

UCU Members and Supporters Singing to Defend our Pensions 2018

1. Solidarity For Ever

Ralph Chaplin 1915

IWW member (tune John Brown's Body)

Additional words: UCU Queen Margaret & Edinburgh

Academics and professional staff
Are out on strike today,
We're fighting for our pension rights
And we're not going away,
We're here to tell the bosses
And the folks at UUK
That the union makes us strong.

Chorus:

***Solidarity for ever x 3
For the union makes strong***

They tell us there's a deficit
It's just a load of spin,
They want to take our pension rights
And dump them in the bin,
But together we are fighting back
Together we will win,
For the union makes us strong.

It is we who teach the students
We're the ones who educate,
Make computer systems run
And keep the archives up to date,
Drop the preconditions, UUK,
And let's negotiate,
For the union makes us strong.

In our hands is placed a power
Greater than their hoarded gold,
Greater than the might of armies
Magnified a thousand-fold
We can bring to birth a new world
From the ashes of the old
For the union makes us strong.

2. If It Wisnae for the Union

Words and Music: Matt McGinn

I'd a boss, his name was Broon
The nicest fella in Glesca toon
Except for keepin yer wages doon
Afore we joined the union

Chorus:

***Too-ra-la-loo-ra-loo-ra-loo
I'll tell ye something awfy true
Ye widnae hae yer telly the noo
If it wisnae for the union***

I'd a boss his name was Black
He tellt me I could call him Jack
He was helluva good at gi'in the sack
Afore we joined the union

I'd a boss called Allardyce
An he was really helluva nice
Except for the way he loaded the dice
Afore we joined the union

I'd a boss his name was Pete
A nicer guy ye couldnae meet,
His salary it would make ye greet
Afore we joined the union

Men and women listen tae me
It's time tae rise up aff yer knees
So raise the flag o unity
An forward wi the union

3. Which Side Are You On

Orig. Florence Reece USA, 1931

Widely adapted, Trade Union movement 1930s-present

Additional words UCU Queen Margaret & UCU Edinburgh

Come all of you good people,
You women and you men
Once more our backs are to the wall
We're being attacked again

Which side are you on?

Which side are you on?

Academics and professional staff
Are out on strike today,
We're fighting for our pensions
And we're not going away.

They want to take our pension rights
And dump them in the bin,
But together we will fight back
And together we will win.

Speak out and tell the bosses
The folks at UUK,
We won't accept your pension cuts
And we'll end your fat-cat pay.

It's we who teach the students
We're the ones who educate,
UUK come to the table
And let's negotiate.

Reclaim our universities
Education's not for sale,
Come join the fight and stand with us
In union we'll prevail.

4. Down By the Riverside

Orig. African-American Spiritual (1860s or earlier)

Additional words UCU Edinburgh

I'm gonna turn off my powerpoint slides
Until I get my rights etc...
I ain't gonna upload to learn.

We're gonna fight for our pension rights (x6)

I ain't gonna give my class,
Until I get my rights...
I ain't gonna work today.

I ain't gonna mark papers...
I ain't gonna work today.

Gonna sing on the picket line...
I ain't gonna work today.

Come and join with the union
Until we get our rights...
Together we will stand firm.

5. Bella Ciao

Italian partisan song, widely sung by anti-fascist partisans in WW2

Additional words UCU Edinburgh and Protest in Harmony

Oh, we are striking to save our pensions,
Oh, bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao,
We are striking to save our pensions
And we will not be silenced now.

Oh, we are singing for education
Oh, bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao,
We are singing for education
Universities aren't for sale.

The rich get richer, the poor get poorer,
Oh, bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao,
The rich get richer, the poor get poorer
Unnecessary and unfair.

So we are striking to save our pensions,
Oh, bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao,
We are striking to save our pensions
And we will not be silenced now.

6. We're Standing with the Union

Tune: Trad, Skip to my Lou, USA early 1800s

Words: UCU Edinburgh

*We won't take no pension cuts
We won't take no pension cuts
We won't take no pension cuts
We're standing with the union.*

We don't believe in your deficit (x3)
We're standing with the union.

You can stuff your vanity projects (x3)
We're standing with the union.

We'll end your fat-cat wages (x3)
We're standing with the union.

A fair day's work for a fair day's pay (x3)
We're standing with the union.

We will strike and we will win (x3)
We're standing with the union.

7. Join the Union

Tune: John Hughes 1905 (Cwm Rhondda)

*Additional words: John Warner 2006 (Join Your Union)
and UCU Edinburgh*

Join your colleagues, join your teachers
Don't go into work today,
Pension rights were dearly fought for
We won't see them thrown away.

