

# Folk Music and the New Left in the Sixties

The 1960s was a time of great social and political upheaval. The Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the women's liberation movement were just a few of the major events that shaped the decade. Amidst this turmoil, folk music emerged as a powerful force for change.



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by Julie Lyonn Lieberman

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Folk music has a long history of being used to express dissent and to challenge the status quo. In the 1960s, this tradition continued as folk singers such as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Phil Ochs used their music to speak out against the war, racism, and sexism.

## Bob Dylan: The Voice of a Generation



Bob Dylan was one of the most influential folk singers of the 1960s. His songs, such as "Blowin' in the Wind" and "The Times They Are a-Changin'," became anthems for the anti-war and civil rights movements.

Dylan's music was often complex and poetic, but it was also accessible to a wide audience. His songs spoke to the hopes and dreams of a generation that was coming of age in a time of great turmoil.

### **Joan Baez: The Queen of Folk**



Joan Baez was another iconic folk singer of the 1960s. She was known for her beautiful voice and her passionate performances. Baez used her music to speak out against war, poverty, and injustice.

Baez was also a tireless activist. She marched with Martin Luther King Jr., and she performed at the March on Washington in 1963. She was also a vocal opponent of the Vietnam War.

## Phil Ochs: The Political Troubadour



Phil Ochs was a folk singer who was known for his sharp wit and his incisive political commentary. His songs often tackled difficult subjects such as racism, poverty, and war.

Ochs was a brilliant songwriter, and his songs were often both moving and thought-provoking. He was also a passionate activist, and he used his

music to try to make the world a better place.

## The Impact of Folk Music on the New Left

Folk music played a significant role in the New Left movement of the 1960s. Folk singers provided a soundtrack for the protests and rallies of the era, and their songs helped to inspire and motivate activists.

Folk music also helped to spread the message of the New Left to a wider audience. Folk singers performed at concerts and festivals across the country, and their songs were played on radio stations and television shows.

As a result of folk music's influence, the New Left movement was able to reach a larger and more diverse audience than it would have otherwise been able to. Folk music helped to create a sense of community among activists, and it provided a powerful voice for their message of peace, justice, and equality.

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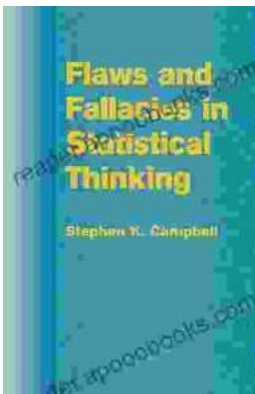
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