Lyrics for *Classic Folk Music from Smithsonian Folkways Recordings* (SFW40110)

1. **We Shall Overcome** Pete Seeger **4:42**

We shall overcome, we shall overcome
We shall overcome someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

We’ll walk hand in hand, we’ll walk hand in hand
We’ll walk hand in hand someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace
We shall live in peace someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

We shall brothers be, we shall brothers be
We shall brothers be someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

The truth shall make us free, truth shall make us free
The truth shall make us free someday
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday

We are not afraid, we are not afraid
We are not afraid today
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday
2. **Rock Island Line** Lead Belly *2:05*

 {...An’ in that road man goin’ talk to the depot agent when he come in... he’s goin’ tell him something...]

I got goats
I got sheep
I got hogs
I got cows
I got horses
I got all livestock (2x)

[Depot agent goin’ let him git by and when he git by, he goin’ to tell him (he’s gone on now...]

I fooled you (2x)
I got iron
I got all pig iron (2x)

Chorus:
Oh the Rock Island Line is a mighty good road;
Oh the Rock Island Line it’s a road to ride.
Oh the Rock Island Line it’s a mighty good road;
If you wants to ride it, you got to ride it like you find it
Git your ticket at the station for the Rock Island Line

Jesus died to save our sins,
Glory to god, we gonna meet him again

Chorus:

I may be right I may be wrong
You gonna miss me when I’m gone.

Chorus:

A-B-C double X-Y-Z
Cat’s in the cupboard, but they don’ see me.

Chorus:
3. **No More Auction Block** Paul Robeson 2:13

No more auction block for me,
No more, No more,
No more auction block for me,
Many thousand gone.

No more pint of salt for me,
No more, no more,
No more pint of salt for me,
Many thousand gone.

No more driver's lash for me,
No more, no more,
No more driver's lash for me,
Many thousand gone.

No more iron chain for me,
No more, no more,
No more iron chain for me,
Many thousand gone.

4. **John Henry** Doc Watson 3:44

John Henry was a steel driving man,
Drove steel all over the land,
And he said "Fore I'll let that old steam drill beat me down,
I'll die with my hammer in my hand, Lord, Lord,
Die with my hammer in my hand."

Now the man that made that old steam drill,
He thought it mighty fine,
But John Henry drove down fourteen feet,
While that steam drill only made it nine, Lord, Lord,
Steam drill only made it nine.

John Henry's captain, he set down on a rock,
Said "I think this tunnel's falling in,"
Then John Henry smiled at his captain and he said,
"Now boss, that's my hammer sucking wind, Lord, Lord,
Boss, that's my hammer sucking wind."

John Henry he had a sweet little woman,
Her name was Polly Ann,
And while John, he was sick and he lay down on his bed,
Little Polly drove that steel like a man, Lord, Lord,
Polly drove that steel like a man.

John Henry hammered in the mountain side, 'Til his hammer caught on fire, And the last word that poor John Henry said, “Give me a cool drink of water ‘fore I die, Lord, Lord, Cool drink of water ‘fore I die.”

They took John Henry to the graveyard, Six feet under the sand And every time a freight train would come a’rolling by, They’d say, "Yonder lies a steel driving man, Lord, Lord, Yonder lies a steel driving man."

5. **John Hardy** Mike Seeger 2:41
John Hardy was a desperate little man He carried two guns every day Killed him a man on the West Virginia line You ought to see John Hardy getting away, poor boy Seen John Hardy getting away.

He went on across to the East Stone Bridge There he thought he’d be free But up steps the sheriff and takes him by the arm Says “Johnny come along with me, poor boy Johnny come along with me.”

He sent for his momma and his poppa too To come and go his bail; But there weren’t no bail on a murder charge So they threw John Hardy back in jail. Threw John Hardy back in jail.

John Hardy had a pretty little girl The dress that she wore was blue She threw her arms around his neck Saying, “Daddy I have always been true Daddy I have always been true.”

I’ve been to the east and I’ve been to the west Traveled this wide world around; Been to the river and I’ve been baptized, And now I'm on my hanging ground. Now I'm on my hanging ground.
6. **Betty and Dupree** Brownie McGhee 3:59

Now, Betty told Dupree, she wanted a diamond ring; (2x)
He says, “Oh yes, oh yes, my love, I’ll get you most anything.”

