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For further information contact the Workers Organizing Resource Centre 947-2220

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The MGEU is pleased to support MayWorks 2012.



Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union

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The Workers Organizing Resource Centre

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WELCOME TO THIS YEAR'S MAYWORKS FESTIVAL

Changing the world not only requires action it also requires culture which inspires the struggles for that change. For this reason culture plays an important role in social and political movements. Not surprisingly some of the most well known examples also come from the particular struggles labour and unions have waged.

MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts is dedicated to exploring culture that reflects the progressive movement for social change. We are pleased to present the events in MayWorks 2012 and this programme book with its dedication to some of those "working class heroes".

You will see in the pages of this programme some examples, from many parts of the world, of those who have dedicated their lives to expressing through art the need for change. Without exception all of them also engaged as activists in various movements.

At a time when the world faces economic crisis, and an effort to turn back the clock on social gains, it is timely to remind ourselves of those who through their art and activism move forward the struggle for social justice and do not accept the status quo.

This is the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Woody Guthrie and so it is significant that MayWorks recognize his importance as one of the pre-eminent progressive cultural workers of the 20th Century. During his life he linked his music and writing with the struggles of the people and for this reason his work continues to have meaning and significance even today.

Whatever your interest we invite you to come and participate in the events that are part this year's MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts.

Glenn Michalchuk, MayWorks President

Micholekut.



2012 MAYWORKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

NATIONAL DAY OF **MOURNING- SAFE WORKERS** OF TOMORROW ANNUAL LEADERS' WALK

11:45 am

28 SAT

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING- MFL **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** 10:00 am

p4

29 SUN

TO LIFE! A CELEBRATION OF UKRAINIAN AND JEWISH **SONGS AND DANCES**

2:00 pm

n4

MAY

AN AFTERNOON WITH NOAM

2:00 pm MAY DAY MARCH

MEET AT 5:30, MARCH AT 6:00 pm

SIX POETS IN SEARCH OF A **NEW LITERARY MOVEMENT** 7:00 pm

MAYDAY BANQUET Cocktails at 6:00 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm

12 SAT

FESTIVAL OF MANDOLINS 8:00 pm

26 SAT

9:00 pm

13 SUN

SPRING CONCERT 2:00 pm

p6

THURS

WOODY GUTHRIE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

8:00 pm

WINNIPEG WORKER CO-OP VIDEO SERIES PREMIERE

8:00-11:00 pm

p6

25 FRI

VICTORIA PARK **FUNDRAISER CABARET**

5:30 pm doors, 6:00 pm dinner

PINK RIBBONS INC. 9:00 pm

MAYWORKS PICNIC FOR INNER CITY YOUTH

PINK RIBBONS INC. **p7**

12:00-4:00 pm

"MIKE'S BLOODY SATURDAY" GENERAL STRIKE DOCUMENTARY FILM 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm

SUN

"MIKE'S BLOODY SATURDAY" **WALKING TOUR**

1:00, 2:00, 3:00 & 4:00 pm

PINK RIBBONS INC. 9:00 pm

WED ALL OR NOTHING A PLAY BY BRUCE SARBIT ma 00:8

THURS ALL OR NOTHING A PLAY BY BRUCE SARBIT mq 00:8

JUNE

ALETA DEY: A REHEARSAL A PLAY BY DALE LAKEVOLD 8:00 pm

ALL OR NOTHING A PLAY BY BRUCE SARBIT

ALETA DEY: A REHEARSAL A PLAY BY DALE LAKEVOLD

3:00 pm & 8:00 pm



2012 MAYWORKS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

National Day of Mourning-SAFE Workers of Tomorrow Annual Leaders' Walk



APRIL 27TH, 11:45 AM

Depart from Union Centre entrance, 275 Broadway

FREE EVENT

HOST ORGANIZATION: SAFE Workers

A youth-led march to honour the National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. This year's march will head to the site of the Museum for Human Rights at the Forks. **Contact:** Marjorie Jenkins, 992-2988

National Day of Mourning-MFL Candlelight Service



APRIL 28TH, 10:00 AM

Room 2C, Union Centre, 275 Broadway

FREE EVENT

HOST ORGANIZATION: Manitoba Federation of Labour

A candlelight service to remember those who have lost their lives earning a living, and those who have become disabled from work.

