

Movement for the Abolition of War

SONGS WITH 'AN ATTITUDE' ABOUT WAR AND INJUSTICE

A list of recommended songs with discography compiled by Tony Kempster and Sue Gilmurray for use in education and campaigning

INTRODUCTION

Songs expressing a message about peace and justice have always played a part in protest and campaigning, being performed at demonstrations and witnesses. Many have entered the popular music genre particularly when written or performed by well-known artists, and some have become standards.

Since such songs often challenge the way civil societies are run and the conduct of international relations - often putting forward more just and humane alternatives - they can be valuable tools in education, particularly in Citizenship. The best songs spring from deeply held convictions and express viewpoints vividly. They can be inspiring or provocative; a spur to the search for information; an encouragement for people to grapple with social and political questions; and also fun to listen to and perform.

The list has been compiled primarily as an aid to teachers and educationalists involved with Key Stages 3 and 4 of the National Curriculum, but we hope it will also be of interest to anyone wishing to find out more about songs for peace and justice. Some songs relevant to younger children have been included and also a few exceptional songs covering wider social issues.

If users of this list would like more assistance in finding songs or advice about their use, they are most welcome to contact either of us. It may also be possible to organise visits to schools or arrange for singers to perform at demonstrations and conferences. We also run workshops at occasional conferences for teachers organised by the Peace Education Network (see the Movement for the Abolition of War website for dates).

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STRUCTURE OF THE LIST

The list is essentially an annotated discography organised in alphabetical order by the title of the song. This gives the names of the singer-songwriter (as appropriate), a brief outline of the content of the song and the album on which it is performed.

Songbooks which include the words and music and/or guitar chords for some of the songs are also listed.

But first as an aid to the user, some recommended songs relating to particular issues are listed. (These songs are also included in the discography where other details are given.) The issues are as follows.

- A. The nature of violence.
- B. War and its causes.
- C. The impact of war on ordinary people's lives.
- D. About the soldiers.
- E. About the conscientious objectors and anti-war activists.
- F. Militarism and the international arms trade.
- G. Terrorism.
- H. Alternatives to war and military conflict.
- I. Reconciliation after conflict
- J. Songs to 'fire the heart' and encourage peacemaking.

THE ISSUES

A. THE NATURE OF VIOLENCE. Where does it come from? Is it intrinsic to human nature? How does it affect us emotionally?

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended.

Fragile by Sting *

A valuable song which refers to our vulnerability in the face of violence. It can be used effectively to stimulate discussion on the personal impact of conflict and terrorism.

Monsters by Leon Rosselson *

A song about the psychology of President George W. Bush and those who use force to solve disputes.

Out of the clear blue sky by John Lester **

This song begins by referring to personal anger (saying that 'I didn't know that I sowed the seeds of my anger' and that 'there was always a battle for my ways'). It goes on to relate this to the anger that can lead to acts of international terrorism like the attack on the Twin Towers in New York by Al Qaeda. An excellent stimulus to discussions about international terrorism.

Still in the night by Jim Boyes *

A hard-hitting look at violence of different types, from the fire step in the trenches of the First World War to the Kop in the football stadium ('eyeing up the opposition') to the bar room brawl 'are you looking at me?'

The good in me is dead by Martyn Joseph **

An uncompromising and challenging message about a young refugee waiting at a border and looking for his family after ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. He knows that his brother has been killed and wants vengeance: 'so pass me that revolver there ... and ask me what I dread, that the good in me is dead'.

B. WAR AND ITS CAUSES. What is war? What are the causes of war and who is responsible? What weapons are involved today?

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended.

At the Elbe by Fred Small *

At the end of World War II US and Russian soldiers, advancing into Germany, met as comrades at the Elbe; yet the two armies were soon to turn their guns towards each other as the Cold War began.

Faslane by Sue Gilmurray **

The menace of the Trident nuclear missiles, housed at the naval base at Faslane, is contrasted with the scenic beauty of that region of Southern Scotland.

Shoot the enemy down by Sue Gilmurray **

Much of what children are taught in our culture undermines peace by suggesting that success should be won by ruthless destruction of the opposition, usually as retributive justice. This song questions this, especially when applied to our fellow human beings. It also acknowledges the excitement that can make violence attractive.

Scarecrow by John Tams **

War not only takes lives through direct killing but also because it destroys resources and the fabric of society by which people live. But who deserves the blame for all this?

Warlords by Fred Small **

Many wars arise as growing populations compete for natural resources. This song speaks of fighting and killing for the water and the oil we need; but we also need love and this brings the reductio ad absurdum: "We cannot kill for love."

C. THE IMPACT OF WAR ON ORDINARY PEOPLE'S LIVES. What does history tell us about the results of war? Can they be successful in their outcomes? Who benefits and who suffers (for the innocents and the refugees)?

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended.

Cranes over Hiroshima by Fred Small **

A valuable song to use at and around the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Sadako Sasaki was a child in Hiroshima who survived the atom bomb blast but died 10 years later from leukaemia. Following a Japanese tradition that holds that folding a thousand origami cranes will bring good health, she begins making paper cranes. On the base of her statue in the Hiroshima Peace Park is this inscription: 'This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world', words that form the chorus of this song.

