

January, 1965

To Summer Project Workers and Friends of COFO

We are gathering material for a second volume of freedom songs for COFO and the Movement. We would like to include all of the really important songs that have evolved since the last song book -- published just after the March on Washington. A major portion of the book will be devoted to the songs and experiences related to music that will help tell the Mississippi story.

Could you please send us any of the songs that were sung in your community that are not in the first book -- We Shall Overcome. If you have new versions or variations of these older songs, we'd like those. We'd also like to know which were the most widely sung and the most meaningful songs -- both old and new. We're interested in songs of different kinds:

- brand new composed songs
- songs by northern sympathizers
- traditional songs from the local area
- songs from other protest area

Please tell us the origins of the songs if you know them.

Send us also written experiences, especially those about how the songs were used, situations in which they were sung, times when they helped, what music and singing meant to you and to others, etc. (See We Shall Overcome - the accounts should be short and concise.)

Also if you have any photographs that you feel appropriate, could you please send them.

Thanks very much,

Guy and Candie Carawan  
Route 1, Box 154  
Johns Island  
South Carolina