Contact: Jean-Guy Bourgeois, 953-2563

TO LIFE! A celebration of Ukrainian and Jewish songs and dances

APRIL 29TH, 2:00 PM

Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard Ave. and McGregor St.

\$15. Tickets can be purchased at 595 Pritchard Ave. (call first 589-4397)

HOST ORGANIZATION: Association of United Ukrainian Canadians

This concert is a celebration of common heritage of two groups who immigrated from the 'Old Country' (Eastern Europe) to the 'New World' (Canada). It features the Festival Ukrainian Folk Choir, the North End Jewish Folk Choir, Prystuk Dancers and others.

May Day March



MAY 1ST. MEET AT 5:30, MARCH AT 6:00PM

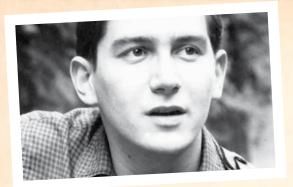
Assemble at City Hall

FREE EVENT

HOST ORGANIZATION: Winnipeg Labour Council (942-0522)

The annual May Day March is organized by the Winnipeg Labour Council in recognition of International Working Class Day. This year's march comes as the drive for austerity takes its toll on social programs, workers livelihoods and pensions. Come and be part of May Day. Join together to say: "We Are Entitled to Prosperity Not Austerity".

WORKING CLASS HEROES



PHIL OCHS

DECEMBER 19, 1940- APRIL 9, 1976

American topical singer and songwriter

His anthology of work led him to venues such as New York City's Town Hall and Carnegie Hall, but Ochs also frequently performed at political rallies, anti- Vietnam war protests and riots. Ochs is remembered not only for his humanism and political activism, but also for his sharp wit and sardonic humour.



An afternoon with Noam



MAY 1ST, 2:00 PM

A-Zone Co-op, 91 Albert Street

HOST ORGANIZATIONS: Mondragon Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Rudolf Rocker Cultural Centre & CKUW 95.9 FM

Get your May Day started right, with Legendary activist, professor, writer & all round outstanding citizen or the world Noam Chomsky. Via the interweb & video Noam will inspire Winnipeg activists with this May Day lecture.

Six Poets in Search of a New Literary Movement



WEDNESDAY, MAY 2ND, 7:00PM

McNally Robinson Booksellers (in the atrium), 1120 Grant Avenue

FREE EVENT

A unique event combining theatre and poetry: new and selected work from the New Festival Theory group of poets of Ron Romanowski's *Big Book of Canadian Poetry* as performed by the author with Nurit Drory, John H. Baillie, Cheryl Kives, Liliana Romanowski and Stan Rossowski

Mayday Banquet



The Fort Garry Hotel

\$30. To reserve tickets call Ken at 479-8089

Dinner and a political/cultural programme and dance. Cash Bar.

Festival of Mandolins



MAY 12TH, 8:00 PM

Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard Ave. and McGregor St.

\$15 call 589-4397

HOST ORGANIZATION: Association of United Ukrainian Canadians

The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians celebrated its 90th Anniversary in 2011. Manitoba's oldest orchestra, predating the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, performs at the Ukrainian Labour Temple under the direction of Annis Kozub. The ensemble will present "Festival of Mandolins" an evening of music set in the historic Ukrainian Labour Temple.

WORKING CLASS HEROES



PAUL ROBESON

APRIL 9 1898- JANUARY 23, 1976

American concert singer, recording artist, actor, athlete and scholar

Known internationally for his vocal talent;
Robeson used his fame to speak out against the lack of progress in the civil rights movement in the United States. He also publicly supported the Soviet Union and its people at the outset of the Cold War. During the age of McCarthyism, these sentiments compromised his career and isolated him from further activism.



