

Stand Up!

Songs by Michael Stern



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E-Book



Enjoy your preview of Michaels new songbook! Each song is is devoted to themes of justice and peace.

More from Michael at: [https://bppub.net/Michael Stern](https://bppub.net/Michael_Stern)

Foreword

In January 1973 I traveled across the country from Philadelphia to Spokane, Washington, to sit at the defense table with Michael during his trial for refusing to register for the draft. A few years earlier, before my own trial for draft resistance, I found that my draft card was burning a hole in my pocket. I felt personally responsible for the bombs Americans were dropping on Vietnam. I felt God asking me to put my body in the way of what my country was doing.

Our respective juries, it seems, were not greatly moved by these acts of solidarity with victims of war. Although we each faced a possible five years in prison, neither of us ended up in prison because our judges were moved by what we had done and said about it during our trials.

Too few Germans took a stand against their country's murder of millions of Jews, homosexuals, disabled people, Romany, unionists, and Communists. Too few Americans on the West Coast acted in solidarity with their Japanese American neighbors when they had their homes and businesses stolen from them and were shipped off to concentration camps. And too few white people in the South spoke out when Blacks in their towns were being lynched.

I believe the natural impulse for human beings is to care about their neighbors. If this is true, why do people so often fail to stand with those being threatened or oppressed? Why do we so often build walls around our hearts that block us from feeling love and connection with those who are suffering?

Walls like these grow from fear: Fear of what is different, of the stranger, of the "other," of whatever we are not accustomed to and comfortable with. Fear of feeling the pain that others are suffering. Fear that if we speak out then we, too, will become victims alongside those threatened by those in power.

This is why songs are so important. Songs go to a level in our being that is beneath the surface, beneath our intellect, beneath our defenses. Songs reach deep into our hearts and melt the walls that surround them. Songs plant seeds of empathy and love within us. Songs undermine intellectual excuses for doing nothing. Songs provide us with courage to act on our best impulses.

This is why songs have played a major role in social justice movements like the labor movement, the civil rights movement, the peace movement. Songs also help crack the walls of resistance around the hearts of many who are not directly involved in such movements.

And this is why we need these beautiful, powerful songs that Michael writes. Listen to them. Sing them. Let them touch you in your core. Let them move you to stand in solidarity with people of color, the poor, immigrants and refugees, sexual minorities, and others facing violence and oppression around this country - and around the world.

Peter Blood, co-creator of [Rise Up Singing](#) and [Rise Again](#) songbooks

Peter Blood

Over the years, I've written many songs which, one way or another, are about standing up. Standing up for justice, peace, and the environment. Standing up for ourselves and for our beliefs. Standing up for each other.

But alongside themes of standing up (or in essence, making things happen), I was also creating a body of music about letting it happen, stepping back, and listening to nature, to one another, and to the Spirit. These songs welcome a contemplative ebb between waves of action.

Along the way were love songs, personal struggles, sorrow, remembrances, wonder, and gratitude. We soon realized I had too many songs to include in a single volume, so plans are underway to compile second and third volumes to include my children's songs and songs based on biblical and spiritual themes.

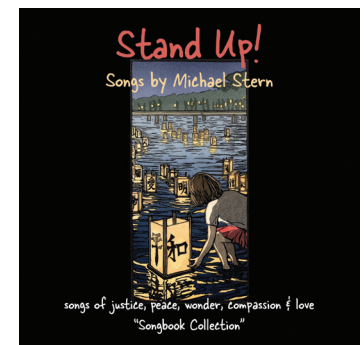
This volume is devoted to themes of justice, peace, wonder, compassion, and love. I've made brief personal explanations about what inspired each song, included a few comments about writing songs and tried to present the music in a format accessible, readable, and singable for a variety of folk musicians, singers, and song leaders. Scores prepared here are simply melodies with chords, not fully arranged for piano or four-part harmony (though a few have been more fully arranged and are available elsewhere.) We have left the music here open to individual interpretation, creativity, and unique skill sets.

Included are fretboard diagrams for less familiar guitar chords, and non-standard tunings. I've also made program notes which will help you learn by playing along with the **Stand Up Songbook Collection** audio album included as downloads with the book and available separately at:

https://bppub.net/Michael_Stern

I heard Pete Seeger at the Seattle Folklife Festival in 1997 when he made an impromptu appearance on a small stage. He talked about a project that he and others started in the late 1960's called the Clearwater. They built a 106-foot wooden sailboat dedicated to cleaning up the river, and over the past 30 years they had made a lot of progress toward that end. "But..." he said, "... we still have a long way to go." He compared incremental victories of the Clearwater to those of the Civil Rights and Peace Movements and the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. "In spite of a whole lot of terrible things, these little victories encourage each one of us that there's still hope for the world - and we can make miracles happen." Then he said something else I've never forgotten. "It's one thing to get things like this started. But it's really something if you can keep it going."