Disadvantage by Sue Gilmurray **

A look at Iraq, reflecting on how even the decent and well-meaning can be corrupted by the nature of war, leaders, soldiers and civilians alike.

Kids by Sue Gilmurray **

Sierra Leone and Palestine are recent conflicts which have made use of children as combatants. Meanwhile, children in arms-exporting countries such as Britain and the US can enjoy fictional violence as entertainment. This is a hard-hitting song which draws the contrasts.

No man's land (or The green fields of France) by Eric Bogle **

This is one of the best-known anti-war songs. Tony Blair once said it was his favourite folksong. It tells the story of a traveller visiting a First World War cemetery and talking to one of those buried there. It speculates about how his death affected his wife and ends by pointing out that the soldier's ('your') death was in vain because the war has since 'happened again and again ...'.

Refugee By Eric Bogle *

Written to mark UN Refugee Week, this song speaks of Joseph, an eight-year old living in a dusty transit camp, 'the only home he's ever known'.

Rosemary's sister by Huw Williams *

A tale recounting the death of Rosemary's sister in the London blitz and how it affected her life.

The day before the war by Robb Johnson **

A song written about the run up to the first Gulf War. It talks about Emily, a six-year old in Britain just after Christmas, and asks what people would be doing in Baghdad at the same time.

The last ploughshare by John Conolly *

An apocalyptic vision of where the spiral of violence might lead if we do nothing to prevent conflict, with the last ploughshare beaten into swords. This is a good discussion-starter on human nature, as it shows how the adventurous spirit which has led to our greatest achievements may also be potentially disastrous.

D. ABOUT THE SOLDIERS. How do soldiers feel about war? How does it affect their lives, especially child soldiers?

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended.

First time at a war by Si Kahn *

A young American soldier injured in his first combat writes to his mother. His words maintain a naive cheerfulness: we are invited to become angry on his behalf.

Higher form of war by Sue Gilmurray **

A bomber pilot, as in recent conflicts in Serbia and Iraq, can inflict enormous damage from the air without seeing the bloodshed or soiling his own hands. In one sense he is "above" the horrors, but his awareness of this brings its own sense of guilt.

How will I ever be simple again by Richard Thompson *

A little girl plays in a war-damaged city. The soldier who sees her yearns for her innocence, but is aware that war has corrupted him.

Rich man's war by Steve Earle **

A good song which relates to three people: two US soldiers, one serving in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan; and a suicide bomber from the Gaza Strip. It describes their backgrounds and how they found themselves in these particular roles. The refrain is: 'Just another poor boy of to fight a rich man's war'.

E. ABOUT THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS AND ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS. What makes people refuse army enlistment or, if in the army, refuse to fight in some places or circumstances? How are they treated and what do they feel?

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended

Ballad of Vic Williams by Robb Johnson **

Private Vic Williams, a British soldier who refused to fight in the 1990/91 Gulf War, is possibly Britain's most recent conscientious objector. The song is based on his own account of what made him rebel.

Lock them away! They lead the way by Sue Gilmurray*

Israel's occupation of Palestine has led many soldiers and reservists to refuse military duties. The song describes five young men who were imprisoned for this, and considers their motives and the impact they may have.

The ones who said no by Sue Gilmurray **

This is a song about all those conscientious objectors who, over the years, have refused to fight in wars. It is now sung regularly at the ceremony that takes place in Tavistock Square, London on International Conscientious Objectors' Day, May 15th, to commemorate and take inspiration from all who have suffered for the right to refuse to kill.

With my hammer by Shannon Smy **

The true story of the 'Warton Four' women who damaged a British hawk jet aircraft to prevent it from being sold to Indonesia and used against civilians in East Timor. The jury who heard them plead their cause acquitted them.

F. MILITARISATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE. What are the effects of militarisation? What part does the international arms trade play in war? How is the arms trade justified? Who benefits from arms sales?

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended

Defence by Sue Gilmurray *

Defence is a reasonable idea, but it has been used as an excuse for an arms race that threatens us all. As the chorus says: 'They call it all defence: they lie.'

Lives in the balance by Jackson Browne **

An excellent anti-arms trade song telling how western countries encourage conflict by selling arms to developing countries, where desperation drives oppressed people to violence. We are reminded how governments defend the commercial interests of arms export companies, and use the media to "sell us our wars".

Masters of war by Bob Dylan **

Written in the 1960s, this is a hard and uncompromising criticism of the people responsible for war and the arms trade, who reap the profits, but only risk other people's lives.

Space for peace by Sue Gilmurray *

This is an extended play on the meaning of the word 'space', outer, inner and personal. It warns against the militarisation of space which the US's National Missile Defence would bring.

War machine rolls round by Sue Gilmurray **

This is a denunciation of how the arms industry involves workers at home in the deaths of innocent people far away. Now often sung at demonstrations.

