

We Shall Overcome – Music of the Civil Rights Movement

Markus Faltermeier, M.A., Amerika-Institut der LMU

The struggle for civil rights during the 1960s was one of the crucial moments in American social history. The march to Washington, D.C., Martin Luther King's "I had a dream" speech as well as many other significant events have since then been planted into the American cultural memory. This movement for social freedom and equality had its own soundtrack. Black as well as white musicians wrote the songs that accompanied the movement. These songs are still known and recall particular situations in American history: Thousands of people joining in on Pete Seegers "We shall overcome", Bob Dylan on the same stage as Dr. King singing "A hard rain's gonna fall". This lecture will try to give an insight into the significant role that music played during the Civil Rights Movement.