

History That Made Songs/Songs That Changed History

Historical Performance Pieces with Charlie King and Karen Brandow

From hidden communication between slaves to songs fueling movements for economic justice, music serves as a tool to educate, unite and inspire. Charlie King and Karen Brandow recreate the history of people's dreams and struggles for a better world in PowerPoint images, dramatic readings and powerful songs. We perform these workshops in classrooms, museums, labor conferences, public libraries, community centers, senior centers, and progressive gatherings around the country. Following these 45-60 minute performance pieces we're eager to facilitate lively group discussion.



It Isn't Nice: A History of Nonviolence in the U.S. Chronicles the inspiring history of nonviolent direct action involving dozens of social issues and people of diverse races and ages. Starts with the Boston Tea Party and ends with Iraq veterans resisting the war.



Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn me 'Round. Offers a history of the Civil Rights Movement for African Americans from 1955 to 1967, highlighting activists such as Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer and Ella Baker.



Brother Can You Spare a Dime. Covers the 1930's, from the Crash, the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and the rise of the CIO to the build-up to World War II.



The Passion of Sacco and Vanzetti. Explores the story of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, wrongfully executed by the state of Massachusetts in a case that gained international attention. Their story is important in the current political climate for its exploration of issues such as dissent, immigrants, war and peace and the death penalty.



Dump the Bosses off Your Back. Captures the spirit, the tactics and the history of the Industrial Workers of the World, arguably the most creative, visionary and musical movement in American Labor History.



1912: Occupy Lawrence - The Great Textile Strike. Celebrates the 100th anniversary of what became known as the Bread & Roses Strike, bringing the strike alive while presenting a faithful historical account of a landmark event in American labor history.



Si Se Puede: A history of Latino workers in the U.S. Honors the struggles, victories and contributions of Latino workers in our country's labor history from the 19th century to the present, documenting the ways Latino working class heroes and heroines have raised standards for all workers.

Additional Workshops available on request

REVIEWS

"Charlie and Karen's music could be the soundtrack to Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United States.

Harry Murray, Sociology Professor, Nazareth College, Rochester, NY

"attended by close to 200 middle and high school students ... a wonderful presentation ... conveying what this time period of American History was all about. During Q&A they were quick to make thoughtful replies which youth could easily relate to ... I recommend without reservation ... "

Elliot Lax, Community Outreach Coordinator, City High School, Tucson, AZ

"We were thrilled that over 120 people...were obviously moved by your performance. It was astounding to hear the audience singing along with you. More importantly, the audience's participation in the discussion that followed your presentation marked the first time that this case was openly discussed in our community."

Lee Regan, Reference Librarian, Plymouth, MA

"...people really related to your direct and joyful presentation of this material."

Greg Koos, Director, McLean County Museum of History, Bloomington, IL

"...a very special and engaging performance from two wonderfully talented and insightful performers who kept the audience wholly mesmerized... a remarkable integration of letters and speeches and biographies."

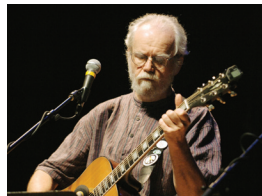
Neil Thomas Proto, Attorney at Law, Washington, D.C.,

"One of the best presentations we have ever had here. The residents loved it."

Joan Maher, Activities Director at Lafayette Senior Center, Philadelphia, PA

About the Artists

Charlie King and Karen Brandow are musical storytellers and political satirists who have released seven CD's since they began performing as a duo in 1998. In addition to a full time career of concert touring, King and Brandow have sung in support of numerous groups working for peace, human and labor rights, environmental sanity and alternatives to violence. They are active members in Local 1000 of the American Federation of Musicians, AFL/CIO.



Charlie King has a Masters Degree in Community Health Education and a Masters Degree in Religious Studies. He has been at the heart of American folk music for over 40 years. His songs have been

recorded and sung by other performers such as Pete Seeger, Holly Near, Ronnie Gilbert, John McCutcheon, Arlo Guthrie, Peggy Seeger, Pat Humphries, and Chad Mitchell. Honors include an "Indie" award for one of the top three American folk recordings of 1984. In May of 1998 the War Resisters League gave their Peacemaker Award to Charlie and to Odetta. Pete Seeger nominated Charlie for the Sacco-Vanzetti Social Justice Award, which he received in November 1999.



Karen Brandow has a Doctorate in Education. While doing human rights work in Guatemala from 1986-1994, Karen studied voice, performance and classical guitar. She performed at political and cultural events in that country as a soloist and was a founding member of the *a cappella* singing group, the Non-Traditional Imports. She is a Spanish interpreter and translator for progressive organizations, as well as a spiritual director.

Color photos by Josh Reynolds, courtesy of the Rosenberg Fund for Children.

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