

Campaigning choirs singing together

London, 18 October 2014

NO MORE AUSTERITY!

Demand the Alternative

We are people from Raised Voices and other political choirs.

For contact and information:

www.raised-voices.org.uk

www.campaignchoirs.org.uk

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1 POWER IN THE UNION (B)

Billy Bragg. Arr: Jane Edwardson

There is power in the factory
There's power in the land (oh)
Power in the hand of the worker.
But it all amounts to nothing
If together we don't stand
There is power in the union.

Now the lessons of the past
Were all learned with workers blood
The mistakes of the bosses we must pay for
From the cities and the farmlands
To the trenches full of mud
War has been the bosses way, sir.

Chorus 1: The union forever,
Defending our rights
Stand with the picket,
All workers unite
With our sisters and our brothers
In many far off lands
There is power in the union.

Now I long for the morning
When they realize
Oppression and injustice can't defeat us
But who'll defend the workers
Who cannot organize
When the bosses send their lackeys out
To cheat us.

Chorus 2: Money speaks for money
The devil for his own.
Who comes to speak for
The flesh and bone?
What a comfort to the widow
A light to the child
There is power in the union.

Repeat Chorus 1

2 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)*

3 ARE WE GONNA TAKE IT.. (D)

Mavis Cook, Raised Voices

The Con-Dem axe has fallen
Health is under threat
Working people pay the price for bankers' debt.
Jobs will go
We face the worst recession yet.

Chorus: Well, the question is
For folks who live in every town
Are we gonna take it lying down?

If you live in London East
Can you stay well?
In Huddersfield or Birmingham, well, who can tell?
One thing's sure
For many there'll be years of hell! *(Chorus)*

Health for profit, not for care
Is what we face.
The plan's to make a killing in the market place.
Health care stands
To disappear and leave no trace. *(Chorus)*

4 WE WILL RISE! (starts E)

by Dr Vole, Zayeet & Paula Boulton Còr Gobaith

"Cut it all" cries Cameron, "cut them off" cries Clegg "If you lose your livelihood, well, just go out and beg!
One and all must share the pain, 'cause we have done the sums
We're all in this together - oh, but not our banker 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 government goes on about this Big Society
It's just a way for them to drop responsibility
Kick the poor off benefits, chuck social tenants out
Privatising everything is what it's all about...*Chorus*

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

Disabled people won't sit by while social justice dies.
We challenge all those "useless eater", "scrounging cripple"
lies.
We're working if we can, and if we can't, we need support,
The world is not accessible and that is not our fault!
Chorus

We want a million climate jobs at this eleventh hour.
Let's have a Green New Deal and challenge corporations'
power.
True power comes from wind and waves and marching till
we win.
Nudge the ConDems where it hurts and put them in a spin.
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'll show them there is such a thing as Real Society!
Chorus

5 WE WILL FIGHT ON

(Call/Ten: A, Sop: F#, Alt/Bass: D)

(Call) We'll fight on
(Tune) We will fight on against the cuts (x2)
We will fight on (x2)
We will fight on against the cuts.
(Bass)
Fight on against the cuts (x2)
We will fight on (x2)
Fight on against the cuts.

(Call) We won't pay
(Tune) We will not pay the bankers' debts (x2)
We will not pay (x2)

We will not pay the bankers' debts.
(Bass) Won't pay the bankers' debts (x2)
We will not pay (x2)
Won't pay the bankers' debts.

(Call) The poorest
(Tune) Why should the poorest foot the bill? (x2)
Why should the poor (x2)
Why should the poorest foot the bill?
(Bass)
The poorest foot the bill (x2)
Why should the poor (x2)
The poorest foot the bill.

(Call) The NHS
(Tune) We will defend the NHS (x2)
We will defend (x2)
We will defend the NHS.
(Bass)
Defend the NHS (x2)
We will defend (x2)
Defend the NHS. (*Repeat verse 1*)

6 INTERNATIONALE (E^b)

Words: Billy Bragg. Arr. John Abraham.

Rise up all victims of oppression
For the tyrants fear your might
Don't cling so hard to your possessions
For you have nothing if you have no rights
Let racist ignorance be ended
For respect makes the empires fall
Freedom is merely privilege extended
Unless enjoyed by one and all

Chorus:
So come brothers and sisters
For the struggle carries on
The internationale
Unites the world in song
So comrades come rally
For this is the time and place
The international ideal
Unites the human race

Let no-one build walls to divide us
Walls of hatred, nor walls of stone
O greet the dawn and come and join us
We'll live together or we'll die alone
In our world, poisoned by exploitation
Those who have taken, now they must give
And end the vanity of nations
We've but one earth on which to live (*Chorus*)

And so begins the final drama
In the streets and in the fields
We'll resist united against their armour
We'll defy their guns and shields
When we fight, provoked by their aggression
Let's be inspired by life and love
For though they offer us concessions
Change will not come from above. (*Chorus*)

7 NOT IN MY NAME (C)*Public Spending Cuts version*

We can see the forces gathering
 Like so many times before,
 Working for us, they say,
 As they cut more and more.
 They are claiming to be standing
 For democracy,
 But their voices would be silenced
 If democracy could speak.