WORKING CLASS HEROES



JOAN BAEZ

(BORN JOAN CHANDOS BAEZ)

BORN JANUARY 9, 1941

American folk singer, songwriter and activist

In 2011 she was awarded with the Amnesty International Joan Baez Award for her passion and dedication to human rights. Her support of civil rights, anti-Vietnam & Iraq war, pro-gay rights and anti-death penalty sentiments inspire her writing and performances.

Spring Concert

MAY 13TH, 2:00 PM

Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard Ave. and McGregor St.

\$15 call 589-4397

HOST ORGANIZATION: Association of United Ukrainian Canadians

The AUUC's spring concert features the Festival Choir, Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, the AUUC School of Folk Dance and the Yunist Dancers in their final concert of the year

Woody Guthrie's 100th Birthday Party



West End Cultural Centre

HOST ORGANIZATION: MayWorks

The songs and stories of America's tuning fork Woodrow Wilson Guthrie as presented by leading and less known lights of Winnipeg's brilliant folk music community including The Magnificent Sevens, Sweet Alibi, Nathan Rogers, JD Edwards and Leonard Podolak. Woody Guthrie documented the struggles of working class people and his body of work is unparalleled. The concert will feature his best known and most lyrically and musically beautiful songs and some of his best stories and recitations.

Winnipeg Worker Co-op Video Series Premiere

MAY 20TH, 8:00-11:00PM

Park Theatre, 698 Osborne Street \$10 tickets available at Mondragon, Organic Planet and cvwc@rocketmail.com

HOST ORGANIZATION: Co-op Ventures Worker Co-op

Financial support provided by Assiniboine Credit Union

The Winnipeg Worker Co-op Video Series features seven co-ops, their members and their reasons for choosing this model to explore and promote workplace democracy.

What are the joys and challenges of being a worker/owner? How were they let down by traditional workplace structures? How can this alternative business ownership model change the world? Videos include Organic Planet, Natural Cycle Courier, Mondragon, ANAK, Ram Wools, Urban Eatin' and Enviro-Safe Cleaning.

The evening will also feature performances by longtime folksinger Bobby Stahr and other local musicians.



Victoria Park Fundraiser Cabaret





MAY 25TH, 5:30 PM DOORS, 6:00 PM DINNER

Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard Ave. and McGregor St.

\$35/person or \$20/student tickets available at Mondragon (91 Albert St.) or Social Planning Council (207 Donald St.). Table prices available by request.

HOST ORGANIZATION: Friends of Victoria Park

This 1900 style cabaret reminiscent of the Winnipeg General Strike era will feature a buffet supper and entertainment by magician Joe Kaufert and The Lindsay White Band. The evening will also feature an update on the progress to create a heritage site. Student projects from the Faculty of Architecture exploring what a heritage site might look like will also be on display. This exciting event is part of building a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Strike in 2019. Proceeds go to establishing a heritage site to commemorate the Strike, its importance, the early laborers and the park where they rallied.

PINK RIBBONS INC.



Cinematheque, Artspace Building

HOST ORGANIZATION: Cinematheque

Breast cancer has become the poster child of cause-related marketing campaigns. Countless people walk, run and shop for the cure. Each year, millions of dollars are raised in the name of breast cancer, but where does this money go and what does it actually achieve? Directed by Léa Pool and produced by Ravida Din, *Pink Ribbons, Inc.* is a feature documentary that shows how the devastating reality of breast cancer, which marketing experts have labeled a "dream cause," has become obfuscated by a shiny, pink story of success. Run Time: 97 min

WORKING CLASS HEROES



NINA SIMONE

(BORN EUNICE KATHLEEN WAYMON)

FEBRUARY 21, 1933- APRIL 21, 2003

American pianist, vocalist, songwriter and civil rights activist

Her repertoire of music was pivotal in the US civil rights movement and included "Mississippi Goddamn" in response to the bombing of a church in Alabama which killed four black children, "Old Jim Crow" about segregation in the south and "Four Women" in reaction to four stereotypes of African American Women.