Where is the love? by The Black-eyed Peas **

This was a hit single in 2003. It asks what is wrong with the world and sets out many of the problems including war, the arms trade and injustice. The song was used in the video/DVD, about the international arms trade, produced by children at The Royal Docks Community School, London in 2004. The video/DVD, which was entitled *Where is the love?*, can be obtained from the Campaign Against Arms Trade (020 7281 0297; www.caat.org.uk).

G. TERRORISM. What are the causes of terrorism? How should the threatened countries respond to it?

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended

Out of the clear blue sky by John Lester **

This song begins by referring to personal anger (saying that 'I didn't know that I sowed the seeds of my anger' and that 'there was always a battle for my ways'). It goes on to relate this to the anger that can lead to acts of international terrorism like the attack on the Twin Towers in New York by Al Qaeda. An excellent stimulus to discussions about international terrorism.

Rich man's war by Steve Earle **

A good song which relates to three people: two US soldiers, one serving in Iraq, the other trying to find Al-Qaeda terrorists in Afghanistan; and a suicide bomber from the Gaza Strip. It describes their backgrounds and how they found themselves in these particular roles. The refrain is: 'Just another poor boy of to fight a rich man's war'.

The rising by Bruce Springsteen *

A song about a fireman working to save people trapped in the Twin Towers disaster in New York on 11.9.

War on terror by Sue Gilmurray *

President Bush's response to September 11th is the starting-point for a claim that fighting terror with terror is counter-productive.

H. ALTERNATIVES TO WAR AND MILITARY CONFLICT. What are the non-violent alternatives for settling international disputes? To what extent are they used? Are they successful? Can war be outlawed?

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended

The tide turns by Sue Gilmurray *

Is it realistic to hope that war can be outlawed? Slavery was once almost universally accepted, but is now rejected by societies which consider themselves civilised. Why should war not go the same way?

Between the wars by Billy Bragg *

A song extolling the working-class virtues of hard work and moderation, and contrasting them with aggressive patriotism and militarism.

Last night I had the strangest dream by Ed McCurdy **

A simple and childlike vision of the whole world renouncing warfare. Is it intended as such, or is there deliberate irony in calling the laying down of arms 'the strangest dream'?

Music of healing by Tommy Sands **

An excellent and much sung song about reconciliation. The music referred to in the title is the Irish lament, and this inspirational song tells us that only by reconciliation - the learning of each other's songs - can we overcome violence. 'The heart's a wonder, stronger than the guns that thunder, even though we're torn asunder, love will come again.'

I. RECONCILIATION AFTER CONFLICT. How do we reconcile people whose lives are or have been affected by military conflict? How successful have the various methods been?

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended

Hills of Ayalon by Fred Small **

An excellent song to stimulate discussion because it refers directly to young people. There is in Israel a settlement called Oasis of Peace (in Hebrew, Neve Shalom, and in Arabic, Wahat Al-Salam) where Jews and Arabs live and work together and lead Youth Encounter Workshops where Jewish and Arab young people can learn more about each other. This song is based on an actual dialogue at one of these workshops. For further details go to <http://nswas.com>.

Music of healing by Tommy Sands **

An excellent and much sung song about reconciliation. The music referred to in the title is the Irish lament, and this inspirational song tells us that only by reconciliation - the learning of each other's songs - can we overcome violence. 'The hearts a wonder, stronger than the guns that thunder, even though we're torn asunder, love will come again.'

Teach me the way of peace by Sue Gilmurray *

This is a prayer, but addressed to our fellow humans at least as much as to God. It expresses the conviction that peace and love are not weak or passive, but can and should be strong and vibrant. Each verse ends 'and generous always'.

J. SONGS TO 'FIRE THE HEART' AND ENCOURAGE PEACEMAKING

The following songs illustrate the answers. ** Highly recommended; * Recommended

Firing of the heart by Sue Gilmurray *

'The firing of the heart' (to work for peace) is contrasted with the 'firing of the guns'

Imagine by John Lennon *

Dismissed by some as naively utopian, this is nonetheless one of the world's favourite songs: a vision of peace through brotherhood and sharing.

Not in our name by James Frost **

Set against the background of the 15th February 2003 demonstration organised by the Stop the War Coalition, when an estimated two million people marched in London against the Iraq War, this anthem simply stands against the war by saying 'Not in our name'. It also refers to the demonstrations in other European capitals.

Peace is by Fred Small **

Singing together is at the heart of folk music: the moment when we stop playing 'performer' and 'audience' and become a community, and each of us is reminded of the power within us and around us. *Peace is* is a very good singalong song about protest and suitable for all ages.

Peace will come by Tom Paxton **

A simple song combining realism - 'My own life is all I can hope to control' - with optimism - 'Peace will come: let it begin with me.'

(Something inside) so strong by Labi Siffre **

Not specifically about physical violence but this song connects the personal and the political. It was originally written about Apartheid in South Africa. In recent years it has been adopted in a number of contexts where it is important for us to hold on to our rights and our deeply held convictions.

Unity by John Tams **

A song affirming the strength gained by people campaigning together.

DISCOGRAPHY

The issues addressed by different songs are indicated by letters **A** to **J** as above.

Sources

Albums which include the songs are given in bold type. These can be obtained from record shops and libraries. Those available directly singer-songwriters or peace organisations are as follows.