(Wha’d he do? Wha’d he do?)

He got himself a pistol, and it was a forty-four; (2x)
Well, you know to get that diamond ring, he had to rob a jewelry store.

But he blind the passenger, And he beat his way to Chicago,
You know, Dupree caught a passenger, beat his way into Chicago.
Don’t you know, little Betty, she hung her head and cried,
Said, “I won’t see Dupree no more.”

But the police they caught him, carried him back to the Atlanta jail,
The police they caught Dupree, carried him back to the Atlanta jail,
“Please send for my little Betty,” Sayin’ “Please come and go my bail.”

She went to the jailhouse, his face she could not see; (2x)
Well, she said, “Please Mister Jailer, won’t you give him this note

(This is how it read:)
“I was there to see you but I could not see your face. (2x)
Well, although you know I love you—
But I just can’t take your place.

7. **Gallis Pole** Fred Gerlach 3:43

Spoken:
In olden times when they put a man in prison if he couldn’t bring up a little money they’d hang on the gallows pole. They’re taking this man to the gallows – hear death walking alongside shaken his bones. Putting the noose around his neck; here’s the very last words he said.

Hangman, hangman, hold it a little while,”I think I see my friends a-coming,
Riding many a-mile.

Friends, you get me some silver; get a little gold,
What did you bring me, my dear friends, to keep me from the gallows pole?
What did you bring me – keep me from the gallows pole.

Couldn’t get you no silver,
Couldn’t get no gold,
You know that we’re too damn poor
To keep you from the gallows pole.

Hangman, hangman, hold it a little while,
I think I see my brother riding,
Riding many a-mile.

Brother, get some silver,
Get a little gold?
What did you bring me my brother to keep me from the gallows pole?

Brother I got some silver, brought a little gold.
Brought a little of everything to keep you from the gallows pole.
Yes, I brought you, to keep you from the gallows pole.

What did you, what did you,
Did you bring me – keep me from the gallows pole?

8. *Polly Von* Paul Clayton 3:12
All ye brave huntsmen who follow the gun,
Beware of a shooting at the setting of the sun,
For he true love went a-hunting and he shot in the dark
But, oh, and alas, Polly Van was his mark.

Chorus:
For she'd her apron wrapped around her
and he took her for a swan
But, oh, and alas, it was she, Polly Van.

He ran up beside her and found it was she,
His legs they grew weak, his eyes scarce could see,
He embraced her in his arms when he found she was dead,
And a fountain of tears for his true love he shed.

Chorus:

He took her in his arms and home ran he,
Crying “Father, dear Father, I've shot fair Polly;
I've shot that fair female in the bloom of her life,
And I'd always intended to make her my wife.”

Chorus:

At midnight in his chamber Polly Van did appear,
Crying “Jimmy, dear Jimmy, you have nothing to fear,
But stay in your country till you trial comes on,
And you shall not be convicted for what you have done.”

Chorus:

In the midst or his trial Polly Van did appear,
Crying “Uncle, dear uncle, Jimmy Randall must be clear.”
The judges and lawyers stood around in a row,
Polly Van in the middle like a fountain of snow.

Chorus:

9. **Butcher Boy** Peggy Seeger 2:19
She went upstairs to make her bed
And not one word to her mother said
Her mother she went upstairs too
Saying, "Daughter, oh daughter, what troubles you?"

"Oh mother, oh mother, I cannot tell,
That railroad boy I love so well,
He courted me my life away
And now at home he will not stay."

"There is a place in London town
Where that railroad boy goes and sits down
He takes that strange girl on his knee
And tells to her what he won't tell me."

Her father he came up from work
Saying, “where is my daughter, she seems so hurt.”
He went upstairs to give her hope
And found her hanging from a rope

He took his knife and cut her down,
And in her bosom these words he found:
Go dig my grave both wide and deep
Place a marble slab at my head and feet.

And over my coffin place a snow-white dove
To warn the world that I died of love.

10. **Duncan and Brady** Dave Van Ronk 3:00
Well, it’s twinkle, twinkle little star,
Along come Brady in his ‘lectric car;
Got a mean look right in his eye,
Gonna shoot somebody just to see him die.
Well, he’s been on the job too long.

