***Civil Rights Era Songs***

Strange Fruit (1959)

[Billie Holiday](https://www.google.com/search?safe=strict&rlz=1C1GCEU_enUS821US821&q=Billie+Holiday&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAONgVuLQz9U3SElKMl7EyueUmZOTmargkZ-TmZJYCQAQXzahHQAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjEjPig6aXjAhULH80KHfX4ApkQMTAAegQIDBAF)

Southern trees bear strange fruit

Blood on the leaves and blood at the root

Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze

Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant south

The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth

Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh

Then the sudden smell of burning flesh

Here is fruit for the crows to pluck

For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck

For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop

Here is a strange and bitter crop

Source: [LyricFind](https://www.lyricfind.com/) Songwriters: Lewis Allan / Maurice Pearl / Dwayne P Wiggins

A Change Is Gonna Come (1963)

[Sam Cooke](https://www.google.com/search?safe=strict&rlz=1C1GCEV_en&q=Sam+Cooke&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAONgVuLUz9U3MDQqszRdxMoZnJir4Jyfn50KACcsuFwZAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjp6Y3EvabjAhURCc0KHWuoCAgQMTAAegQIDxAF)

I was born by the river in a little tent

Oh and just like the river I've been running ev'r since

It's been a long time, a long time coming

But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will

It's been too hard living, but I'm afraid to die

'Cause I don't know what's up there, beyond the sky

It's been a long, a long time coming

But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will

I go to the movie and I go downtown

Somebody keep tellin' me don't hang around

It's been a long, a long time coming

But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will

Then I go to my brother

And I say brother help me please

But he winds up knockin' me

Back down on my knees, oh

There have been times that I thought I couldn't last for long

But now I think I'm able to carry on

It's been a long, a long time coming

But I know a change is gonna come, oh yes it will

Source: [LyricFind](https://www.lyricfind.com/) Songwriters: Sam Cooke A Change Is Gonna Come lyrics © Abkco Music, Inc