- (1) CD and/or details available from Sue Gilmurray, 1 Wilford Drive, Ely CB6 1TL (s.m.gilmurray@anglia.ac.uk).
- (2) CD available from the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, 11 Weavers End, Hanslope, Milton Keynes MK19 7PA (ajkempster@aol.com).
- (3) CD entitled *Sing the music of healing* available from the Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ. The songs are performed by Mad Hatters and friends including Sue Gilmurray and Tony Kempster (www.abolishwar.freeuk.com).
- (4) CD / details available from James Frost, 23 Primrose Road, Norwich NR1 4AT (jamesfrost21@hotmail.com).

All the fine young men by Eric Bogle. Sung by Eric Bogle on *The Eric Bogle Songbook volume 2* (**CDTRAX 051**). The soldiers of both World Wars were told that their fighting would be a means to ultimate peace. This song claims that they were deceived, and death was the only peace they found. (**D**).

And the band played Waltzing Matilda by Eric Bogle. Sung by him on *Now I'm easy* (**CM CD 004**). An Australian soldier disabled at Gallipoli in World War I tells the story of his terrible experience, and wonders whether it served any purpose. (**B and D**).

Arms trader by Raised Voices (1). The song presents four pictures of lives wrecked by various weapons of war, and follows each one by imagining how the arms salesman had presented his lethal product as a desirable purchase. It was written by and for members of the Raised Voices choir. (**F**).

Arrows by Sue Gilmurray (1). Except for their colour, the much-loved Red Arrows display team fly the same Hawk fighters which Britain has sold to repressive regimes including Indonesia. This song was written to be sung at a demonstration at the Farnborough Air Show, popular family entertainment and arms fair. It asks us to face the issue honestly and is rather a rarity – a protest song that is tuneful and wistful. (A choral version is available). (**F**).

At the Elbe by Fred Small. Sung by him on *I will stand fast* (**FF 70491**). At the end of World War II US and Russian soldiers, advancing into Germany, met as comrades at the Elbe; yet the two armies were soon to turn their guns towards each other as the Cold War began. (**B**).

Ballad of Vic Williams by Robb Johnson. Sung by him on *Overnight* (**IRR027**). Private Vic Williams, a British soldier who refused to fight in the 1990/91 Gulf War, is possibly Britain's most recent conscientious objector. The song is based on his own account of what made him rebel. (**D, E**).

Between the wars by Billy Bragg. A song extolling the working-class virtues of hard work and moderation, and contrasting them with aggressive patriotism and militarism. (**H**).

Brothers in arms by Mark Knopfler. Sung by him on the video *Mark Knopfler: a night in London* (**639 146-3**). A powerful song about the friendships between soldiers developed through shared battle experience. (**D**).

Caught in the crossfire by John McCutcheon. Sung by him on *Water from another time* (**CD 11555**). A song about how the lives of innocent people living in areas of military conflict are affected by the violence. (**C**).

Cranes over Hiroshima by Fred Small. Sung by him on *No limit* (**Rounder CD 4018**). Also on (3). A valuable song to use at and around the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Sadako Sasaki was a child in Hiroshima who survived the atom bomb blast but died 10 years later from leukaemia. Following a Japanese tradition that holds

that folding a thousand origami cranes will bring good health, she begins making paper cranes. On the base of her statue in the Hiroshima Peace Park is this inscription: 'This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world', words that form the chorus of this song. (C).

Defence by Sue Gilmurray (1).

Defence is a reasonable idea, but it has been used as an excuse for an arms race that threatens us all. As the chorus says: 'They call it all defence: they lie.' (F)

Disadvantage by Sue Gilmurray (1).

A look at Iraq, reflecting on how even the decent and well-meaning can be corrupted by the nature of war, leaders, soldiers and civilians alike. (C).

Faslane by Sue Gilmurray (1). Sung by her on (3).

The menace of the Trident nuclear missiles, housed at the naval base at Faslane, is contrasted with the scenic beauty of that region of Southern Scotland. (B).

Fighting for peace by Sue Gilmurray (1).

There is an absurdity in pursuing peace by making war which seems to escape people's notice, so familiar has the idea become. Here it is set out in several ways: fighting for peace, lying for truth, killing for life - all de facto failures. (A)

Firing of the heart by Sue Gilmurray. Sung by her on *Finest hour* (APFCD 1) (2).

'The firing of the heart' (to work for peace) is contrasted with the 'firing of the guns'(J).

First time at a war by Si Kahn. Sung by him on *New Wood* (PH 1168). Also on (3).

A young American soldier injured in his first combat writes to his mother. His words maintain a naive cheerfulness: we are invited to become angry on his behalf. (D)

Fortune of soldiers by Judy Collins. Sung by her on the album *Fires of Eden* (Columbia CK46102)

A rejection of militarism and the arms trade, looking to the next generation to make the dream of peace come true. (H)

Fragile by Sting. Sung by him on *The best of Sting 1984 – 1994* (CD 540 307 2).