Well, Duncan, Duncan was tending the bar,
Along comes Brady with a shining star.
Brady says, "Duncan you are under arrest,"
And Duncan shot a hole right in Brady's chest.
Yes, he been on the job too long.

Brady, Brady, Brady, well you know you done wrong,
Breaking in here when my game’s going on,
Breaking down the windows, knocking down the door,
And now you’re lying dead on the barroom floor.
Yes, you been on the job too long.

Well, old King Brady was a big fat man,
Doctor reached out, grabbed hold of his hand,
He felt for his pulse, Doctor said,
“I believe unto my soul King Brady’s dead.”
Yes, he been on the job too long.

High tailed carriages standing around,
Waiting to take King Brady to the burying ground;
High tailed carriages, rubber tired hack,
Well, they took him to the graveyard but they didn’t bring him back.
Yes, he been on the job too long.

Well, women all heard King Brady was dead,
They go back home and re-rag in red,
Come a-slipping and a-sliding and a-shuffling down the street,
In their big Mother Hubbard and their stocking feet.
He been on the job too long.

Well, Brady, Brady, well you know you done wrong
Breaking in here when my game’s going on,
Breaking down the windows, knocking down the door,
And now you’re lying dead on the barroom floor.
Yes, you been on the job too long.

11. Railroad Bill  Hobart Smith  2:35
Railroad Bill, Railroad Bill
the man ain’t so bad
Whupped his mama, shot his old dad.
By morning he missed for old day (?)

Railroad Bill, standing on the hill.
a seegar with a ten-dollar bill.
Ride, ride, ride.

Railroad Bill, Railroad Bill,
So mean and so bad.
He whupped his mammy, shot around his old dad.
By morning he’s missed by day (?)
Early one morning, in a shower or rain
Round the curve come a long freight train.
Ride, ride, ride

(?)
(?)
Ride, ride, ride.

Railroad Bill, Railroad Bill,
Standing on the hill,
He lived and worked and he never fell.
Ride, ride, ride.

12. **Wayfaring Stranger** Burl Ives 1:13
I am just a poor wayfaring stranger
Trav’ling through this world of woe.
And there's no sickness, and no toil or trouble
In that fair land to which I go.
I'm going back to see my mother
I'm going back to no more roam;
I'm just a-going over Jordan
I'm just a-going over home.

13. **Big Rock Candy Mountain** Haywire Mac 2:04
One evening as the sun went down
And the jungle fire was burning,
Down the track came a hobo hiking,
And he said, "Boys, I'm not turning
I'm heading for a land that's far away
Beside the crystal fountain.
So come with me we'll go and see
The Big Rock Candy Mountain."

In the Big Rock Candy Mountain,
It's a land that's fair and bright,
Where the handouts grow on bushes
And you sleep out every night.
Where the boxcars all are empty
And the sun shines every day
All the birds and the bees in the cigarette trees
And the lemonade springs where the bluebird sings
In the Big Rock Candy Mountain.

In the Big Rock Candy Mountain
All the cops have wooden legs
The bulldogs all have rubber teeth
And the hens lay soft-boiled eggs
There the farmers trees are full of fruit
And the barns are full of hay.
And I'm bound to go where there ain't no snow
Where the rain don't fall and the wind don't blow
In the Big Rock Candy Mountain.

In the Big Rock Candy Mountain
You never change your socks
And little streams of alky-hol
Come a-trickling down the rocks
There ain't no short handled shovels,
No axes, spades or picks
And I'm bound to stay where they sleep all day
Where they hung the jerk that invented work
In the Big Rock Candy Mountain.

In the Big Rock Candy Mountain
The jails are made of tin
You can walk right out again
As soon as you are in.
Why the break men have you tip their hats
And the railroad bulls are blind (?)
There’s a lake of stew and a gin lake too.
You can paddle all around them in a big canoe
In the Big Rock Candy Mountain.

14. Born 100,000 Years Ago Cisco Houston 1:10
I was born about a hundred thousand years ago
And there's nothing in this world I do not know.
Why the flag started flying when George Washington started lying,
I can lick the man that says that isn’t so.