Chorus: You're not doing it in my name (x8)

Politicians from their pedestals
 Talk of 'big society'
 For 'community' and 'self-help'
 Read 'bonuses' and 'greed'
 We're the champions of justice
 Of that there is no doubt.
 But if justice could speak we tell you
 Justice would shout! (*Chorus*)

8 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'!

9 NO STICKING PLASTER (D)*Julie Jackson, with additions by Cynthia
 Cockburn, Arr. Morag Carmichael (all RV)*

*Chorus: No sticking plaster
 It's a disaster
 No sticking plaster
 Can cover your cuts. (Repeat)*

Treatment on the National Health
 Shouldn't be dependent on wealth
 Keep our hospitals standing tall

A caring service free for all (*Chorus*)

Fat cats and bureaucrats
 Getting in on the act
 Privatising services more and more
 Commercial contracts by the score (*Chorus*)

Mind you never slip in the bath
 Don't drop a brick on your toe
 They've just shut my A & E down
 And yours will be-ee the next to go (*Chorus*)

Specialists are all too few
 Nurses and porters too
 They're not here to save your life
 They've gone under the surgeon's knife. (*End!*)

10 TRIDENT, TRIDENT (B ♭)*Tune: 'Daisy, Daisy'*

Trident, Trident, What an insane idea
 Thousands homeless, All for the cost of fear
 We can't afford medication, Or proper education
 But we must pay, A million a day
 So that Britain can disappear.
 Altogether now...

Health cuts, health cuts, Nursing a luxury
 Balanced budgets, Obscure the priority
 The Chancellor is stealthy, He dare not tax the wealthy
 But our taxes pay, Without our say
 For unusable weaponry.

Pensions, pensions, We must make a special plea
 Why should old folk. Suffer in poverty
 Paid for by taxation but, Eroded by inflation
 And the government, Think armaments
 Are a higher priority

Trident, Trident, The whole thing has gone too far
 If we don't stop them, We're sure of a nuclear war
 We have to send them packing, Before they start attacking
 And pull the chain, On all who gain
 From the criminal arms bazaar.

Trident, Trident, Give us a break please do
 We'll go bankrupt, All for the price of you
 We'll lose even more employment, And most of life's
 enjoyment
 You're a travesty, Of 'security'
 And no-one will cry for you.

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

11 TORY TOFFS (E)

Tune: John Brown's Body traditional

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 the future now
And this is what we say:
No ifs, no buts, no public sector cuts!

Chorus:

Tory, tory cuts no thanks, sir,
Nick and David 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 public sector cuts (Chorus)

12 STEP BY STEP (C#)

Anon. Arr. Peter Rosser, 18th SMF Stroud 1995

Step by step the longest march
Can be won, can be won
Many stones do form an arch
Singly none, singly none
And by union what we will
Can be accomplished still
Drops of water turn a mill
Singly none, singly none.

13 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!

14 WAVE BYE-BYE TO PFI (C)

Tune: Hokey-Kokey.

Words: Catharine Percy Huskisson

They take our taxes in, our taxes out
They give them to the bankers
And they shake 'em all about
They build us all a hospital
And keep the change
That's why we want them out - OUT!

Chorus:

Oh-h - Tories are pollution!
We-e've got a cool solution!
Bri-ing on the revolution!
Wave bye-bye to PFI !

They take our taxes in, our taxes out
They give them to the bankers
And they shake 'em all about
They build us an academy
And keep the change
That's why we want them out - OUT! Chorus

They take our taxes in, our taxes out
They give them to the bankers
And they shake 'em all about
They build us all a library
And keep the change
That's why we want them out - OUT! Chorus

Well there's high street banks and
multinationals too
They're making loads of money
Out of me and out of you
But if we stand together
We can make a change
That's how we'll get them out - OUT! Chorus

15 WE SHALL NOT GIVE UP (F#)

Church of S.Africa. Arr: Bradford Women Singers

|: We shall not give up the fight
We have only started (x 3) :|

|: Together we'll have victory
Hand holding hand (x 3) :|

|: Never ever put to flight
We're bound to win (x 3) :|

(Repeat first verse)