A valuable song which refers to our vulnerability in the face of violence. It can be used effectively to stimulate discussion on the personal impact of conflict and terrorism. (A)

Give peace a chance by John Lennon. Further information from www.lennonworld.com.

This is a song that was much sung in the mass demonstrations against the Vietnam War in Washington. (J).

Higher form of war by Sue Gilmurray (1). Also sung by her on (3).

A bomber pilot, as in recent conflicts in Serbia and Iraq, can inflict enormous damage from the air without seeing the bloodshed or soiling his own hands. In one sense he is "above" the horrors, but his awareness of this brings its own sense of guilt. (B, D)

Hills of Ayalon by Fred Small. Sung by him on *I will stand fast* (FF 70491).

An excellent song to stimulate discussion because it refers directly to young people. There is in Israel a settlement called Oasis of Peace (in Hebrew, Neve Shalom, and in Arabic, Wahat Al-Salam) where Jews and Arabs live and work together and lead Youth Encounter Workshops where Jewish and Arab young people can learn more about each other. This song is based on an actual dialogue at one of these workshops. (I).

Honour to the soldiers by Sue Gilmurray. Sung by her on *Finest hour* (APFCD 1) (2).

Prompted by Remembrance Day, this is an acknowledgement of the respect due to those who fought for honourable reasons, but a rejection of war itself, which brings suffering to the innocent. (C,D)

How will I ever be simple again by Richard Thompson. On *Martin Simpson, Band of Angels* (RHR CD 96).

A little girl plays in a war-damaged city. The soldier who sees her yearns for her innocence, but is aware that war has corrupted him.(D).

I ain't marchin' anymore by Phil Ochs. Sung by him on *Phil Ochs: there and now live in Vancouver* (R2 70778).

A 'turning away' song which relates the involvement of soldiers from the American War of Independence to Vietnam with the title refrain. (E).

If the war goes on by John Bell and Graham Maule. Words and music available from Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community. Further information from www.ionabooks.com.

The song relates what will happen 'if the war goes on': the children die, the truth is taken hostage, the daily bread is terror, the arms sales soar and so on. The final verse talks of the closing of heaven's door and asks whether we will ever be forgiven? (C).

Imagine by John Lennon. Further information from www.lennonworld.com.

Dismissed by some as naively utopian, this is nonetheless one of the world's favourite songs: a vision of peace through brotherhood and sharing.(J)

Its just a song by Leon Rosselson. Sung by him on *Raise your banners: festival of political song (RYB2001)*. This celebrates the pleasure of singing songs whatever the message: 'It's just the song, you see - the song's the thing'. (J).

Kevin Carter by R. Simpson. On *Martin Simpson, Band of Angels (RHR CD 96)*. A powerful song about the reporter who photographed a dying baby with a vulture standing by in an African aid centre (feeding camp), a photograph that received wide publicity. He committed suicide in 1994. (A).

Kids by Sue Gilmurray. Sung by her on *The way of peace CD (1)*. Sierra Leone and Palestine are recent conflicts which have made use of children as combatants. Meanwhile children in arms-exporting countries can enjoy fictional violence as entertainment. This is a hard hitting song which draws the contrasts. (C, D).

Last night I had the strangest dream by Ed McCurdy. A simple and childlike vision of the whole world renouncing warfare. Is it intended as such, or is there deliberate irony in calling the laying down of arms 'the strangest dream'? (H)

Lives in the balance by Jackson Browne. Sung by him on *Lives in the balance (Asylum Records 7559-60457-2)*. An excellent anti-arms trade song telling how western countries encourage conflict by selling arms to developing countries, where desperation drives oppressed people to violence. We are reminded how governments defend the commercial interests of arms export companies, and use the media to "sell us our wars". (F, G).

Lock them away! They lead the way by Sue Gilmurray (1). Israel's occupation of Palestine has led many soldiers and reservists to refuse military duties. The song describes five young men who were imprisoned for this, and considers their motives and the impact they may have. (E).

Malvinas by Dave Rogers. Sung by Roy Bailey on *Roy Bailey: past masters (CFCD 403)*. Also on (3). A denunciation of the Falklands war, put into the words of the young widow of one of the casualties. (C,D)

Masters of war by Bob Dylan. Further information from www.bobdylan.com. Written in the 1960s, this is a hard and uncompromising criticism of the people responsible for war and the arms trade, who reap the profits, but only risk other people's lives. (F).

Mercenaries by Leon Rosselson. Further information from www.leonrosselson.co.uk. A song about fighting for money. Leon Rosselson says 'Mercenaries are disapproved of because they kill for money and not for good patriotic reasons. And yet they are simply selling their skills in the market place that same as everyone else. There are songs where the story needs to be told in the first person to avoid finger-pointing and to understand the narrator's point of view.' (D).

Monsters by Leon Rosselson. Sung by him on *Turning silence into song (CFCD 009)*. A song about the psychology of President George W. Bush and those who use force to solve disputes. (A).

Music of healing by Tommy Sands and Pete Seeger. Sung by them on *Sarajevo to Belfast (Appleseed HDCD)*. Also on (3). An excellent and much sung song about reconciliation. The music referred to in the title is the Irish lament, and this inspirational song tells us that only by reconciliation - the learning of each other's songs - can we overcome violence. 'The heart's a wonder, stronger than the guns that thunder, even though we're torn asunder, love will come again.' (H,I andJ).