I saw Eve and Adam driven from the door.
I’m the man that picked the fig leave that they wore.
When the apple they were eating I was from the bushes peeping.
I can prove that I’m the man that ate the core.

Queen Elizabeth she fell in love with me, poor girl,
We were married in Milwaukee secretly.
Then I snuck around and shook her ‘cause went with general hooker
Just to find (?) down in Tennessee.

I saw Noah when he built his famous Ark.
I slipped into it one night when it was dark.
I saw Jonah swallow the whale and I pulled the lions tail.
And I crossed the land of Canaan on a lark.
I taught Solomon his little ABC’s,
And I helped Brigham Young invent Limburger cheese.
When I sailed out on the bay with Methuselah on one day
And saved his flowing whiskers from the breeze.

15. Sugar Babe, It’s All Over Now Mark Spoelstra 1:57
Sugar babe, what’s the matter with you?
You don’t love me like you used to do.
Sugar babe, it’s all over now.

Sugar babe, what’s the matter with you?
You’re running around with somebody new
Sugar babe, it’s all over now.

All I want my sugar to do
Is make five dollars and give me two
Sugar babe, it’s all over now.

Sugar babe, what’s the matter with you
It ain’t torn honey but the way you do (?)
Sugar babe, it’s all over now.

Went downtown and I bought me a line,
I whapped my baby ‘til she changed her mind
Sugar babe, it’s all over now.

I went downtown and I bought me a rope,
I whapped my baby until she till she bust her nose (?)
Sugar babe, it’s all over now.

Sugar babe, what’s the matter with you?
You don’t love me like you used to do.
Sugar babe, it’s all over now

16. Changes Phil Ochs 4:16
If you say that all our good times are gone,
If you say this rain will keep rainin’ on,
I’ll walk along with my head held high
I’ll find a song and I’ll sing it to the sky
I may be wrong but I’ll live ‘til I die
That’s the way it’s gonna be, wait and see.

Even though you say hard times knocks at my door
Though you say I’ll never smile anymore
I just imagine that I’m ten feet tall
And if I try I can climb the highest wall
It doesn't matter if I slip down and fall
That's the way it's gonna be, wait and see.

Even though you say I've reached the end of my row
Though you say my times are all running low
It's been so long since I tried to frown
That Old Man Trouble will never get me down
It's all that easy when you know where you're bound
That's the way it's gonna be, wait and see.
              Just you wait and see.

Even though you say that all the good times are gone,
Though you say this rain will keep rainin' on,
I'll walk along with my head held high
I'll find a song and I'll sing it to the sky
I may be wrong but I'll live 'til I die
That's the way it's gonna be, wait and see.

17. **Black and White** Earl Robinson 2:58

The ink is black, the page is white
Together we learn to read and write
To Read and write.
And now a child can understand
This is the law of all the land
All the land.
The ink is black, the page is white
Together we learn to read and write
Read and write.

Their robes were black, their heads were white
The schoolhouse doors were closed so tight,
Where closed up tight.
Nine judges all sat down their names
To end their years and years of shame.
Years of shame.
Their robes were black, their heads were white.

The slate is black, the chalk is white.
The words stand out so clear and bright
So clear and bright.
And now at last we plainly see
The alphabet of liberty
Liberty.
The slate is black, the chalk is white.
A child is black, a child is white
The whole world looks upon the sight
A beautiful sight.
And very well the whole world knows
This is the way that freedom grows
Freedom grows.
A child is black, a child is white
Together we learn to read and write,

Read and write.

The world is black, the world is white
It turns by day and then by night
It turns by night.
It turns so each and everyone
Can take his station in the sun
In the sun.
The world is black, the world is white.

18. Most Fair Beauty Bright Jean Ritchie 2:17
O I once courted a most fair beauty bright,
Courted her by day and courted her by night.
O I courted her for love, and her love I did obtain;
Do you think I've any reason or right to complain?

When her old parents they came for to know,
They said with our daughter you shall never go.
Well they locked her in a dungeon, they kept her most severe;
I could not enjoy the sight or the company of my dear.

Well away to the north to the wars he did go,
To see whether he could forget his love or no,
For seven long years a-fighting for his king,
And in seven years a-longer, its he returned again.

