

Wasn't That A Time!

Pete Seeger: A History of the Twentieth Century in Song



Nerissa and Katryna Nields (www.nields.com) sing their way through the twentieth century using the life and songs of Pete Seeger as their guide. In a unique show aimed at school-aged children, the sisters hit on crucial moments in Pete Seeger's life and work to illuminate aspects of US history.

Sample Program:

The 1930's Dust Bowl: "So Long It's Been Good to Know You," "My Oklahoma Home"

1940's: Labor Movement: "This Land Is Your Land," "Union Maid," "Pay Me My Money Down," "If I Had a Hammer"

1950's HUAC investigation; discussion of Pete's pleading the first amendment instead of the 5th; "Wimoweh", "Irene Goodnight"

1960's Civil Rights: "We Shall Overcome," "If You Miss Me On the Back of the Bus," "Eyes on the Prize," "Oh, Mary."

Vietnam War: "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," "Turn, Turn, Turn"

1970's Environmental movement: "Sailing Up," "Sailing Down My Golden River,"

Nerissa and Katryna will speak throughout the presentation about the ways in which the song was mightier than the sword; how Pete was blacklisted and spent the fifties playing in schools and summer camps, teaching a whole generation Folk music, inspiring the 60's folk music revival, changing the world with song. Again and again, he traded opportunities for fame and fortune for influence, education and enlightenment.

The Nields will teach the students the songs, teaching parts when appropriate, asking questions and taking questions. The spirit Pete Seeger brought to his audiences was one of generosity and inclusion. We hope to bring these same qualities to your school and engender discussions of fairness and justice. Nerissa and Katryna, along with Mr. Seeger, believe that there is nothing on earth quite as wonderful as a big community joining voices in song. We are looking forward to singing with your school.

The show is 45-60 minutes. Priced on a sliding scale based on how far the Nields have to travel. Please contact Nerissa Nields at Nerissand@gmail.com for a quote.