*Join the union, join the union,
Come and join the UCU (the UCU)
Come and join the UCU.*

Fat-cat payouts for the bosses
Tutors earning poverty pay,
Two hundred million pounds for buildings
Time to find another way.

Come and fight for all our pensions
Shout the message clear and plain,
Leave your desk, desert your lectures
Fight the workers' cause again.

UUK, get back to the table
We are the majority,
We're not backing down on pensions
Union is victory.



8. Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'

Tune: Oscar Hammerstein II

Original Words: Richard Rogers

New Words: UCU Edinburgh

There are thieves coming after our pensions,
There are thieves coming after our pensions.
They came in the night, didn't think that we'd fight,
But they're wrong if they think we will give up our rights.

*Oh what a beautiful morning
Oh what a beautiful day,
I've got a wonderful feeling
Everything's going my way.*

All the pickets are standing together,
We are standing whatever the weather.
Come rain and come snow, let the winter winds blow,
We've something to say and we want you to know:

*We are defending our pensions,
We are defending our pay,
We are most definitely winning,
Our pensions aren't going away – no,
Oh, what a beautiful day.*

9. Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!

Original: Bjorn Ulvaeus & Benny Andersson

New words: UCU Edinburgh

*Gimme gimme gimme a pension to live on,
Pensions are my right and they are part of my pay,
Gimme gimme gimme a pension to live on,
We will never let you take our pensions away.*

Half past eight and we're out on the picket line,
We're here to tell the folks at UUK,
"Don't you mess with us, we are here together,
And we're fighting for our pensions all the way."

Your deficit is shit,
We don't believe in it, oh no!

*Gimme gimme gimme a pension to live on,
Pensions are my right and they are part of my pay,
Gimme gimme gimme a pension to live on,
We will never let you take our pensions away.*

UUK said the pension fund's in deficit,
But no-one now believes a word they say,
Did they think that they'd really get away with it?
Well, this is what we think of UUK.

Your deficit is shit,
We don't believe in it, oh no!

*Gimme gimme gimme a pension to live on,
Pensions are my right and they are part of my pay,
Gimme gimme gimme a pension to live on,
We will never let you take our pensions away.*

Songs for a Better World Fantastic (but slightly harder) songs for picket lines

10. Joe Hill

Words: Alfred Hayes

Music: Carl Robinson

Popularised by Paul Robeson

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night
Alive as you and me
Says I "But Joe you're ten years dead"
"I never died", says he
"I never died", says he

"In Salt Lake City," Joe, says I
Him standing by my bed.
"They framed you on a murder charge"
Says Joe: "But I ain't dead"
Says Joe: "But I ain't dead"

"The copper bosses killed you, Joe,
They shot you, Joe," says I
"Takes more than guns to kill a man"
Says Joe, "I didn't die"
Says Joe, "I didn't die"

And standing there as big as life
And smiling with his eyes
Says Joe, "What they forgot to kill
Went on to organise,
Went on to organise"

"Joe Hill ain't dead," he says to me,
"Joe Hill ain't never died."
Where workers still defend their rights
Joe Hill is at their side, Joe Hill is at their side."

From San Diego up to Maine
In every mine and mill
Where workers strike and organise
It's there you'll find Joe Hill
It's there you'll find Joe Hill

(Repeat Verse 1)

11. William Brown

Tune: Trad., England (So Early in the Morning)

Words: Arthur Hagg

A nice young man was William Brown
He worked for a wage in a northern town.
He worked from six till eight at night,
Turning a wheel from left to right.

*Keep that wheel a-turning (x3)
And do a little more each day.*

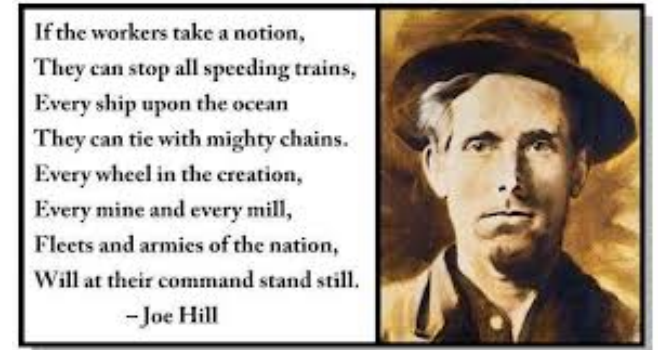
The boss one day to William came
And said, "Look here, young what's your name.
We're not content with what you do.
So turn a little harder or out you go."

So William turned and made her run
Three times round in the place of one,
He turned so hard he soon was made
Lord High Turner of the trade.

William turned with the same sweet smile,
The goods he made grew such a pile;
They filled the room and the room next door,
And overflowed in the basement floor.