That's what I hope this songbook will help us do together. Get something started **AND** keep it going.



Michael Stern

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STAND UP

MICHAEL STERN

C Dm7 C/E G C Dm7 G7

1. First they came for the Com-mun-ists, then they came ___ for the Jews,
 2. Then they came for the un-ion-ists, and they came ___ for the priests,
 3. Then they came for the pac-i-fists, and they came ___ for the gays,
 4. Still they come for the out-casts, ___ for the poor and re-fu-gees,

5 C Dm7 C/E G C Dm7 G7 Last time To Coda

but I was - n't a Com-mun-ist ___ and I was - n't a Jew.
 but I was - n't a un-ion-ist ___ and I was - n't a priest.
 but I was - n't a pac-i-fist ___ and I was - n't ___ gay.
 and though I am not an out-cast ___ and I'm not poor or a re-fu-gee. (To Coda)

9 F G C Em F G C C7

refrain So I did-n't stand up and I did-n't ask why.

13 F G C C/B Am Dm7 F

By the time they came for me, ___ there was no one left to ask

16 G F G C D.C. al Coda F G C Em

why. But now I'm gon-na stand up
 Yes, we're gon-na stand up

21 F G C C7 F G

and I'm gon-na ask ___ why, ___ and if some-time they
 and we're gon-na ask ___ why, ___ and if some-time they

ONE WORLD

MICHAEL STERN

refrain

D Em7 D/F# A D

One world in which we live to-gether, one

6 Em7 D/F# A Bm F#m/A

sun shin-ing on you and me, one o - cean flows

11 G F#m G D A

in - to an - oth - er, one day we all will be free,

16 G D A *Fine*

one day we all will be free.

21 D Em7 D/F# A

1. One mo - ment can change a whole life - time,
 2. One day when the lamb and the li - on
 3. One day we will all meet our Mak - er,

25 D Em7 D/F# A

one life can change e - ter - ni - ty, one
 and our pride and our an - ger lie down,
 till that day we must do what we can to

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CARRY A GUN

MICHAEL STERN

C C/B F/A G

1. You're eight - teen years old, _____ war seems far a - way, May
 2. May - be your coun - try says that you should,
 3. They might take your fa - ther or an - oth - er some - one, May -

4 C C/B F/A G C C/B Am Am/G

seem an ad - ven - ture or ho - nest day's pay. But when in - no - cent _____ die, _____ no
 May - be the Pres - i - dent thinks that it's good. But may - be's not e - nough rea - son when
 be it's your lo - ver or mo - ther or son. And they'll try to take you, God, it's

7 F G C G7 C C C/B Am Am/G

vic - t'ry is won, _____ You don't have to car - ry a gun. When the in - no - cent _____ die, _____ no
 all's said and done, _____ You don't have to car - ry a gun. May - be's not e - nough rea - son when
 on - ly be - gun, But you don't have to car - ry a gun. They'll try to take you, God, it's

11 F G C G7 C C

vic - t'ry is won, You don't have to car - ry a gun. It takes
 all's said and done, You don't have to car - ry a gun.
 on - ly be - gun, You don't have to car - ry a gun.

15 C C/B F/A G C C/B

cou - rage to stand up for what you think is right. It takes wis - dom to know more than

18 F/A G C C/B Am Am/G F G

one way to fight. It may take man - y peo - ple, but it starts with just one, You

TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU CAN CARRY

MICHAEL STERN

(Capo 5) Am (Em) Amadd9 (Emadd9) Am (Em) Amadd9 (Emadd9) C (G)

1. The or - der came in

6 Dm (Am) Am (Em) Em (Bm)

for - ty - two from the Pres - i - dent and they told us to _____

10 Am (Em) Amadd9 (Emadd9) Am (Em) Amadd9 (Emadd9)

take on - ly what you can car - ry. _____ (guitar)

14 C (G) Dm (Am) Am (Em) Em (Bm)

2. La - beled with our _____ name tag stamps, they shipped us to in - tern - ment camps
 3. Up and down the _____ west - ern states, they took our land and _____ sealed our fates.
 4. Swept a - way like a dust - y breeze, no crime or trial if you're Ja - pan - ese. _____

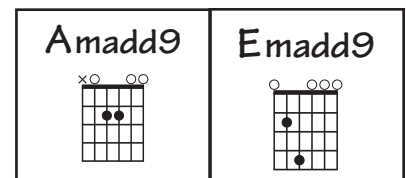
18 F (C) Am (Em) Dm (Am)

_____ like cat - tle herd - ed in - to stalls. The rooms had bare - ly _____
 _____ Our homes and or - chards left be - hind like the Con - sti - tu - tion, oh, but
 _____ Sur - round - ed by barbed wire _____ fence for _____ two plus _____ years, and

