

# The Big Red Songbook

250+ IWW Songs!

Edited by Archie Green, David Roediger, Franklin Rosemont,  
and Salvatore Salerno

Foreword by Tom Morello • Afterword by Utah Phillips

In 1905, representatives from dozens of radical labor groups came together in Chicago to form One Big Union—the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), known as the Wobblies. The union was a big presence in the labor movement, leading strikes, walkouts, and rallies across the nation. And everywhere its members went, they sang.

Their songs were sung in mining camps and textile mills, hobo jungles and flop houses, and anywhere workers might be recruited to the Wobblies' cause. The songs were published in a pocket-size tome called the *Little Red Songbook*, which was so successful that it's been published continuously since 1909. In *The Big Red Songbook*, the editors have gathered songs from over three dozen editions, plus additional songs, rare artwork, personal recollections, discographies, and more into one big all-embracing book.

IWW poets/composers strove to nurture revolutionary consciousness. Each piece, whether topical, hortatory, elegiac, sardonic, or comic served to educate, agitate, and emancipate workers. A handful of Wobbly numbers have become classics, still sung by labor groups and folk singers. They include Joe Hill's sardonic "The Preacher and the Slave" (sometimes known by its famous phrase "Pie in the Sky") and Ralph Chaplin's "Solidarity Forever." Songs lost or found, sacred or irreverent, touted or neglected, serious or zany, singable or not, are here. The Wobblies and their friends have been singing for a century. May this comprehensive gathering simultaneously celebrate past battles and chart future goals.

In addition to the 250+ songs, writings are included from Archie Green, Franklin Rosemont, David Roediger, Salvatore Salerno, Judy Branfman, Richard Brazier, James Connell, Carlos Cortez, Bill Friedland, Virginia Martin, Harry McClintock, Fred Thompson, Adam Machado, and many more.

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Archie Green** (1917–2009) was an American folklorist specializing in laborlore and American folk music. He is credited with winning congressional support for passage of the American Folklife Preservation Act of 1976, which established the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress.

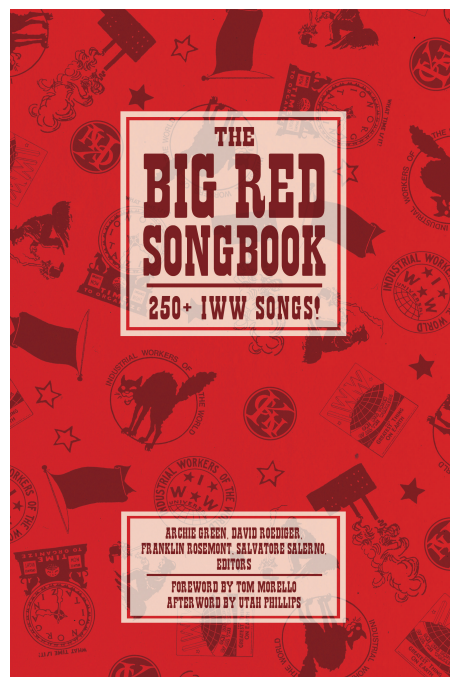
**David Roediger** is Kendrick Babcock Chair of History at the University of Illinois. Among his books are *Our Own Time: A History of American Labor and the Working Day*, *How Race Survived U.S. History: From Settlement and Slavery to the Obama Phenomenon*, and *The Wages of Whiteness: Race and the Making of the American Working Class*.

**Franklin Rosemont** edited and wrote an introduction for *What Is Surrealism? Selected Writings* by André Breton, and edited *Rebel Worker*, *Arsenal/Surrealist Subversion*, *The Rise and Fall of the Dill Pickle*, and *Juice Is Stranger than Friction: Selected Writings of T-Bone Slim*. For several decades he and Penelope Rosemont helmed the venerable radical publishing house the Charles H. Kerr Co.

**Salvatore Salerno** is the author of *Red November*, *Black November: Culture and Community in the Industrial Workers of the World* and has contributed articles to the *Haymarket Scrapbook* and many other publications. He is a professor on the Community Faculty staff of Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

**Tom Morello** is an original member of Rage Against the Machine and Audioslave. In 2007, he released his first solo album, *One Man Revolution*, as The Nightwatchman.

**Utah Phillips** (1935–2008) was a labor organizer, folk singer, storyteller, poet, and the "Golden Voice of the Great Southwest." He described the struggles of labor unions and the power of direct action, self-identifying as an anarchist. He often promoted the Industrial Workers of the World in his music, actions, and words.



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