

A 32-piece symphony orchestra and 6 award winning opera singers recorded five arias from act one of “Woody: For the People”

**The songs can also be reviewed online
at www.WoodyGuthrieOpera.com**

“Woody: For the People” Opera
Composed and arranged by -
Michael Johnathon

Recording engineer -
Rick Marks, RMAV Studios

The Voices:
Woody Guthrie - Nicholas Provenzale
Pete Seeger - Gregory Turay
Paul Robeson - Reginald Smith, Jr.
Policeman - Jason Brown
Hobos - Dennis Bender, Manual Castillo



ARIA ONE: Pennsylvania Road

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From ACT ONE: opening scene: In 1939 Woody was crossing America after working for a month at the Bonneville Power Administration in Oregon, writing a batch of songs to be used in a documentary about the Grand Coulee dam. After visiting his wife Mary in Texas, he was on his way back to NYC when he got stranded in Pennsylvania. Cold, tired, broke and nearly frozen to death in a snowstorm, Woody's life was literally saved by the kindness of a Pennsylvania ranger. The opera opens with Woody in the snowing coldness of winter.

ARIA TWO: Ramblin' Man

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From ACT ONE: Woody meets up with some hobos: Of course, hitch hiking and train jumping are a major part of the Guthrie image. In the opera, Woody meets up with fellow hobo's, out-of-work travelers.

ARIA THREE: Nobody Knows

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From ACT ONE: Woody and Pete Seeger meet Paul Robeson. The ranger brings them to a cafe to warm up and have some coffee. At the cafe table sits the great Paul Robeson. In real life, the three were in fact friends and this song was one of the famous Robeson melodies.

ARIA FOUR: Believe

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From ACT ONE: Woody sings: In the cafe, Woody and crew hear the Kate Smith recording of Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" and Woody is, as he was in real life, incensed over the song and its syrupy approach to what was happening around him. They contrast the "make believe" images of the Berlin song with what they actually believe, and this is Woody's response. During ACT TWO this idea will be expanded upon. Woody certainly needed a lot of forgiveness in his life, especially for the way he treated his wife Mary and their kids. As he became more sick through the years, his actions were misunderstood as drunkenness or anger, this too needed forgiveness. In many ways, America is like that, we have acted in ways that, perhaps, we as a people did not intend. But we need to forgive ourselves, each other and, in turn, the world needs to forgive us.

ARIA FIVE: Marjorie's Song

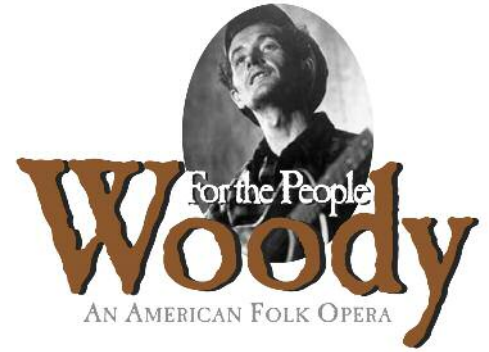
©Michael Johnathon/Rachel Aubrey Music/BMI

End of ACT ONE: Woody and Pete sing as they leave for New York: In the final moments of Act One, the ranger goes home to his wife and Paul moves on to his family. Pete will travel, with Woody, back to New York. Pete, to be with his wife Toshi ... but Woody has no one, except possibly his growing affection for the new lady in his life, a New York dancer named Marjorie. She later became mother to some of Woody's children, including Arlo.



WOODY: For the People

OPERA Setting - Feb 23, 1940
1940s wardrobe styles



WOODY GUTHRIE: Baritone

white male, 5' 6" tall, mid-30's, thin, small frame, dark curly hair, right handed, common Oklahoma accent, plays Martin or Gibson guitar

PETE SEEGER: Tenor

white male, 5'10-6'2", thin, about 32 years old, short straight brown hair, proletarian New England accent and demeanor, plays long neck 5-string open back banjo, the young pup compared to Woody

PAUL ROBESON: Basso

black male, 5'9"-6', about 40 years old, large frame, huge deep voice, educated, independent minded, opera performer, a social activist passion, does not play an instrument, very intelligent.