WOODROW WILSON "WOODY" GUTHRIE

JULY 14, 1912 - OCTOBER 3, 1967 AMERICAN SINGER-SONGWRITER AND FOLK MUSICIAN

A FOLK SONG IS WHAT'S WRONG AND HOW TO FIX IT OR IT COULD BE WHO'S HUNGRY AND WHERE THEIR MOUTH IS OR WHO'S OUT OF WORK AND WHERE THE JOB IS OR WHO'S BROKE AND WHERE THE MONEY IS OR WHO'S CARRYING A GUN AND WHERE THE PEACE IS. -WG



Woody Guthrie's musical career sings across radio waves, countries and generations. Having lived through some of the most significant historic movements and events of the Twentieth-Century –the Great Depression, the Great Dust Storm, World War II, the social and the political upheavals resulting from Unionism, the Communist Party and the Cold War – Woody absorbed it all to become a prolific writer whose songs, ballads, prose and poetry captured the plight of every person.

His music career began as necessity. Driven away by the depression and drought in Oklahoma in the 1930s, Woody headed west in search of money to support his wife and three children. He painted signs and sang at local bars, providing respite to other displaced "Okies". When he landed a job at a local radio station he developed a talent for controversial social commentary and criticism on topics ranging from corrupt politicians, to the humanist principles of Jesus Christ, and to the union organizers who were fighting for the rights of migrant workers like himself in California. He developed a reputation as a hard-hitting advocate for truth, fairness and justice who often performed with the slogan "This Machine Kills Fascists" on his guitar.

Unable to stay in one place for too long, Woody picked up again, this time for New York City. He was quickly embraced for his musical authenticity by leftist organizations, intellectuals and artists. This group included Pete Seeger, with whom Woody created a closely knit group called the Almanac Singers. They took up social causes like union organizing, Fascism and peace through political protests and activism. It was the Almanac Singers who first established folk music as a viable commercial genre. Original members of the Almanac Singers went on to make the Weavers, whose tremendous popularity brought Woody's songs to the larger public. Most notably they popularized his song "This Land is Your Land".

Following the success of the Almanac singers, Woody signed on to a film project in Portland, to write the score for the movie. Songs included "Roll on Columbia", "Grand Coulee Dam" and "The Biggest Thing That Man Has Done". His vagabond lifestyle took a tole on his home life and ended his first marriage. Soon after he married a dancer from New York and returned to the Big Apple to begin his most productive artistic era. During this time he produced a staggering amount of original songs, writings, drawings, paintings, novels and prose as well as his first novel Bound for Glory, a semi-autobiographical account of his Dust Bowl years in 1943.

His passion for humanity led him to take arms in World War 2, serving as a Marine and in the Army. Woody composed hundreds of anti-Hitler, pro-war and historic ballads to rally troops such as "All you Fascists are Bound to Lose" and "The Sinking of Reuben James". It was during the war that he began work on his second novel Sea Porpoise, and was enlisted by the army to write pamphlets and articles to be distributed around the companies.

When he returned from the war to Coney Island he composed his most famous children's classics: Songs to Grow on for Mother and Child, and Work Songs to Grow On. He used child-like languages and topics in his songs such as family, friendship, responsibility and fun.

Towards the late 1940s Woody developed Huntington's Disease, which eventually robbed him of his life and talent. He was shaken by the condition and left his family to return to California, this time with his protege Ramblin' Jack Elliott. In California he married for a third time. Throughout his marriages he fathered eight children.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s many leftists and progressiveminded Americans were blacklisted, particularly in the arts and entertainment fields. The Weavers, Woody and Pete Seeger were targeted, inspiring Woody's move to Florida to help provide living space for blacklisted artists. Here he wrote his third novel Seeds of Man and composed songs with a heightened attention to racial and environmental issues.

As Huntington's disease quickly took over him, Woody took the last of his road trips back to New York where he lived out his days surrounded by friends and family, and a budding generation of young folk musicians such as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Phil Ochs, who amoung others, name Woody Guthrie as one of their greatest influences.