No man's land (also known as ***The green fields of France***) by Eric Bogle. Sung by him on *Eric Bogle: by request (CDTRAX 210)* and on *The Eric Bogle songbook volume 2 (CDTRAX 51)*. Also on (3). This is one of the best-known anti-war songs. Tony Blair once said it was his favourite folksong. It tells the story of a traveller visiting a First World War cemetery and talking to one of those buried there. It speculates about how his death affected his wife and ends by pointing out that the soldier's ('your') death was in vain because the war has since 'happened again and again ...'. (B, C and D).

No mas! by John McCutcheon. Sung by John McCutcheon on *Sign of the times (CD 4017)*. It was in the USA's political and economic interests to support terrorism rather than democracy in El Salvador, so that is what they did. The song condemns this, and calls on the people of both countries to demand justice. (C).

Not in our name by James Frost. Sung by him on CD (4) above. Set against the background of the 15th February 2003 demonstration organised by the Stop the War Coalition, when an estimated two million people marched in London against the Iraq War, this anthem stands against the war by saying 'Not in our name'. It also refers to the demonstrations in other European capitals. (J).

Out of the clear blue sky by John Lester. Sung by him on *Peace not war* (2002 compilation). This song begins by referring to personal anger (saying that 'I didn't know that I sowed the seeds of my anger' and that 'there was always a battle for my ways'). It goes on to relate this to the anger that can lead to acts of international terrorism like the

attack on the Twin Towers in New York by Al Qaeda. An excellent stimulus to discussions about international terrorism. (A and G).

Paper poppies by Robb Johnson. Sung by him on *The lack of jolly ploughboy* (RHYD 5004).

A good song to be used at or around the time of Remembrance Day. It starts with WWI, goes on to refer to WWII and the holocaust and ends with reference to the war against Iraq. (B).

Peace is by Fred Small. Sung by him on *Everything possible* (FF 70625).

Singing together is at the heart of folk music: the moment when we stop playing 'performer' and 'audience' and becomes a community, and each of us is reminded of the power within us and around us. *Peace is* is a very good singalong song about protest and suitable for all ages. (J)

Peace will come by Tom Paxton. Further information from www.tompaxton.com.

A simple song combining realism – 'My own life is all I can hope to control' – with optimism – 'Peace will come: let it begin with me.' (J)

Refugee by Eric Bogle. Sung by him on *Mirrors* (CDTRAX 068).

Written to mark UN Refugee Week, this song speaks of Joseph, an eight-year old living in a dusty transit camp, 'the only home he's ever known' (C)

Rich man's war by Steve Earle. Sung by him on *The revolution starts now* (RCD 17023)

A good song which relates to three people: two US soldiers, one serving in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan; and a suicide bomber from the Gaza Strip. It describes their backgrounds and how they found themselves in these particular roles. The refrain is: 'Just another poor boy of to fight a rich man's war'. (D and G).

Rosemary's sister by Huw Williams. (3).

A tale recounting the death of Rosemary's sister in the London blitz and how it affected her life. (C).

Rumours of war by Billy Bragg. Further information from www.billybragg.co.uk.

The likelihood of war casts a shadow of fear over everyday life, yet no-one seems able to halt the drift towards it. (C)

Scarecrow (also referred to as *The reaper/scarecrow/Battle of the Somme* by John Tams. Performed by Home Service on *Wild life* (Fledg'ling Records 3001).

War not only takes lives through direct killing but also because it destroys resources and the fabric of society by which people live. But who deserves the blame for all this? (B)

Season of peace by Si Khan. Sung by him on *I have seen freedom* (FF 70578). Also on (3).

The season of Christmas prompts the singer to reject the divisions which cause wars, and to call on people to work together for true peace on earth. (H,J)

Shoot the enemy down by Sue Gilmurray. Sung by her on *The way of peace* CD (1).

Much of what children are taught in our culture undermines peace by suggesting that success should be won by ruthless destruction of the opposition, usually as retributive justice. This song questions this, especially when applied to our fellow human beings. It also acknowledges the excitement that can make violence attractive. (B).

(Something inside) so strong by Labi Siffre (information awaited).

Not specifically about physical violence but this song connects the personal and the political. It was originally written about Apartheid in South Africa. In recent years it has been adopted in a number of contexts where it is important for us to hold onto our rights and our deeply held convictions. (J).

Space for peace by Sue Gilmurray (1).

This is an extended play on the meaning of the word 'space', outer, inner and personal. It warns against the militarisation of space which the US's National Missile Defence would bring. (A choral version is available.) (F).

Still in the night by Jim Boyes. Sung by him on *Passchaendale Suite* (NMCD10).

A hard-hitting look at violence of different types, from the fire step in the trenches of the First World War to the Kop in the football stadium ('eyeing up the opposition') to the bar room brawl 'are you looking at me?'. (A).

Still is the memory green in my mind by Leon Rosselson. Sung by him on *Rosselsongs* (CFCD 001).

