

# Campaigning choirs singing together

NHS in Crisis- Fix it Now!

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

We are people from Raised Voices and other political choirs.

For contact and information:  
[www.raised-voices.org.uk](http://www.raised-voices.org.uk)  
[www.campaignchoirs.org.uk](http://www.campaignchoirs.org.uk)

## POLITICAL SINGING

There is a long tradition of political music in Britain, including many individual singer-songwriters, choirs and bands. Political and community choirs from across the country meet regularly in 'Street Choirs Festivals'. New songs emerge in response to changing times.

Several London political choirs rehearse regularly and welcome new members, mostly without auditions. All have an international repertoire of progressive songs, with (variously) social justice, anti-racist, feminist / anti-sexist, environmental and anti-war content. We sing at meetings, demonstrations and other events. See also: [www.campaignchoirs.org.uk](http://www.campaignchoirs.org.uk)

### 1 BAMBA-LE-LA / NEVER GIVE UP (D, G)

*Xhosa language: 'Hold on', S.Africa  
Transcribed Gordon and Mairi Munro  
Arr. Phil Jakob*

(Call) Sizo bamba-le-la, Oh  
(Tune) Bamba-le-la, bamba-le-la  
Oh, bamba-le-la, bamba-le-la,  
Bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba  
Bamba, oo-oo, bamba  
Bamba-le-la. (Repeat verse)

(Call) You must never give up – Oh  
(Tune) Never give up, never give up,  
Oh, never give up, never give up,  
Never, never, never, never  
Never, oo-oo, never  
Never give up. (Repeat verse 1)

### 2 WE WILL FIGHT ON (Call/Ten: A, Sop: F#, Alt/Bass: D)

**We'll fight on** We will fight on against the cuts (x2)  
**We won't pay** We will not pay the bankers' debts  
**The poorest** Why should the poorest foot the bill?  
**The NHS** We will defend the NHS (repeat Verse 1)

### 3 BELLA CIAO (A) Public Spending Cuts version

*Traditional. Arr. PiH, Gude Cause*

Oh we are singing for education  
Oh bella ciao, bella ciao,  
Bella ciao, ciao, ciao,  
We are singing for education  
And an equal right to learn.

The public sector is for the people  
Oh bella..  
The public sector is for the people  
Not for sale to profiteers.

The rich get richer, the poor get poorer,  
Oh bella..  
The rich get richer, the poor get poorer,  
Unnecessary and unfair.

We don't need Trident, it's wasting billions,  
Oh bella..  
We don't need Trident, it's wasting billions,  
We need health and social care.

They cut the funding, they cut the workers,  
Oh bella..  
They cut the funding, they cut the workers,  
Ain't no 'Big Society'!

### 4 TORY BOYS' PICNIC (A > D)

*Tune: Teddy Bears' Picnic;  
words: Hawthorn/Liverpool Socialist Singers*

*Tune A:*  
If you go out for a walk today  
You'd better not catch a cold.  
You'll end up going to the hospital  
And finding that it's been sold,  
Con-Dems have cut the National Health  
And sold it off to private wealth;  
Today's the day we're gathering for a fightback!

*Tune A again:*  
All health workers who have been good  
Are in for a big surprise  
When every part of the NHS  
Will vanish before their eyes.  
They'll have to watch their patients die,  
While PFI is pie in the sky;  
Today's the day we're gathering for a fightback!

*Tune B:*  
Boom time now for companies,  
The private sector spivs are having a lovely  
time today;  
Public sector wages freeze  
And lots of jobs for them to take away.  
We won't let our service die  
You told a lie, that's why  
We're making a lot of noise.  
Your time is up, Grim Reaper is coming  
To take you all away  
Because you're sick little Tory boys!

### 5 SIYA HAMBA (BassD, TenB, AltD, SopD)

*Tune: Trad. South African Arrangement: Niels Erlank/  
John Hamilton. Words: Trad. South African (additional  
Liverpool Socialist Singers)*

Siya hamb' ekameni lokolo. (x 4) (kolo)  
Siya hamba, hamba, siya hamba,  
hamba siya hamb' ekameni lokolo (kolo).

1. We are singing out against the cuts...
2. We are fighting for the NHS...
3. We demand the best social care...
4. We are marching for health care for all

### 6 SAVE OUR PUBLIC SERVICES (B)

*Tune: Congolese folksong: Si Si Do-le-da  
Words: Raised Voices*

Save our public services This is really not the way out  
(x2)  
Dashing hopes, crushing dreams.  
This is really not the way out (x2)  
Stand up and shout. This is really not the way out  
(x2)

### 7 WE WILL RISE! (E)

*Dr Vole adapted the song for the times. Jan. 2017  
update, short version.*

***In unison, except for v. 2 & 3 with harmonies if  
known***

Theresa's got a brand-new plan – society should  
"share".  
But when it comes to sharing out, do Tories really  
care?  
Who gets the bigger slice of cake when she has done  
the sums?  
The bosses and the bankers and their usual band of  
chums!

#### **Chorus:**

**We will rise, we will rise  
We will not accept those politicians' lies  
So come on get out and fight  
Unite against the right  
We will rise, we will rise!**

The students and the workers march in solidarity  
No messing with our NHS and no tuition fee.  
Public sector services are everybody's right  
And trying to steal our pensions  
That is just an act of spite! **Chorus**  
So come on women, workers, claimants, speak up  
one and all!  
We're telling Thatcher's groupies that their empire's  
going to fall,  
And though we may be kettled by police brutality  
We won't give up until we have a fair society!

#### **Chorus**

### 8 ANTI-PRIVATISATION SONG (D)

*To the tune of 'The Wild Rover'*

Some rich politicians whose main love is wealth  
Have been selling our sēr-vī-cēs for profit by stealth  
From public control, with not one word of thanks  
To cōm-pā-nīes, shareholders, financiers and banks.

#### **Chorus**

For its no, nay, never  
(1-2-3-4) No nay never, no way  
Will they sell public sēr-vī-cēs  
No never, no way!

After selling our coal, they took bids for our gas,  
And power and water, and transport, en masse.  
Then schools, local sēr-vī-cēs with job cuts apace  
The-y all disappeared in the 'sell UK' race. **CHORUS**

Now it's the turn of our dear NHS  
A service for all in the public int'rest.  
Selling surgeries, scans, operations for knees,  
With our hospitals mortgaged to experts in sleeze.

#### **CHORUS**

The time has now come for the people to say  
"No more sales, private profit, no-more-cuts any way!  
"We'll defend our own sēr-vī-cēs from grasping and  
greed  
"And sell off the Tories to serve public need."

#### **CHORUS**

### 9 TORY TOFFS (E)

*Tune: John Brown's Body tradnl.*

Young and old and white and black,  
Join the march today.  
We must defend our services  
And make the bankers pay.  
We're fighting for our future now  
And this is what we say:  
No ifs, no buts, no public sector cuts!

**Chorus: Tory, Tory cuts no thanks, no,  
Fox and Hunt love the ban-kers  
We think they're a load of (.....)Tory Toffs,  
No ifs, no buts, no public sector cuts.**

Our hospitals and nurseries  
Are there for human need.  
Our libraries and schools are there  
To help our children read.  
They're not there to make profit from  
Or serve the bankers' greed.  
No ifs, no buts, no NHS cuts. **(Chorus)**

### 10 STAND UP (round) (F)

Stand up people make a choice  
Create a world that's fair for us all  
all together we are strong  
Break the austerity chain