

# Sing It: A Biography of Pete Seeger, the Legendary Folk Singer and Activist



## Sing It!: A Biography of Pete Seeger by Muriel Harris Weinstein

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled  
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Pete Seeger, the legendary folk singer, activist, and environmentalist, is an iconic figure in American history. Known for his powerful voice, inspiring lyrics, and unwavering commitment to social justice, Seeger played a pivotal role in shaping the folk music revival of the 1950s and 1960s, and his music continues to resonate with people around the world today.

## **Early Life and Musical Beginnings**

Pete Seeger was born on May 3, 1919, in New York City. His father, Charles Seeger, was a prominent musicologist and composer, and his mother, Constance de Clyver Seeger, was a concert violinist. From an early age, Pete was immersed in music, and he began playing the banjo at the age of five. As a teenager, he became involved in the folk music scene in Greenwich Village, where he met and befriended other young folk singers, including Woody Guthrie and Alan Lomax.

## **The Folk Music Revival**

In the 1940s and 1950s, Seeger played a central role in the folk music revival. He helped to organize concerts and festivals, and he wrote and recorded some of the most iconic folk songs of the era, including "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?," "Turn! Turn! Turn!," and "If I Had a Hammer." Seeger's music was inspired by the social and political issues of the day, and he used his platform to speak out against war, poverty, and injustice.

## **Activism and Social Justice**

Throughout his life, Seeger was an outspoken activist for a wide range of social justice causes. He was a strong advocate for civil rights, labor rights, and environmental protection. He participated in the March on Washington in 1963, and he was a vocal opponent of the Vietnam War. Seeger's

activism often brought him into conflict with the authorities, and he was arrested and blacklisted on several occasions.

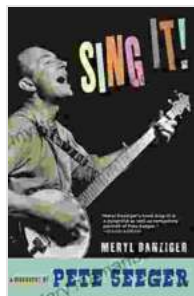
## Environmentalism

In his later years, Seeger became increasingly involved in environmental activism. He was a founding member of the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the Hudson River. He also wrote and performed songs about environmental issues, such as "The Big Muddy" and "Bring Back the Whales."

## Later Years and Legacy

Pete Seeger continued to perform and record music until his death in 2014 at the age of 94. He received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to music and activism, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994. Seeger's legacy lives on through his music, his activism, and his inspiration to generations of musicians and activists.

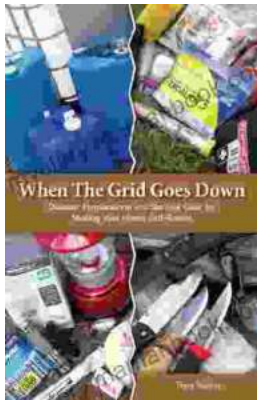
Pete Seeger was a true American icon. Through his music and his activism, he touched the lives of millions of people and helped to make the world a better place. His songs continue to inspire and uplift us today, and his legacy as a singer, activist, and environmentalist will live on for generations to come.



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