Faced with a world devastated by war, the singer calls up his own memories of the sights, sounds and feelings that gave life beauty (C)

Strangest dream #2 by Sue Gilmurray (1). Also on (3).

Taking Ed McCurdy's 'Last night I had the strangest dream' (qv.) and turning it on its head, the singer dreams of a world where war is popular, and wakes to find that it is so. (B,C)

Streets of Sarajevo by Ray Hearne. Sung by Roy Bailey on *Business as usual* (CFCD 400).

An angry condemnation of ethnic cleansing and its attendant evils, turning ordinary people into killers in a city where no one

is safe. (C,D)

Suits in the city by Sue Gilmurray. Sung by her on *Finest hour* (APFCD 1) (2).

An attack on the respectable and prosperous businessmen of the arms trade, who profit from the suffering of others. (F)

Teach me the way of peace by Sue Gilmurray (1).

This is a prayer, but addressed to our fellow humans at least as much as to God. It expresses the conviction that peace and love are not weak or passive, but can and should be strong and vibrant. Each verse ends 'and generous always'. (I).

The day before the war by Robb Johnson. Sung by him on *Overnight* (IRR 027) and by Roy Bailey on *What you do with what you've got* (CFCD 399).

A song written about the run up to the first Gulf War. It talks about Emily, a six-year old in Britain just after Christmas, and asks what people would be doing in Baghdad at the same time. (C)

The good in me is dead by Martyn Joseph. Sung by him on *Thunder and rainbows* (PRDCD 001).

An uncompromising and challenging message about a young refugee waiting at a border and looking for his family after ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. He knows that his brother has been killed and wants vengeance: 'so pass me that revolver there ... and ask me what I dread, that the good in me is dead'.

(A and C).

The last ploughshare by John Conolly. *Performed on Band of Hope: Rhythm and Reds* (MFCD 512).

An apocalyptic vision of where the spiral of violence might lead if we do nothing to prevent conflict, with the last ploughshare beaten into swords. This is a good discussion-starter on human nature, as it shows how the adventurous spirit which has led to our greatest achievements may also be potentially disastrous. (B, C).

The ones who said no by Sue Gilmurray (1).

This is a song about all those conscientious objectors who, over the years, have refused to fight in wars. It is now sung regularly at the ceremony that takes place in Tavistock Square, London on International Conscientious Objectors, Day, May 15th, to commemorate and take inspiration from all who have suffered for the right to refuse to kill. (E).

The revolution starts now by Steve Earle. Sung by him on *The revolution starts now* (RCD 17023).

The title speaks for itself.

The rising by Bruce Springsteen. Sung by him on *The rising* (COL 508000 2).

A song about a fireman working to save people trapped in the Twin Towers in New York on 9.11 (G).

The tide turns by Sue Gilmurray. Sung by her on *The way of peace* CD (1). Also on (3).

Is it realistic to hope that war can be outlawed? Slavery was once almost universally accepted, but is now rejected by societies which consider themselves civilised. Why should war not go the same way? (H).

Till I go down by Jackson Browne. Sung by him on *Lives in the balance* (Asylum Records 7559-60457-2).

The singer resolves to expose the dirty politics behind war. (J).

Unity by John Tams. Sung by him on *Unity* (TSCD508).

A song affirming the strength gained by people campaigning together. (J).

War machine rolls round by Sue Gilmurray. Sung by her *Finest hour* (APFCD 1) (2).

This is a denunciation of how the arms industry involves workers at home in the deaths of innocent people far away. Now often sung at demonstrations. (F).

War on terror by Sue Gilmurray. (1)

President Bush's response to September 11th is the starting-point for a claim that fighting terror with terror is counter-productive. (G)

Warlords by Fred Small. Sung by him on *Jaguar* (FF 70570).

Many wars arise as growing populations compete for natural resources. This song speaks of fighting and killing for the water and the oil we need; but we also need love and this brings the reductio ad absurdum: "We cannot kill for love." (B).

When the wind blows by Eric Bogle. Sung by him on *The Eric Bogle songbook, volume 1* (CDTRAX 051)

A chilling song inspired by Raymond Briggs's book depicting the aftermath of nuclear war. (C)

Where is the love? by The Black-eyed Peas. Sung by the group on *Elephunk* (A&M Records 0602 4988606377).

This was a hit single in 2003. It asks what is wrong with the world and sets out many of the problems including war, the arms trade and injustice. The song was used in the video, about the international arms trade, produced by children at The Royal Docks Community School, London in 2004. The video, which was entitled *Where is the love?*, can be obtained from the Campaign Against Arms Trade (020 7281 0297; www.caat.org.uk). (F).

Where's the enemy by Leon Rosselson. Sung by him on *Where are the elephants?* (CFCD 002). Also on (3).

