concert Productions International**

Stephen Howard

Steve Sterling

Natalia Pansieri

Judi MacDonald

**For American Masters**

Susan Lacy

**Legal**

Robert Meitus

John Simson

**Archival Still Photography Courtesy Of**

Berenice Abbott

John Byrne Cooke

Corbis Images  
David Gahr  
Matt Herron  
Getty Images  
Robert Krones  
Jim Marshall  
Library of Congress  
NYU: Tamiment Library, Communist Party USA Collection  
The Seeger Family  
*The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*, Comedic Productions, Inc.  
Eric Weissberg

**Archival Footage Courtesy Of**

The 1994 Kennedy Center Honors, produced by George Stevens, Jr.  
Archive Films by Getty Images  
BBC Motion Gallery  
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation: TV Archive Sales  
Daniel Seeger's film *Clearwater – The Maiden Voyage*  
Murray Lerner's *Festival!*, an Eagle Rock Entertainment release  
Fox Movietone News, Inc.  
Grey Water Park Productions  
Historic Films Archive  
The National Archives  
*The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*, Comedic Productions, Inc.  
SPPN Images, Inc.  
Jack Willis', John Reavis' and Fred Wardenburg's *The Streets of Greenwood*  
UCLA Film and Television Archive  
WETA-TV, Washington, D.C.  
The William J. Clinton Presidential Library  
The WPA Film Library  
Pete and Toshi Seeger

**Music**

“Turn! Turn! Turn!”  
Written and Performed by Pete Seeger  
Published by TRO - Melody Trails, Inc. (BMI)  
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“Duet from Beethoven's Symphony no. 7”  
Written by Ludwig van Beethoven  
Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from *Darling Corey and Goofing-Off Suite*  
SF40018  
Provided courtesy of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings © 1993  
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“Ode to Joy/Beethoven Ninth Symphony”

Written by Ludwig van Beethoven

Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from *Pete*, provided courtesy of Helene Blue  
Musique Ltd. o/b/o Earth Music Productions, LLC  
Used by permission. “Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring”

“Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring”

Written by Johann Sebastian Bach

Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from *Darling Corey and Goofing-Off Suite*  
SF40018

Provided courtesy of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings © 1993  
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“Pretty Polly”

Traditional

Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from *American Favorite Ballads, Vol. 2*  
SF40151

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“Union Maid”

Written by Woody Guthrie

Performed by Pete Seeger and Arlo Guthrie

Published by TRO - Ludlow Music, Inc. (BMI)

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“Raggedy”

Written by John Handcox

Published by Sanga Music, Inc.

Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from *American History in Ballad and Song,*  
*Vol. 1* Folkways 05801

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“Union Train”

Written by Lee Hays

Published by Stormking Music, Inc.

Performed by The Almanac Singers on a recording from *The Original Talking Union and*  
*Other Songs* FW05285

Recording courtesy of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings © 1955  
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“Round and Round Hitler’s Grave”

Written by Woody Guthrie, Millard Lampell and Pete Seeger

Published by Stormking Music, Inc.

Performed by The Almanac Singers on a recording from *That's Why We're Marching: World War II and the American Folk Song Movement* SF40021  
Recording courtesy of Smithsonian Folkways Recordings © 1996  
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“Kisses Sweeter Than Wine”  
Written by Huddie Ledbetter, Pete Seeger, Fred Hellerman, Ronnie Gilbert and Lee Hays  
Published by TRO – Folkways Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)  
Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from *Pete*, provided courtesy of Helene Blue Musique Ltd. o/b/o Earth Music Productions, LLC  
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“Joe Hill”  
Written by Earl Robinson and Alfred Hays  
Published by Universal MCA Music Publishing/Music Sales Corp.  
Performed by Pete Seeger, Butch Hawes, Lee Hays, Hally Wood and Lou Kleinman, from the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections, Provided courtesy of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage © 1946  
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“Passing Through”  
Written by Richard Blakeslee  
Published by Princess Music Publishing Corp.  
Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from *Headlines and Footnotes*, SFW40111  
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“Living in the Country”  
Written and Performed by Pete Seeger  
Published by Sanga Music, Inc.  
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“Goodnight Irene”  
Written by Huddie Ledbetter and John A. Lomax  
Published by TRO - Ludlow Music, Inc. (BMI)  
Performed by The Weavers  
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“So Long, It's Been Good to Know Yuh”  
Written by Woody Guthrie  
Published by TRO – Folkways Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)  
Performed by The Weavers  
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“Sixteen Tons”