POLICEMAN: Tenor

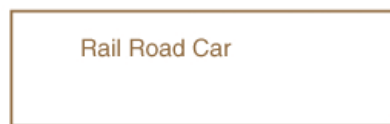
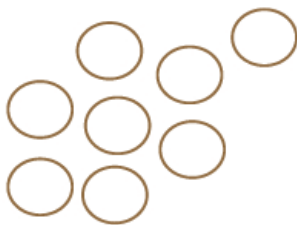
white male, mid 50's, heavier set, kind spoken, Pennsylvania uniform, does not carry a gun.

HOBOS: Tenor and Bass

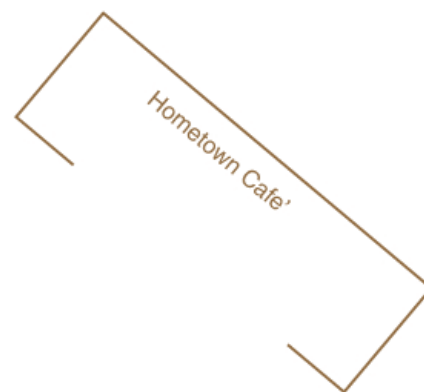
white, black and hispanic,

STAGE SET - Act One - Pennsylvania roadside in winter:

Winter Tree Grove



Rail Road Car



Hometown Cafe



Radio Set

ACT ONE:

Late afternoon, cold winter, February, lightly snowing

OVERTURE:

at the end of the overture, WOODY enters stage right from the tree grove.

Pennsylvania Road - Aria 1

WOODY solo

I'm tired, no money,
lost on this Pennsylvania road.
I'm cold, and I'm hungry,
lost on this Pennsylvania road.

The winter and the snow
follow wherever I go.
My heart's in New York City,
that's where I should be
instead of lost on this Pennsylvania road.

My mother, my father
raised in a hard-working land.
I'm a singer from Oklahoma.
Now this guitar is all that I have.

I'm a dust bowl refugee;
the road is the bible to me.
Now my home is New York City,
that's where I should be,
instead of lost on this Pennsylvania road.

The winter the ice,
the cold on this January morn,
no coffee, no money,
We are lost on this icy winter road.

I'm lonely, I'm hungry,
hitch hiking so far from home.
My bed in New York City,
that's where I should be,

instead of lost on this Pennsylvania road.

Travelin' Man - Aria 2

HOBOS

I am a weary traveler, a hungry ramblin' man.
I travel every highway with a guitar in my hand.
I can see the height and breadth of it I've seen the good and bad.
I've seen the high and low of it the happy and the sad.

HOBOS come out
of rail road car

I am a weary traveler, frustrated I may be,
I ramble every highway, from sea to shining sea.
I've listened to the people, and what they say to me,
the hear t of every word of it, the troubled and the free.

And my weary feet, and tired toes, my weary eyes, my raspy throat,
and I do believe the song, I believe the dream and the love I see.
And I do believe the song, it can right the wrong for you and me.
And I sing my way home.

HOBOS come out
of rail road car

Hobo 1

Are you a weary traveler,
a Rambler just like me?

Hobo 2

Do you walk upon the
highway, and live the
song you sing?

I've seen the height and breadth of it I've seen the good and bad.
I've seen the high and low of it the happy and the sad.
And I write my song, and poetry.
I write the words, and melody.

Do you believe the song believe the dream and love you see?
Do you believe a song can right the wrong for you and me?

As I sing my way home.