With joyous irreverence, the singer finds out that the enemies he was told to hate and fear are only people like himself, and his real enemy is the commander who tells him to hate and fear. (B)

With God on our side by Bob Dylan. Further information from www.bobdylan.com. Affecting at first to believe it, the singer effectively demolishes the belief that God is always on 'our' side in any given conflict. (B)

Winter turns to spring by Robb Johnson. Sung by him on *Overnight* (IRR027). Not only does it speak of the 'Prague Spring' but also how the political situation changes with the cycle of war, repression and revolution starting with World War II. The refrain goes 'You have to know the difference between the roundabouts and swings. No matter what the distance, winter turns to spring' (C).

With my hammer by Shannon Smy. Performed by Seize the Day on *It's your life it's our words* (WILD CD 19801). The true story of the "Warton Four", women who damaged a British hawk jet aircraft to prevent it from being sold to Indonesia and used against civilians in East Timor. The jury who heard them plead their cause acquitted them. (E)

SONGS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Everything possible by Fred Small. Sung by him on the CD *Everything possible* (FF 70625). This is an excellent song to be sung to young children. It talks of a parent singing to a child before going to sleep. The chorus goes: 'You can be anybody you want to be, you can love whomever you will And the only measure of your words and deeds will be the love you leave behind when you're done'. (J)

The king of the castle by Colum Sands. Sung by Roy Bailey on *Up the wooden hill* (CFCD 170201). This is based on the children's song game about the king and the dirty rascal. It is about justice and fairness and ends with the lines: 'And others say they fear that there'll always be bangs-o, as long as some eat all, while others must go hungry-o'. (B).

The peace dragon by Fred Small. Sung by him on *Fred Small No Limit* (Rounder CD 4018). This song tells of the peace dragon that eats missiles and nuclear submarines. The last verse goes 'Children wave and shout hello when it flies overhead. It calls to people, 'Please don't fight but think and talk instead''. (I).

SONGBOOKS THAT INCLUDE SOME OF THE SONGS ABOVE

Songbooks by particular singers

Eric Bogle, 1996. **Eric Bogle songs: book one**. London, Wise Publications. Includes *And the band played Waltzing Matilda* and *When the wind blows*.

Eric Bogle, 1996. **Eric Bogle songs: book two**. London, Wise Publications. Includes *All the fine young men*, *No man's land – The green fields of France*, *Refugee*.

Bob Dylan, 1992. **Bob Dylan: greatest hits**. New York, Amasco Publications. Includes *Masters of war*.

Sue Gilmurray, 1999. **Finest hour: songs for peacemakers**. Ely, Mightier Pen Music. Includes *War machine* and *Firing of the heart*.

Si Kahn, 1990. **Si Kahn songbook**. Milwaukee, Hal Leonard Publishing Co. Includes *First time at war* and other songs.

John McCutcheon, 1989. **Water from another time: music from John McCutcheon**. Milwaukee, Hal Leonard Publishing Co. Includes *Caught in the crossfire*, *No mas!*

Leon Rosselson, 1992. **Bringing the news from nowhere**. London, Fuse Records. This includes 125 songs written during the three decades to about 1989, including songs referred to in the section above.

Leon Rosselson, 2003. **Turning silence into song**. London, Fuse Records. This collection gathers up songs written since 1989. It includes *Still is the memory clear in my mind* and *Where's the enemy*

Peggy Seeger, 1998. **The Peggy Seeger songbook**. New York, Oak Publications. All her songs written over a 40 year period. The book has a section on nuclear weapons including the chilling *Four-minute warning*.

Pete Seeger, 1993. **Where have all the flowers gone: a singer's stories, songs, seeds, robberies**. Bethlehem PA, Sing Out. Includes most of his songs.

Fred Small, 1986. **Breaking the line**. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Yellow Moon Press. Includes *At the Elbe*, *Cranes over Hiroshima* and *The peace dragon*.

Fred Small, 1994. **Promises worth keeping**. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Yellow Moon Press. Includes *The Hills of Ayalon*, *Warlords* and *Peace is*.

Tim Wallis, 2000. **Bold songs for peace**. Available from the Culture of Peace Committee, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DD. The book comprises 18 songs including yet another version of *Last night I had the strangest dream*, this one entitled *Last night I had another dream*.

General songbooks that include peace songs

Peter Blood and Annie Patterson (editors), 1992. **Rise up singing: the group singing songbook**. Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A Sing Out Publication. This includes the words, chords and sources of some 1200 songs. It is an excellent source book for songs for which people know the tune but not the words. There is a section on peace songs including *I ain't marchin' anymore* by Phil Ochs; *Johnny I hardly knew you* (traditional); *Last night I had the strangest dream* by Ed McCurdy; *Universal Soldier* by Buffy Sainte-Marie.

David Gadsby and John Hoggarth (editors), **Alleluya!: 77 songs for thinking people**. Included here are many of the peace songs we all remember, for example: *Blowin in the wind* by Bob Dylan; *Where have all the flowers gone?* by Pete Seeger; *Let there be peace on earth* by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson.; *Last night I had the strangest dream* by Ed McCurdy.

Sheffield Socialist Choir, 1999. **With one voice**. Sheffield, Sheffield Socialist Choir. Not really a book about war and peace, but about protest. However, it does include some excellent settings of *Lives in the balance* by Jackson Browne and of *(Something inside) so strong* by Labi Siffri.

Ajk/smg 1.9.05