Written by Merle Travis

Published by Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Co. obo Merle’s Girls Music

Performed by The Weavers on a recording from *Wasn’t That a Time: The Weavers Vanguard Box Set*, provided courtesy of Vanguard Records, A Welk Music Group

Company

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“This Land is Your Land”

Written by Woody Guthrie

Published by TRO - Ludlow Music, Inc. (BMI)

Performed by Pete Seeger

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“Michael, Row the Boat Ashore”

Written by Ronnie Gilbert, Lee Hays, Fred Hellerman, Anthony David Saletan and Pete Seeger

Published by Sanga Music, Inc.

Performed by The Weavers

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“Wimoweh”

Written by Soloman Linda

Published by TRO – Folkways Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)

Performed by Pete Seeger

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“If I Had a Hammer (The Hammer Song)”

Written by Pete Seeger and Lee Hays

Published by TRO - Ludlow Music, Inc. (BMI)

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“Green Corn”

Written by Huddie Ledbetter, John A. Lomax and Alan Lomax

Published by TRO – Folkways Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)

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“All My Trials”

Traditional

Arranged, Adapted and Performed by Joan Baez

Copyright Chandos Music Company (ASCAP)

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“Blowin’ in the Wind”

Written and Performed by Bob Dylan

Copyright Special Rider Music

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Hootenanny Saturday Night”  
Written by Richard Lewine and Alfred F. Uhry  
Published by Frank Music Corp. (ASCAP)  
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“Little Boxes”  
Written by Malvina Reynolds  
Copyright Schroder Music Company 1962, renewed 1990  
Performed by Pete Seeger  
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“Freight Train”  
Written by Elizabeth Cotten, Paul James and Frederick Williams  
Copyright Picadilly Music-Sony-ATV Music  
Performed by Elizabeth Cotten  
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“We Shall Overcome”  
Written by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan and Pete Seeger  
Published by TRO - Ludlow Music, Inc. (BMI)  
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“Where Have All the Flowers Gone?”  
Written and Performed by Pete Seeger  
Published by Sanga Music, Inc.  
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“Waist Deep in the Big Muddy”  
Written and Performed by Pete Seeger  
Published by TRO - Melody Trails, Inc. (BMI)  
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“My Dirty Stream (The Hudson River Song)”  
Written and Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from *Clearwater II*  
Published by Sanga Music, Inc.  
Recording courtesy of The Clearwater and The Beacon Sloop Club  
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“Sailin’ Up/Sailin’ Down”  
Written by Jimmy Reed  
Copyright Conrad Music-Seeds of Reed Music  
Performed by Pete Seeger  
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“My Rainbow Race”

Written and Performed by Pete Seeger  
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“Guantanamera”  
Music adaptation by Pete Seeger and Julian Orbon  
Lyric adaptation by Julian Orbon, based on a Poem by Jose Marti  
Lyric Editor: Hector Angulo  
Original music and lyrics by Jose Fernandez Diaz  
Copyright Fall River Music, Inc.  
Performed by Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie and Tao Rodriguez-Seeger  
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“To My Old Brown Earth”  
Written and Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from *Pete*, provided courtesy of  
Helene Music Ltd. o/b/o Earth Music Productions, LLC  
Published by Stormking Music, Inc.  
Used by permission.

“Bring ‘Em Home (If You Love Your Uncle Sam)”  
Written and Performed by Pete Seeger with Billy Bragg, Ani DiFranco and Steve  
Earle on a recording from *Seeds: The Songs of Pete Seeger, Vol. 3* provided courtesy of  
Appleseed Recordings  
Published by Stormking Music, Inc.  
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