22 Em (Bm) Am (Em) Amadd9 (Emadd9) Am (Em) Amadd9 (Emadd9)

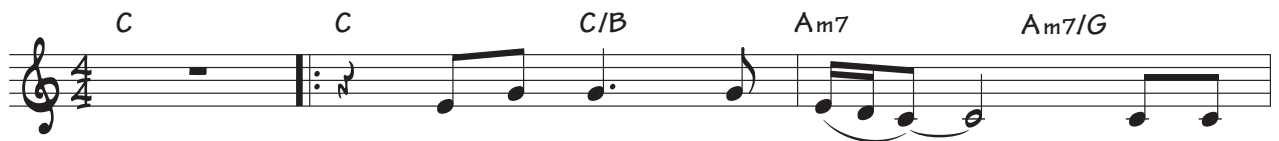
1, 2. _____ (guitar)

an - y walls. _____
 ne - ver mind. _____



HIGHER GROUND

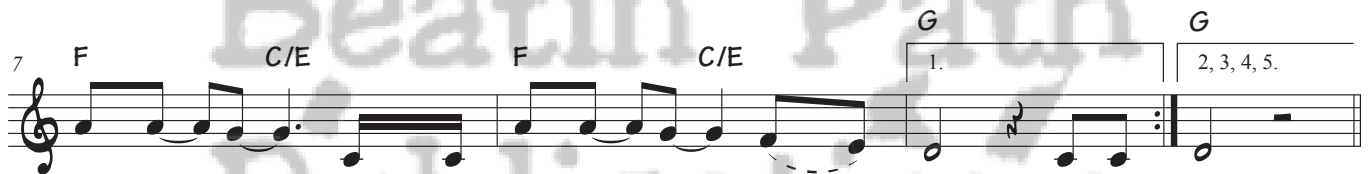
MICHAEL STERN



- 1.5. Riv - er wa - ter ris - in',
 2. liv - in' in a night - mare that you
 3. We don't have much mon - ey and we're
 4. All a - cross this coun - try,



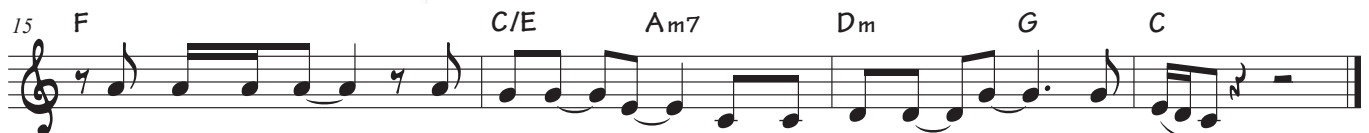
rain still com - ing' down. The ol' farm's a lake, but if the
 can't be - lieve is true. How we'll clean up this mess is an - y -
 run - ning out of gas. This cra - zy war goes on and now our
 all a - cross this land, from East To West, folks will



le - vees break, It'll damn near take this whole town. It's like
 bo - dy's guess. Don't know how we'll make it through.
 house is gone. God, we pray this too will pass.
 do their best To lend a help - ing hand.



2. I'm head-ed up to high-er ground, I heard a strang - er say,
 3. I'm head-ed up to high-er ground, I heard a strang - er say,
 4. I'm head-ed up to high-er ground, I heard my neigh - bor say,
 5. I'm head-ed up to high-er ground, I heard a strang - er say,
 (Tag) We're head-ed up to high-er ground, I heard the peo - ple say,



and with a hand held out to me, said we'd best be on our way.
 and with a hand held out to me, said we'd best be on our way.
 and with a hand held out to me, said we'd best be on our way.
 and with a hand held out to me, said we'd best be on our way. (to Tag)
 and with their hands held out to me, said we'd best be on our way.

Devastating floods pounded the Midwest one time when I was driving across the country. Images of destruction were sometimes paired with inspiring scenes of neighbors lending a hand to those in need. Whether flood, fire, tsunami, earthquake or war, this song is about making our way together to ***Higher Ground***.

To play with the recording, capo 2 & transpose to G. Keyboards transpose to A.

The black and white pictures below depict Seattle peacemakers in the late 1940's building Houses for Hiroshima.



1949 - Floyd Schmoie, Seattle Quaker Peace Activist, organized the Houses For Hiroshima Project which brought volunteers to build housing after WWII.