Travelin' Man - Aria 2 - cont

**I am a weary travler, a hobo just like me
I've listened to the people, from sea to shining sea
I ramble every highway across this great country.
The hear t of every word of it, the troubled and the free.**

**Some day, there will be a song,
people far and wide shall sing along,
can words and a small guitar**

**change the world for you and me?
As I sing my way home.**

**I am a wear trav'ler
a poor man I may be
I ramble evry hiway
from sea to shining sea ...**

HOBOS

**a hobo just like me
from sea to shining
across this great country
the troubled and the free.**

**Then you must write the song
And sing far and wide
And pour out the love you
have inside.**

**Someday, there will be a song,
people far and wide shall sing along,
can words and a small guitar**

**HOBOS SEE POLICEMAN
AND SCATTER**

**RANGER APPEARS
FROM STAGE LEFT**

WOODY

BELIEVE - Arial 6

I believe in redemption.

I believe in the truth.

**I believe there's a moment,
when all that is good comes
shining through you.**

I believe in transition,

I believe change is good.

**And I believe, nothing could be so fine,
as love and forgiveness, and mercy divine.**

INSTRUMENTAL

**And I believe, nothing could be so fine,
as love and forgiveness, and mercy divine.**

**and nothing else matters
as much as the love
between me and you.**

**And I believe, nothing
could be so fine,
as love and forgive-
ness, and mercy divine.**

WOODY

PAUL ROBESON

PETE

POLICEMAN

**Sits at the Cafe counter
with a cup of coffee**

NOBODY KNOWS - Aria 4

**Nobody knows the trouble Ive seen
Nobody knows my sorrow
Nobody knows the trouble I've seen
hope lies in tomorrow**

You there, a
black man!

Dear God **looks at hands**
you are right **looks at Pete**
You there, a banjo man!

Sadly, he will stay that
color

Poor poor
wreched fellow

Oh yes, Lord

**If'n you see my head hang low
Oh yes, Lord**

Oh yes, Lord Oh yes, Lord

Oh yes, Lord

**I have my struggles here below
Oh, Yes Lord**

Oh yes, Lord Oh yes, Lord

**Nobody knows the trouble Ive seen
Nobody knows my sorrow
Nobody knows the trouble I've seen
My hope lies in tomorrow**

Oh yes, Lord

**Sometimes I'm up
Sometimes I'm down
Oh yes, Lord**

Oh yes, Lord Oh yes, Lord

Oh yes, Lord

**Sometimes I'm almost
to the ground
Oh yes, Lord**

Oh yes, Lord Oh yes, Lord

**Nobody knows my sorrow
Nobody knows the trouble
I've seen**

**Nobody knows the trouble Ive seen
Nobody knows my sorrow
Nobody knows the trouble
I've seen**

So my hope lies in tomorrow

WOODY

PAUL ROBESON

PETE

POLICEMAN

Home ... it's time
for me to go home

My wife and children are
waiting

My beautiful bride is
waiting

**WOODY LOOKS
STAGE LEFT, THEN
STAGE RIGHT AND
HANGS HIS HEAD**

I have a lover ... and she's
waiting

**THE CAFE SHUTS
DOWN**

**POLICEMAN AND
PAUL ROBESON
WALK OFF STAGE**

**PETE AND WOODY
STAND OUTSIDE
THE CLOSED CAFE
IN THE COLD**

WOODY

PETE

MARJORIE - Aria 8

**There is a woman her name's Marjorie
She is a woman who's in Love with me**

**And I do believe she is love
She is from heaven above**

**Her gentle melody is a
Peaceful Sound in me**

WOODY

MARJORIE - Aria 8 - continued

Upon this lonely Pennsylvania road
to her side I will surely go
Her gentle love becomes a
Peaceful sound in me

I hate the freezing of this winter cold

New York seems so far away
from this Pennsylvania hiway
her distant love calls like a
Peaceful sound in me

So hitch hiking down this road

I will surely go ...

PETE

There is a woman and she married me
a little lady her name's Toshi

Upon this lonely Pennsylvania road
to her side I will surely go
Her gentle love becomes a
Peaceful sound in me

I miss the warmth of my true love to hold

New York seems so far away
from this Pennsylvania hiway
her distant love calls like a
Peaceful sound in me

through the ice and snow

I will surely go ...

END OF ACT 1