

JOAN BAEZ

“When I read the news, I am rendered almost impotent in the face of the violence, the poverty, the ignorance, and the near total international moral and spiritual breakdown that prevails. As I search for an alternative, an antidote to that impotence, I see it only in the application of revolutionary nonviolence, and active personal, social, economic, political force against the ills of our times — passivity, fear, disengagement, the near paralysis of the people.”

— Joan Baez

Joan Baez, longtime human rights activist and performer, has been an active supporter of the Resource Center for Nonviolence since it was founded in 1976. She has been on the forefront of activism since she was a teenager. She co-founded the Institute for the Study of Nonviolence with Ira Sandperl in 1965. She established Humanitas International Human Rights Committee in 1979. She has steadfastly spoken out against the violence and inhumanity around her, but even more important, she has taken action. In the civil rights movement, in the struggle to end the Vietnam War and military conscription, and in the human rights movement, Joan has been a leader and a doer. Always, the basis for her actions has been her commitment to the practice of Gandhian nonviolence.

It is no exaggeration to report that Joan Baez has been as busy as ever in the five years since she celebrated those joyful landmark years of 2008-2009, the 50th anniversaries of her legendary residency in 1958 at the famed Club 47 in Cambridge, and her subsequent debut at the 1959 Newport Folk Festival.

In addition to multiple tours of the US and Europe, the recent past has included the induction of Joan's 1960 debut LP on Vanguard Records by the National Recording Academy into the Grammy® Hall Of Fame, the presentation of its Lifetime Achievement Award by the prestigious Folk Alliance International and the presentation to her of the inaugural Joan Baez Award for Outstanding Inspirational Service in the Global Fight for Human Rights at Amnesty International's 50th Anniversary Annual General Meeting in 2012.

She remains a musical force of nature whose influence is incalculable - marching on the front line of the civil rights movement with Martin Luther King, inspiring Vaclav Havel in his fight for a Czech Republic, singing on the first Amnesty International tour and more recently, standing alongside Nelson Mandela when the world celebrated his 90th birthday in London's Hyde Park. She shined a spotlight on the Free Speech Movement, took to the fields with Cesar Chavez, organized resistance to the Vietnam War, then forty years later saluted the Dixie Chicks for their courage to protest the Iraq war. Her earliest recordings fed a host of traditional ballads into the rock vernacular, before she unselfconsciously introduced Bob Dylan to the world in 1963.

Amongst the many honors bestowed upon her, she is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the greatest honor that the Recording Academy can bestow (2007). *Day After Tomorrow*, her 2008 studio album was praised by critics and nominated for a Grammy. Its release was followed by the PBS American Masters series premier of her life story, *Joan Baez: How Sweet The Sound*.