1949 - Daisy Tibbs, teacher and Rev. Emory Andrews, volunteers on Houses For Hiroshima Project



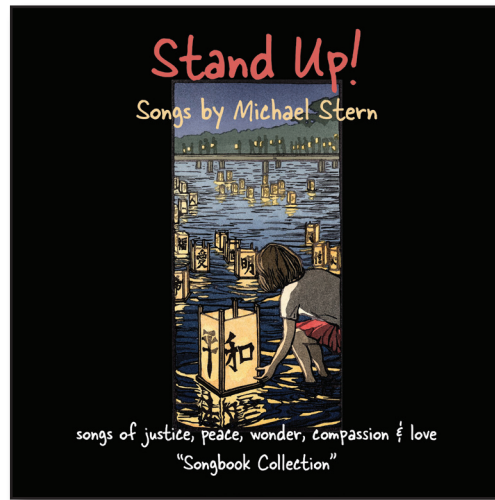
Habitat for Humanity brick line, Malawi 1998.
photographer unknown



Michael and child receiving his new home,
Malawi 1998
photographer unknown

Recordings of all 21 songs in this book have been digitally re-mastered and are available in a new compilation **Songbook Collection** album included with this purchase as downloads or available separately at

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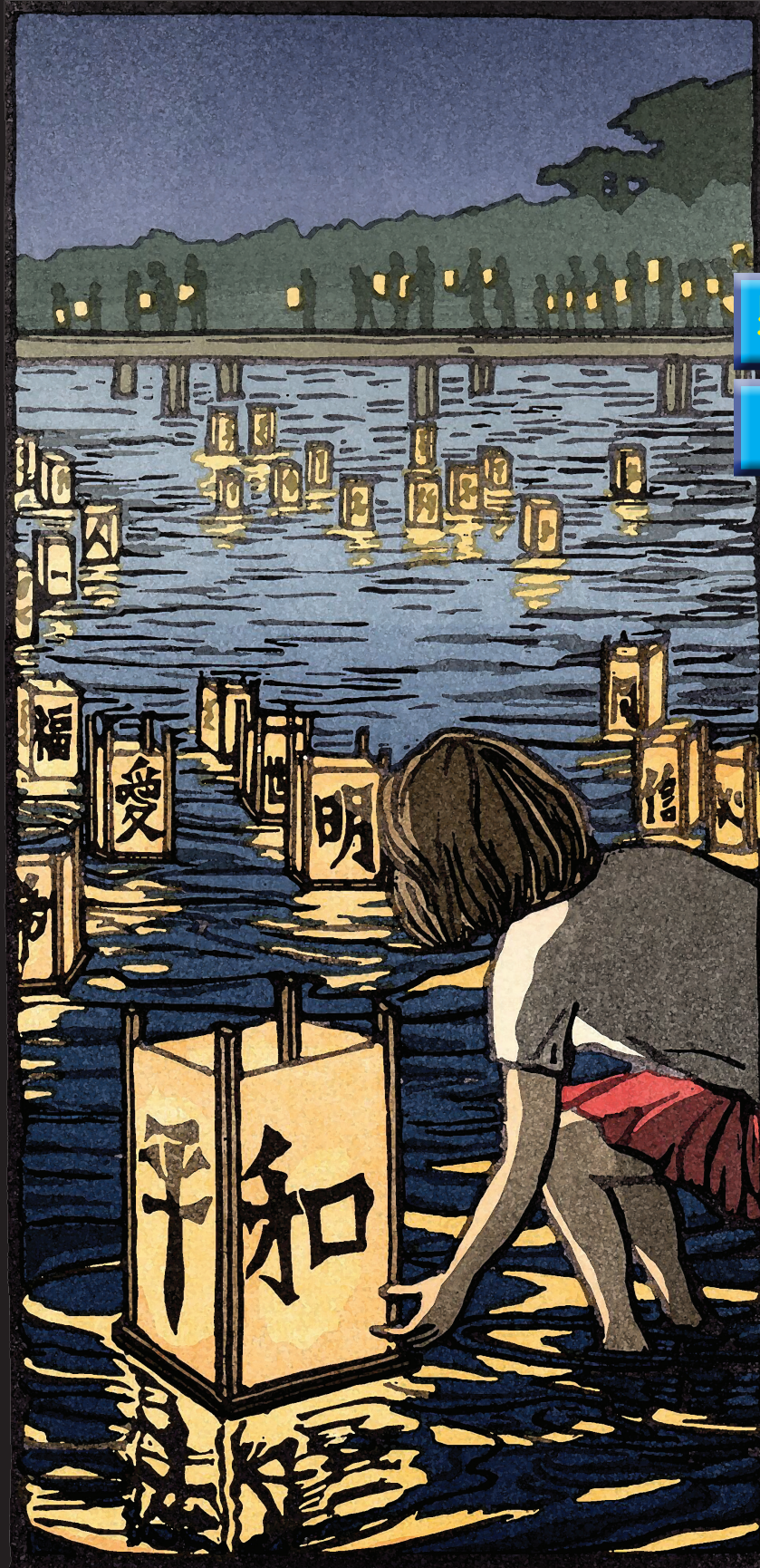


Look for Michael's CD's, singles and downloads at his website:

<https://www.mikesongs.net>



songs of justice, peace, wonder, compassion, and love



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