

Filmography

American Workers and Protest

“At the River I Stand” (1993)

Documentary; 1968 garbage workers strike

“Harlan County U.S.A.” (1976)

Documentary; This film documents the coal miners' strike against the Brookside Mine of the Eastover Mining Company in Harlan County, Kentucky in June, 1973.

“Norma Rae” (1979)

Drama; A young single mother and textile worker agrees to help unionize her mill despite the problems and dangers involved.

“Salt of the Earth” (1954)

Drama; Based on an actual strike against the Empire Zinc Mine in New Mexico, the film deals with the prejudice against the Mexican-American workers, who struck to attain wage parity with white workers.

Civil Rights

“A. Philip Randolph: For Jobs and Freedom” (1996)

Documentary; A look at the life of the man often called the father of the modern civil rights movement.

“Equal Means Equal” (2016)

Documentary; A look at the ways women are still unequal to men in America and examination of the Equal Rights Amendment.

“Eyes on the Prize” (1987-1990)

Documentary; 14-part series tracing 1954 through 1985

“February One” (2003)

Documentary; The story of the Greensboro Four sit-in at the Woolworth lunch counter in North Carolina.

“I Am Not Your Negro” (2016)

Documentary; The history of the black experience in America through the words of James Baldwin.

“Intruder in the Dust” (1949)

Drama; In 1940s Mississippi, two teenage boys and an elderly woman combine forces to prevent a miscarriage of justice and clear a black man of a murder charge.

“Iron Jawed Angels” (2004)

Drama; Focused on icons Alice Paul and the women of the Women’s Suffrage movement.

“King: A Filmed Record. Montgomery to Memphis” (1970)

Documentary; Follows the works of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his decades long fight for civil rights.

“Klansville USA” (2015)

Documentary of the rise of the Klu Klux Klan after the Supreme Court decision Brown v. Board of Education in 1954.

“Selma” (2014)

Drama; Follows Martin Luther King, Jr.’s march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

“The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: Not For Ourselves Alone”

(1999)

Government and Politics

“A Face in the Crowd” (1957)

Drama; "A Face in the Crowd" charts the rise of a raucous hayseed named Lonesome Rhodes from itinerant Ozark guitar picker to local media rabble-rouser to TV superstar and political king-maker.

“The Congress” (1988)

Documentary; The U. S. Congress is one of the country's most important and misunderstood institutions. Ken Burns tells the story behind this branch of government.

“Dr. Strangelove, Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb” (1964)

Drama; An insane general triggers a path to nuclear holocaust that a War Room full of politicians and generals frantically tries to stop.

“How Democracy Works Now” (2010)

Documentary; Twelve part series based on over 1,500 hours of footage featuring debates on immigration, local fights in Iowa and Arizona, and an inside look at the creation of legislation.

“Lincoln” (2012)

Drama; As the American Civil War continues to rage, America's president struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield as he fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves.

“Mr. Smith Goes to Washington” (1939)

Drama; A naive man is appointed to fill a vacancy in the United States Senate. His plans promptly collide with political corruption, but he doesn't back down.

“The Roosevelts: An Intimate History” (2014)

Documentary; A documentary that weaves together the stories of Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, three members of one of the most prominent and influential families in American politics.

“The Times of Harvey Milk” (1984)

Documentary; A documentary of the successful career and assassination of San Francisco's first elected gay city supervisor.

National Identity and Immigration

“An American Tail” (1986)

Animated/Children’s; The story of the Mousekewitzes journey from Russia to America and young Fievel’s adventures to reunite with his family in a strange new land.

“Avalon” (1990)

Drama; Story of a Jewish immigrant family arriving in the early 1900s to Baltimore, MD on the Fourth of July.

“The Chinese Exclusion Act” (2018)

Documentary; The origin, history and impact of the 1882 law that made it illegal for Chinese workers to come to America and for Chinese nationals already here to become U.S. citizens.

“El Norte” (1983)

Peasants escaping mindless labor and a murderous Guatemalan government head to America in hopes for something better.

“I Remember Mama” (1948)

Drama, Based on an early twentieth century play, this is the tale of immigrant family and their struggle to survive in a new country.

“The Namesake” (2006)

Drama; Adaptation of Jhumpa Lahiri’s novel about a young couple who left India and raise a son in late 1960s New York.

Smithsonian Folkways Box Sets

The following is a selection of box sets available through Smithsonian Folkways Recordings that may link to local stories of democracy, protest, voting, immigration, and national identity.

Specific information on purchasing or using music in public programming should be directed to Smithsonian Folkways, with specific license requests found here: <https://folkways.si.edu/license-request>

Anthology of American Folk Music. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 1997.

Various Artists

<https://folkways.si.edu/anthology-of-american-folk-music/african-american-music-blues-old-time/music/album/smithsonian>

The *Anthology of American Folk Music*, edited by Harry Smith (1923–1991), is one of the most influential releases in the history of recorded sound. Originally issued by Folkways Records in 1952, the *Anthology* brought virtually unknown parts of America’s musical landscape recorded in the late 1920s and early 1930s to the public’s attention. For more than half a century, the collection has profoundly influenced fans, ethnomusicologists, music historians, and cultural critics; it has inspired generations of popular musicians, including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Jerry Garcia, and countless others. Many of the songs included in the *Anthology* have now become classics, as has Harry Smith’s unique “scientific/aesthetic handbook” of song notes and drawings. Reissued by Smithsonian Folkways Recordings in 1997, this deluxe 6-CD collector’s boxed set contains a 96-page book featuring Harry Smith’s original liner notes and essays by Greil Marcus and other noted writers, musicians, and scholars.