As I rode along then my arms a-shinin; bright,
All in my mind was own fair beauty bright;
Her old parents saw me coming, they wrung her hands and cried,
Saying, daughter loved you dearly and for your sake she died.

Struck me like a lamb, like a lamb that was slain
Tears from my eyes fell like showers of rain;
Cryin Oh, this pain I cannot bear,
My true love’s in her grave, Lord, I wish that I was there.
19. **Cielo Lindo** Pete Seeger 2:31
De la Sierra Morena Cielito Lindo,
Vienen bajando
Un par de ojos negros,
Cielito Lindo, de contra bando.

CHORUS:
Ay, ay, ay, ay!
Canta y nolores.
Porque cantando se a le gran,
Cielito Lindo los corazones.

Translation:
From the Sierra Morena arrives descending
A pair of black eyes, of contraband

Ay ay ay ay!
Sing and don't cry.
Because singing gladdens the heart.

20. **Tom Dooley** The New Lost City Ramblers 2:51
Chorus:
Hang down your head, Tom Dooley Hang down your head and cry.
Killed poor Laura Foster you know you're bound to die.

You took her on the hillside, as God almighty knows
You took her on the hillside and there you hid her clothes.

You took her by the roadside where you begged to be excused.
You took her by the roadside where there you hid her shoes.

You took her on the hillside to make her your wife.
You took her on the hillside where there you took her life.

Chorus
Take down my old violin and play it all you please.
At this time tomorrow, it'll be no use to me.

I dug a grave four foot long, I dug it three feet deep.
And threwed the cold clay o'er her and tramped it with my feet

Chorus
This world and one more then where do you reckon I'd be
If it hadn't been for Grayson, I'd a-been in Tennessee.
**Chorus**

**21. Freight Train** Elizabeth Cotten *2:45*
Freight train, freight train run so fast
Freight train, freight train run so fast
Please don't tell what train I'm on
They won't know what route I'm gone.

When I am dead and in my grave
No more good times here I crave
Place the stones at my head and feet
And tell them all that I'm gone to sleep.

When I die Lord Bury me deep
Way down on old Chestnut Street
So I can hear old number nine
As she comes rolling by.

When I die Lord Bury me deep
Way down on old Chestnut Street
Place the stones at my head and feet
And tell them all that I'm gone to sleep.

**22. Down on Me** Mary Pickney and Janie Hunter *3:04*

Down on me, Lord, down on me

Oh well my Lord
It seem like everybody in this whole wide world
Is down on me. (2x)

I wonder what Satan is growling about
Chained in Hell and he can’t get out,
It seem like everybody in this whole wide world
Is down on me.

Mind my mother how you walk on the cross
Your feet may slip and your soul may lost
Seem like everybody in this whole wide world
Is down on me.

Well, Jacob ladder so long and tall
If you ain’t got God you surely fall,  
Seem like everybody in this whole wide world  
Is down on me.

Well, Satan mad and I so glad  
Miss that soul he thought he had,  
Seem like everybody in this whole wide world  
Is down on me.

Down on me, Lord, down on me  
Oh well my Lord  
Seem like everybody in this whole wide world  
Is down on me.

23. **This Train (Bound for Glory)** Big Bill Broonzy 2:59

This train is bound for glory, this train (3x)  
Don't ride nothin' but the righteous and the holy  
This train is bound for glory, this train.

This train don't carry no gamblers, this train (3x)  
No midnight ramblers – no bar fliers  
This train is bound for glory, this train.

This train is built for speed now, this train (3x)  
Fastest train you ever did see now.  
This train is bound for glory, this train.

This train don't carry no liars, this train (3x)  
No hypocrites and no bar fliers.  
This train is bound for glory, this train.

This train is solid black now, this train (3x)  
Where it carry you don’t come back.  
This train is bound for Glory, this train.

This train don't pay no transportation (3x)  
No Jim Crow and no discrimination.  
This train is bound for glory, this train.

This train don't carry no white or black, this train (3x)  
Everybody ride it is treated just alike.  
This train is bound for glory, this train.

This train is bound for glory, this train (3x)  
Don't ride nothin' but the righteous and the holy  
This train is bound for glory, this train.