

**RAISED VOICES
London Street Choir**

TUC RALLY

18th June 2022

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1) SOLIDARITY FOREVER
(To tune of John Brown's Body)

The unions' inspiration lies in
solidarity.
We fought together side by side and
won our liberty.
The many gains the people made
through strength and unity, For the
union makes us strong.

Chorus:
Solidarity for ever (x3)
For the union makes us strong.

The right to life and liberty is under
global threat
The menace facing workers is the
greatest menace yet
We must unite in common fight 'gainst
usury and debt;
For the union makes us strong.
(*Chorus*)

The combined might of many far
exceeds the strength of one
A union of all people everywhere
beneath the sun;
Of global girth to span the earth, the
battle can be won;
For the union makes us strong.
(*Chorus*)

2. BELLA CIAO
Public Spending Cuts version

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

Oh we are singing for education
Oh bella ...
Oh we are singing for education
And an equal right to learn.

The NH(E-S), needs proper funding
Oh bella ...
The NHS, - needs proper funding
Don't let them privatise by stealth.

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.

3. When Children Go Hungry
When children go hungry in London
Can we expect them to flourish at
school?
Whenever your belly is rumbling
How can you learn tables and rules?
If home is a room always changing
And families unable to cope
A country destroys its own future
By starving its children of hope.

So why should we queue for our
dinner
When there is plenty of food for us all?
What on earth has gone wrong with
the system,

When the rich hide behind their own walls?

Mum, Why is it pasta for dinner?
We get the same thing everyday
I'm fed up of eating these hand-outs
I want food like those who can pay.

Why should we be forced from our houses
Why should we be moved miles away
From friends and from family and neighbours
Because we're unable to pay
They're tearing our homes down for profit
While we're left with no bed or board
The towers of greed keep on growing
We need homes that all can afford.

It's a crime that we have to use food banks
While the billionaires get off tax-free
We have to change how we are governed
Can't live with such discrepancy
It's time now to rise up against this
We can't accept cuts for the poor
Let's give back some hope to our children
We won't play this game any more.

4. Foodbanks Song

(Tune: Funiculi Funicula)

Food Banks, Food Banks – how can it be?

Children living in awful poverty:
No socks, no coats, no food, no hopes,
no learning for them all.

The tide has turned, three million kids
are up against the wall

Food Banks, Food Banks – how can it be?

We expect better in the 21st century
A child is hungry, feeling low
Can't concentrate at school
The teacher's shamed. She knows that
bankers' bellies are all full.
Food Banks, Food Banks – how can it

be?

Children living in awful poverty. (END)

5.. I'M GON' STAND

Bernice Johnson Reagon, Sweet
Honey in the Rock, based on words
spoken by Rev. Benjamin Chavis

We will not bow down to – uh-huh –
racism

We will not bow down to – injustice
We will not bow down to – exploitation
I'm gon' stand, I'm gon' stand.

We will not obey – uh-huh – racism
We will not obey – injustice
We will not obey – exploitation
I'm gon' stand, I'm gon' stand.

I just can't tolerate – uh-huh – racism
I just can't tolerate – injustice
I just can't tolerate – exploitation
I'm gon' stand, I'm gon' stand.

6. BAMBELELA / NEVER GIVE UP

(Sops) Sizo bamba-le-la, Oh
(ATB)) Bamba-le-la, bamba-le-la
Oh, bamba-le-la, bamba-le-la,
Bamba, bamba, bamba, bamba
Bamba, oo-oooh, bamba
Bamba-le-la. (Repeat verse)

(Sops) You must never give up – Oh
(ATB) Never give up, never give up,
Oh, never give up, never give up,
Never, never, never, never
Never, oo-oooh, never
Never give up. (Repeat verse 1)

7. Power in a Union

There is power in the fact'ry
There is power in the land
Power in the hand of the worker
But it all amounts to nothing if together
we don't stand

There is power in a 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 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 a union.

Now I long for a 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 repeat twice
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 a Union.

8. Posh Boys Song

Tune: Eton Boating Song

We're sorry we're cutting your
wages
We're cutting your benefits too
You won't get your pensions for
ages
But really what else can we do?
CHORUS (starts A):
And we're all in this together
For us it will be a breeze

Yes we're all in this together
But its you that will feel the
squeeze.

We must help our friends in the
city
Its all for the general good
Manufacturing's gone – it's a pity
We'd help them as well if we could
CHORUS -Cos we're all in this
together etc

We know that its rather confusing
How there's always more money
for war
And the rich, well they mustn't be
losing
So we're taking away from the
poor.
CHORUS Still we're all in this
together etc

Now its no use you making a
racket
Occupations and riots won't do
Just because we are making a
packet
Doesn't mean we don't suffer with
you
When we're all in this together etc.

9. SIYA HAMBA (D)

South African gospel, Arr Niels Erlank.
Adapted John Hamilton
(for Strawberry Thieves) and RV)

Siya hamb'ekameni lokolo x4
(Sops) Siya hamba, oh - oh
(ATB) Siya hamba hamba
Siya hamb'ekameni lokolo (lokolo)
Siya hamb'ekameni lokolo

We march for solidarity x 4
(We are marching oh – oh) x 2

(We are marching, marching)
(We march for solidarity)

We are singing for equality x 4
(We are singing, oh-oh)
(We are singing , singing) x2
(We are singing for equality)
((altos - equali – equality)

We are singing for a living wage X4
(We are singing, oh-oh) x2
(We are singing, singing)
(We are singing for a living wage)
((altos – for a living, a living wage)

Repeat Verse 1

10. The Internationale

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 'gainst 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)

RAISED VOICES London Political Choir

We welcome new members,
please see our website for further
details

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