The nation heard the wondrous tale,
The news appeared in the Sketch and Mail;
The railways ran excursions down,
All to see young William Brown.

But sad the sequel is to tell
With profits raised the boss could sell
To a take-over group from London Town,
The first redundant case was Brown.



12. The Freedom Come A' Ye

Tune: Bloody Fields of Flanders (piping tune)

Words: Hamish Henderson

Roch the wind in the clear day's dawin
Blaws the clouds heilster-gowdie owre the bay,
But thair's mair nor a roch win blawin
Thro the Great Glen o the warl the day.
It's a thocht that wad gar our rottans
Aa thae rogues that gang gallus fresh an gay,
Tak the road an seek ither loanins
Wi thair ill-ploys tae sport an play

Nae mair will oor bonnie callants
Merch tae war whan our braggarts crouselly craw,
Nor wee weans frae pitheid and clachan
Murn the ships sailin down the Broomielaw.
Broken families in launs we've hairriet
Will curse 'Scotlan the Brave' nae mair, nae mair
Black an white ane-til-ither mairriet
Mak the vile barracks o thair maisters bare

Sae come aa ye at hame wi freedom
Never heed whit the houdies croak for Doom,
In yer hoose aa the bairns o Aidam
Will fin breid, barley-bree an paintit room.
Whan MacLean meets wi's friens in Springburn
Aa thae roses an geeans will turn tae blume
An a black lad frae yont Nyanga
Dings the fell gallows o the burghers down.

13. The World Turned Upside Down

Words and Music: Leon Rosselson

1. In 1649 to St. George's Hill,
A ragged band they called the Diggers came to
show the people's will,
They defied the landlords; they defied the laws,
They were the dispossessed
Reclaiming what was theirs.
2. We come in peace, they said, to dig and sow,
We come to work the land in common
And to make the waste ground grow,
This earth divided we will make whole,
So it may be a common treasury for all.
3. The sin of property we do disdain,
No one has any right to buy or sell the earth for
private gain,
By theft and murder they took the land,
Now everywhere the walls spring up at their command
4. They make the laws to chain us well,
The clergy dazzle us with heaven, or they damn
us into hell,
We will not worship the God they serve,
The God of greed who feeds the rich
While poor folk starve.
5. We work, we eat together, we need no swords,
We will not bow to the masters,
Nor pay rent to the lords,
Still we are free, though we are poor
You Diggers all, stand up for glory, stand up now!
6. From the men of property the orders came,
They sent the hired men and troopers
To wipe out the Diggers' claim,
Tear down their cottages; destroy their corn
They were dispersed – but still the vision lingers on.
7. You poor take courage, you rich take care,
This earth was made a common treasury
Foreveryone to share.
All things in common, all people one,
We come in peace –
The orders came to cut them down.

14. Bread and Roses

*Inspired by Rose Schneiderman, 1900: 'The worker must
have bread but she must have roses too'
Poem: James Oppenheim 1906 (amended by Raised Voices
1990s)
Tune: Mimi Farrisna 1970s*

As we go marching, marching
In the beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill-lofts gray,
Are touched with all the radiance
That a sudden sun disposes,
For the people hear us singing
Bread and roses, bread and roses.

As we come marching, marching,
Unnumbered women dead,
Go crying through our singing
Their ancient cry for bread.
Small art and love and beauty
Their drudging spirits knew
Yes, it is bread we fight for
But we fight for roses too.

As we come marching, marching,
We battle too for men,
For they are women's brothers
And together we will win,
Our lives should not be sweated
From birth until life closes,
Hearts starve as well as bodies
Give us bread, but give us roses.

As we come marching, marching,
The future hears our call,
The rising of the women
Means the rising of us all,
No more the drudge and idler
Ten that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories,
Bread and roses, bread and roses.



15. We Shall Overcome

*Zilphia Horton, Guy Carawan, Frank Hamilton,
Pete Seeger and others, widely sung during the Civil Rights
Movement, USA 1960s*

1. We shall overcome (x2)
We shall overcome some day
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome some day.
2. We are not afraid (x2)
We are not afraid today (or any day)...
3. We will sing our song (x2)
We will sing our song today (and every day)...
4. We will live in peace...
5. We shall overcome...



16. We Are a Gentle Angry People

*Words & Music: Holly Near 1978, in response to the of
Harvey Milk and George Moscone, widely sung as an anthem
of the LGBT movement 1970s and 1980s*

1. We are a gentle angry people
And we are singing, singing for our lives (x2)
2. We are young and old together...
3. We are gay and straight together...
4. We are a justice seeking people...
5. We are a land of many colours...