A month after his death on October 2, 1967, his son Arlo Guthrie released his first commercial recording of "Alice's Restaurant" which became the anti-war anthem for a new generation.

In his lifetime, Woody wrote nearly 3000 song lyrics, published two novels, created art, authored numerous publications, poems, prose, and plays and hundred of letters and news articles. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in 1997.

REFERENCES:

www.wikipedia.org www.woodyguthrie.org



WORKING CLASS HEROES



PABLO NERUDA

(BORN NEFTALI RICARDO REYES BASOALTO)

JULY 12, 1904- SEPT. 23-1973

Chilean poet, diplomat and politician

In 1971 he won the Nobel Prize for Literature. He has been called the "greatest poet of the 20th century in any language" for his ability to write in any style from erotically-charged love poems to zealous political manifestos. Neruda always wrote in green, his personal colour of hope.

Mayworks Picnic for

MIKE'S BLOODY SATURDAY **Walking Tour**



inner city youth

MAY 26TH, 12:00-4:00 PM

Freight House Park

FREE EVENT

HOST ORGANIZATION: Winnipeg Labour Council (942-0522 or wpglbr@mts.net)

Come join the Winnipeg Labour Council and celebrate May at Freight House Park with a free picnic. All children who attend will be given a draw ticket for a chance to win a new bike.

SAT MAY 26TH, 12:00 PM AND 3:00 PM

City Hall Courtyard, 510 Main Street

HOSTED BY: Danny Schur

FREE EVENT

Registration is mandatory by calling 227-1167 or via email at dannyschur@hotmail.com

Join award-winning playwright Danny Schur (the musical Strike!) as he leads you on a walking tour that examines the contradictory evidence surrounding the death of Ukrainian immigrant Mike Sokolowski on Bloody Saturday during the Winnipeg General Strike.

WORKING CLASS HEROES



PETE SEEGER

BORN MAY 3, 1919

American folk singer

After the Weavers were blacklisted, Pete Seeger reemerged as a prominent singer of protest music in support of international disarmament, civil rights and environmental causes. His lyrics are well known including "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" and "Turn, Turn, Turn!".



MIKE'S BLOODY SATURDAY General Strike Documentary Film

SUN, MAY 27TH, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 & 4:00 PM

Cinematheque, 100 Arthur Street

HOSTED BY: Danny Schur

FREE EVENT

Join award-winning playwright Danny Schur (the musical *Strike!*) for the screening of his documentary film *Mike's Bloody Saturday* a film about the Winnipeg General Strike at Cinematheque.

All or Nothing a play by Bruce Sarbit

MAY 30TH & MAY 31ST 8:00 PM, JUNE 2ND 1:00PM.

Rudolf Rocker Cultural Centre. 91 Albert Street. (\$12 at the door or in advance (204) 867-3908, lakevold@hotmail.com

HOST ORGANIZATION: Root Sky Productions

All or Nothing dramatizes the last days of Spanish philosopher, novelist, and poet Miguel de Unamuno

during the period of his house arrest in Salamanca in 1936 under the fascist Franco regime. A Winnipeg Fringe Festival hit in 2011. Remounted with Harry Nelken as Unamuno.

Run Time: 50 minutes, with Q & A to follow evening performances

Aleta Dey: A Rehearsal a play by Dale Lakevold

JUNE 1ST & 2ND 8:00PM.
JUNE 2ND 3:00PM.

Rudolf Rocker Cultural Centre. 91 Albert Street.

\$12 at the door or in advance (204) 867-3908, lakevold@hotmail.com

HOST ORGANIZATION: Root Sky Productions

The moving story of a fiercely independent young woman standing up for what she believes in: women's rights and an end to war. Adapted from the 1919 autobiographical novel *Aleta Dey* by Manitoba writer and activist Francis Marion Beynon. Featuring Tracy Penner. Run Time: 70 minutes

WORKING CLASS HEROES



DIEGO RIVERA

DECEMBER 8, 1886- NOVEMBER 24, 1957

Mexican painter

Rivera was an active communist and husband to painter Frida Kahlo. His large wall works inspired the mural movement in Mexican Art. His creations often depicted workers, and his murals decorated buildings in Mexico City, San Francisco, New York City and Detroit among others.



