

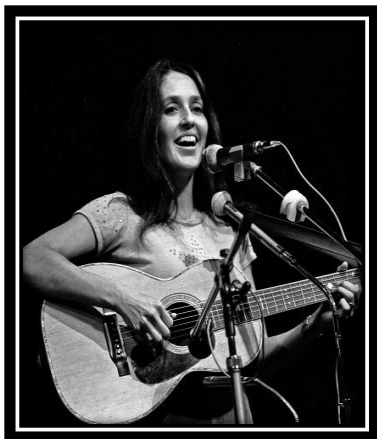
PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

JOAN BAEZ

musician and singer

“Action is the antidote to despair.”

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Background Information

Born: January 9, 1941

Baez was born in Staten Island, New York. While growing up, people treated Baez unfairly because she was Mexican. Early in her career, she began fighting for people like herself to be treated equally with White people.¹

Baez attended Boston University for about six weeks before she began her career as a performer. She is now a well-known singer, songwriter, and musician. She recorded her first album in 1960 and achieved immediate success.²

Baez’s Resistance

As a musician, Baez refused to perform in any places that were segregated. She only played in places where all races were welcomed. This meant that when she toured southern states, she would only play at Black colleges.

Baez sang songs about civil rights and performed at a lot of rallies and protests. She participated in sit-ins, marches, and other nonviolent protests during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Not only did she fight for the rights of people of different races, she also stood up for LGBTQ+ rights. Baez performed concerts to raise money for the LGBTQ+ community and wrote songs about issues they faced.

Achievements

Baez received many awards for her activism. In 1976, she was awarded the Thomas Merton Award. In 2006, Baez received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Legal Community Against Violence. They honored her lifetime of work against violence of all kinds. In 2015, Baez received the Ambassador of Conscience Award.³

¹ Johnson, R. (2011, November 2). Q&A: Joan Baez on religion, the Occupy movement and her rare T.O. concert appearance. Retrieved November 10, 2019, from TRNTO.com website: <https://trnto.com/qa-joan-baez-on-religion-the-occupy-movement-and-her-rare-t-o-concert-appearance/>

² Ruhlmann, W. (n.d.). Biography & History. Retrieved November 10, 2019, from AllMusic website: <https://www.allmusic.com/artist/joan-baez-mn0000069153/biography>

³ Levy, A. (2018). Official Bio for Joan Baez Retrieved November 10, 2019, from <http://www.joanbaez.com/bio/>

Essential Questions

1. How did Baez use her talent to make social change?
2. What talents do you have that you could use to make social change? (*Think about what kinds of things you enjoy doing or are good at doing.*)
3. “Action is the **antidote** to **despair**”?
 - a. What do you think she means by this quote? Do you agree or disagree with it? Why or Why not?

***Antidote:** something to help fix an unpleasant feeling or situation.*

***Despair:** the complete loss of hope.*