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, Kev’ Mo’, All 4 One, Little Richard, Buddy Guy, Robert junior Lockwood, James Cotton, Dionne Warwick, Randy Travis, Willie Nelson, Kathy Mattea, Dwight Yoakum, Mark Knopfer, 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'Connel, 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
Chet 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
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“Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring”
Written by Johann Sebastian Bach
Performed by Pete Seeger on a recording from Darley Core and Goofing-Off Suite
SF40018
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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 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  
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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
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Performed by Elizabeth Cotten
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“We Shall Overcome”
Written by Zilphia Horton, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan and Pete Seeger
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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”