

TAKES MORE THAN GUNS TO KILL A MAN

Born Joseph Emmanuel Hagglund to Swedish-American parents in 1879, union activist and songwriter Joe Hill was executed for committing murder in 1915 in Salt Lake City. Documents uncovered in the 21st century strongly suggest that Hill was innocent. He was executed by a police firing squad. His political notoriety as a vigorous and effective organizer for the IWW may have influenced his conviction. Thus, with his death he became a towering martyr to the cause of organized labor. Joan Baez performed this song at Woodstock in 1969, and it was released as a single by Vanguard in 1970. I learned it from her recording. You can hear Joan perform the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PX7M9psH0rM>.

JOE HILL

By Earl Robinson

G
I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night,
C **G**
Alive as you and me.
C **G**
Says I "But Joe, you're ten years dead"
A **D**
"I never died" said he,
D7 **G**
"I never died" said he.

"The copper bosses killed you Joe,
They shot you Joe" says I.
"Takes more than guns to kill a man"
Says Joe "I didn't die"
Says Joe "I didn't die"

And standing there as big as life
And smiling with his eyes.
Says Joe "What they can never kill
Went on to organize,
Went on to organize"

From San Diego up to Maine,
In every mine and mill,
Where working-men defend their rights,
It's there you find Joe Hill,
It's there you find Joe Hill!