American Favorite Ballads, Vols. 1-5. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 2009

Pete Seeger

<https://folkways.si.edu/pete-seeger/american-favorite-ballads-vols-1-5/folk/music/album/smithsonian>

Pete Seeger's life, music, and legacy encapsulate nearly a century of American history and culture. He has immersed himself in folk music and used it, like Johnny Appleseed, to "plant the seeds of a better tomorrow in the homes across our land." The songs in this collection of 139 *American Favorite Ballads* narrate tales of ordinary people and their extraordinary deeds, and show Pete at the crossroads of the past and the future putting his own stamp on America's folk song heritage while bequeathing it to generations to come.

Corridos & Tragedias de la Frontera: First Recordings of Historic Mexican-American Ballads (1928-1937). Arhoolie Records, 1994.

<https://folkways.si.edu/corridos-tragedias-de-la-frontera-mexican-american-ballads-1928-1937/latin-world/music/album/smithsonian>

Ballads and tragedies have been sung for over 100 years in Mexico and especially along both sides of the Frontera, the border with the United States. Some of the corridos in this collection, although recorded in the USA, are Mexican in origin, but are part of the common Mexican American heritage and tradition. Others are the result of the ongoing conflict which often results when the Mexican and Anglo civilizations come into contact. For these corridos, the term "Border" should be taken in its broadest possible sense, extending often hundreds of miles from the actual line.

Every Tone a Testimony. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 2001

Various Artists

<https://folkways.si.edu/every-tone-a-testimony/african-american-spoken-history-poetry-prose/album/smithsonian>

This double CD draws upon the collection at the Smithsonian Folkways archive to create a history of African American life and culture in sound—an aural history. Encompassing both the African American oral and literary traditions, these 59 tracks feature an unparalleled assembly of voices in music, oratory, poetry, and prose by historically renowned African American musicians, writers, and activists. The sounds collected here are testimony to the power, creativity, and resilience of Black expressive forms that have received recognition throughout the world. 59 tracks run two hours and 27 minutes. 40-page booklet.

Hear Me Howling: Blues, Ballads, & Beyond. Arhoolie Records, 2011

Various Artists

<https://folkways.si.edu/hear-me-howling/blues/music/album/smithsonian>

Featuring music: Hump in My Back (Jesse Fuller); Brother Low Down (Jesse Fuller); Berkeley's Junco Partner (Skid Band); Tight Like That (Skid Band); Moose March (Bob Mielke's Bearcats); Highway 49 (Big Joe Williams); Oakland Blues (Big Joe Williams & Mary Williams); Greystone (Alameda County Jail) Blues (Big Joe Williams); I Know You Didn't Want Me (K.C. Douglas); Night Shirt Blues (K.C. Douglas); Stop Time (K.C. Douglas); Hear Me Howling (K.C. Douglas); Stand Alone Blues (Lonnie Johnson); Tom Moore's Farm (Lightnin' Hopkins) and more.

The Mississippi River Song: A Musical Journey Down the Mississippi

Various Artists

<https://folkways.si.edu/the-mississippi-river-of-song-a-musical-journey-down-the-mississippi/american-folk-american-indian-blues-cajun/music/album/smithsonian>

This two-hour, 36 track, musical journey down the Mississippi from the headwaters to the delta captures the power and diversity of American music in the late 20th century. The music, recorded between 1995 and 1997 in small towns and large cities along the river, reflects centuries of interaction and experimentation along America's great waterway. 48-page booklet.

New York City: Global Beat of the Boroughs. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 2001

Various Artists

<https://folkways.si.edu/new-york-city-global-beat-of-the-boroughs/world/music/album/smithsonian>

New York's soundscape is as varied and distinctive as its skyline. But the cultural diversity and musical virtuosity featured here will surprise listeners who think they know the "real" New York. Featuring outstanding grassroots ensembles from more than a dozen of New York's most vibrant ethnic communities, this release pairs the traditional with innovative cross-cultural fusions. From Irish ceili groups to Caribbean steelbands, Gypsy ensembles to Chinese orchestras, African-American gospel choirs to Latin jazz, this audio portrait of the five boroughs will delight lifelong New Yorkers and first-time visitors alike. Over two hours. 31 tracks. 40-page booklet, extensive notes, and photos.

The Social Power of Music. Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 2019

Various Artists

<https://folkways.si.edu/the-social-power-of-music>

Music has the power to bring people together. From parties to protests to prayer, music is a powerful catalyst for celebration, for change, and for a sense of community. Through making music together, we become bigger than ourselves. Whether singing with our families and friends or with thousands of strangers in an arena, music transforms lives, engages individuals, and connects local and global communities. *The Social Power of Music* chronicles the vivid, impassioned, and myriad ways in which music binds, incites, memorializes, and moves groups of people. This richly illustrated 124-page book, with 80+ tracks on 4 CDs, invites listeners into musical practices, episodes, and movements throughout the U.S. and beyond. These songs of struggle, devotion, celebration, and migration remind us that music has the potential to change our world.