WORKING CLASS HEROES



JOE HILL (BORN JOEL EMMANUEL HÄGGLUND, AKA JOSEPH HILLSTRÖM)

OCTOBER 7, 1879-NOVEMBER 19, 1915

Swedish-American songwriter and cartoonist

Wrote songs that expressed harsh, but combative life of itinerant workers and the necessity of organizing to improve conditions for working people including "There is Power in a Union", "Rebel Girl" and "Casey Jones- the Union Scab".



BILLY HOLIDAY (BORN ELEANORA FAGAN)

APRIL 7, 1915- JULY 17, 1959)

American Songwriter and Jazz Vocalist

1939 she performed the haunting

"Strange Fruit" by Abel Meeropol, which has been dubbed the original protest song. It depicted lynching in all of its brutality and articulated growing awareness and anger that largely impacted the rise of the mass civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

WEAVERS

1947-1964

American folk music quartet

American ballads, children's songs and labour songs were all included in the quartets repertoire. Their hard-driving stringband style catapulted the folk boom of the 1950s. The music exposed listeners to idealistic social commentary such as "This land is your land", " If I had a hammer" and " Wasn't that a time". Because of the group's left wing sympathies they were blacklisted. It was a transient ensemble and included many members through the years including Pete Seeger, Ronnie Gilbert, Erik Darling, Lee Hays and Fred Hellerman.



HOLLY NEAR

BORN JUNE 6, 1949

American vocalist

Her career is marked by her unwillingness to separate her passion for music from her belief in human

dignity. Choosing music that challenged social conditions in the world community and integrated global consciousness, Near became an ambassador for peace.

THE TRAVELLERS

1953-1980

Canadian folk band

When the Travellers began playing together at Camp Naivelt, a Jewish socialist vacation community, they were encouraged by Pete Seeger to pursue a professional and politically active career. Little did they know that their extensive repertoire including children's songs and protest songs would earn them five specials on Canadian Television, a tour across the Soviet Union in a Canadian-USSR cultural exchange and a spot performing for the Queen in her 1964 tour of Canada. The Travellers career spanned three decades and they are best known for their rendition of a Canadian version of This Land is Your Land with lyrics that reference Canadian geography.

EDGAR "YIP" YIPSEL HARBURG

APRIL 8, 1896- MARCH 5, 1981

American popular song lyricist

Yip Harburg is recognized not only for his contributions to classics such as Wizard of Oz but also for his book musicals with social messages including Bloomer Girl (about women's rights activist Amelia Bloomer) and Finian's Rainbow (perhaps the first Broadway musical with a racially integrated chorus line, featuring Harburg's "When the Idle Poor Become the Idle Rich"). Harburg supported the 1948 presidential campaign of Henry Wallace, by writing the campaign song "Everyone Likes Wallace, Friendly Henry Wallace." From about 1951 to 1962, Yip Harburg was a victim of the Hollywood blacklist for actual or suspected involvement or sympathy with the American Communist Party.

ALSO OF NOTE: OSCAR BRAND, MICHAEL MOORE, SERGEI EISENSTEIN, RONNIE GILBERT AND UTAH PHILLIPS



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THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

by Woody Guthrie

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
I saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me.

I roamed and I rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
While all around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving
and the dust clouds rolling
A voice was chanting, As the fog was lifting,
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking I saw a sign there And on the sign it said "No Trespassing." But on the other side it didn't say nothing, That side was made for you and me.

Nobody living can ever stop me,
As I go walking that freedom highway;
Nobody living can ever make me turn back
This land was made for you and me.

In the squares of the city, In the shadow of a steeple;
By the relief office, I'd seen my people.
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking,
Is this land made for you and me?

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me



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