

RADICAL CAROLS – A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO CAROL GAY

September 21, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Reformed Church of Highland Park, 19 So. 2d Ave., Highland Park, NJ

The Solidarity Singers of the New Jersey State Industrial Union Council

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CAROL MEDLEY

New lyrics by Bennet Zurofsky (2012)

A Capella, first note: D

I.

(tune: Joy to the World)

Joy to the world!

Carol Gay is here

To lead us in our fight!

The fight for higher wages

Has been with us for ages

But with Carol leading the way

We'll have our victory day

And workers throughout the land will all
rejoice!

II.

(tune: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

Its time for workers to unite

To fight the one percent

And organize 'gainst corporate greed

The ninety nine percent

Carol's among the leaders

Of the fight we all must lead

As we all organize 'gainst corporate greed,

Corporate greed

As we all organize 'gainst corporate greed!

III.

(tune: Come All Ye Faithful)

Come brothers, come sisters

Come join us in the struggle

Against corporations and plutocracy

Come on out and picket

Rally, lobby, organize

Join Carol in the struggle,

Join Carol in the struggle,

Join Carol in the struggle

And we will prevail!

IV.

(tune: Good King Wenceslas)

Carol Elaine Gay went out

To organize progressives.

Doubters they were all about

With their second guesses

But she kept on keeping on

Working many hours

And when the fight came to an end

Victory was ours!

UNION MAID

Tune: Redwing

Lyrics: Woody Guthrie, 1946 (Verse 3: Ginny Hildebrand; Verse 4: Cappie Israel)

Key C

There once was a Union maid Who never
was afraid
Of goons and ginks and Company finks
Or deputy sheriffs who made the raids.
She went to the union hall,
When a meeting it was called,
And when the Company boys came 'round,
She always stood her ground.

Chorus:

Oh, you can't scare me;
I'm stickin' to the Union.
I'm stickin' to the Union;
I'm stickin' to the Union.
Oh, you can't scare me;
I'm stickin' to the Union.
I'm stickin' to the Union
'Til the day I die.

This Union maid was wise
To the tricks of the Company spies.
She'd never be fooled by the Company
 stools;
She'd always organize the guys.
She always got her way,
When she struck for higher pay.
She'd show her card to the National Guard,
And this what she'd say:

Chorus

Now union maids are found
In coal mines underground
Climbing to new heights
On construction sites
And they'll never keep us down
In offices and schools
We'll redefine those rules
Working everyday
Toward comparable pay
And with union men we say

Chorus

You women who want to be free,
Take a little tip from me.
Break out of that mold we've all been sold;
We've got a fighting history.
The fight for women's rights,
With labor must unite.
Like Mother Jones, move those bones
To the front of every fight.

Chorus

IMAGINE

By John Lennon (1971)

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people living for today

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people living life in peace, you

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people sharing all the world, you

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

HAVE YOU BEEN TO JAIL FOR JUSTICE?

By Anne Feeney

Key: C (one guitar plays G position chords with capo on fifth fret)

Maybe it was César Chávez, maybe it was Carol Gay.
Maybe it was Dr. King or Gandhi sent you on your way.
No matter who your mentors are, it's mighty plain to see,
If you've been to jail for justice, you're in good company.

Chorus:

Have you been to jail for justice? I want to shake your hand.
'Cause sitting in and lying down are ways to make a stand.
Have you sung a song for freedom? Have you marched that picket line?
If you've been to jail for justice, then you're a friend of mine.

You law-abiding citizens, come listen to my song:
Laws are made by people, and people can be wrong.
Once unions were against the law, but slavery was fine.
Women were denied the vote, and children worked the mines.
The more you study history, the less you can deny it:
A rotten law stays on the books, 'til folks with guts defy it.

Chorus

The laws were meant to serve us, and so are the police,
But when the system fails, it's time for us to speak our piece.
It takes eternal vigilance for justice to prevail,
So have the courage of your convictions! Let them haul you off to jail!

Final Chorus:

Have you been to jail for justice? I want to shake your hand.
'Cause sitting in and lying down are ways to make a stand.
Have you sung a song for freedom? Have you marched that picket line?
Have you've been to jail for justice?
Will you go to jail for justice?
If you've been to jail for justice, then you're a friend of mine.

MAY THE WORK THAT I HAVE DONE SPEAK FOR ME

Music by Sullivan S. Pugh; words adapted by the Freedom Song Network Group, et al.

Key: C

May the work that I have done speak for me.

May the work that I have done speak for me.

If I fall short of my goal, someone else will take a hold.

May the work that I have done speak for me.

May the union I helped build . . .

May the friends that I have made . . .

May the people I have loved . . .

May the movements I helped build . . .

May the work that I have done . . .

WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

Adaptation of traditional African-American Hymn based on Psalm 1:3 Key: G

Chorus: (sing after each verse)

We shall not, we shall not be moved.

We shall not, we shall not be moved.

Just like a tree that's standing by the water,

We shall not be moved.

Carol was our leader, we shall not be moved.

Carol was our leader, we shall not be moved.

Just like a tree that's standing by the water,

We shall not be moved.

We stand for union power . . .

We stand for peace and justice . . .

We're fighting for our planet . . .

We'll build a mighty movement . . .