

History Lessons

A Musical Manifesto in Three Acts

Words by Peter Brunette
with a little help from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
Music by Peter Brunette

Act 1

Part 1

^G Here's a little ^C tip about the ^G history
^C Of hitherto-existing ^{Am} society: ^C ^G
^D It's always been a ^{Em} struggle, for life has not come ^C cheap ^{Em}
^C Since Adam left the ^G garden and had to earn his ^{Bm} keep. ^{D7}
^G Then all the wealth and ^C power came to flow towards ^G
^C The high and mighty ^{Am} princes and the feudal ^C lords. ^G
^D And while the bourgeois ^{Em} bosses were making ^C history, ^{Em}
^C They held the toilers ^G captive inside the ^{Am} factory. ^{D7} ^G
^{Dsus} ^{Em} ^{A7} ^D
(Chord progression to support key change.)

Part 2

^D But factory workers are ^G history makers, ^D
^{A7} So, sisters and brothers, it's right up your ^D line. ^{A7}
^D You fitters and joiners are ^{D7} movers and ^G shakers,
^{Bm} Your hands on the ^{Em} fabric of Nature's ^{A7} design. ^D
^G Your ancestors hunted on ^D plains and savannas
^{A7} And brought home their ^D harvest to bless and to ^{A7} share.
^D With no priests or ^{D7} parsons, they sang their ^G hosannahs
^{Bm} To fire and wa - ^{Em} ter, to earth and to ^{A7} air. ^D

Gsus Am D7 G
(Chord progression to support key change.)

Part 3

G
 Let the ruling classes tremble
 G7 C
 When they see your time has come,
 Am Em
 When they see your ranks assemble,
 Am D7 G
 Marching to a different drum.
 Now's the time to join the choir,
 G7 C
 All you workers of the world,
 Am Em
 Time to raise your voices higher,
 Am D7
 Let your banners be unfurled.
 G
 There can be no substitution
 G7 C
 For the hands that hold the key,
 Am Em
 For the workers' revolution
 Am D7 G
 Rising from the factory.
 Tell it to your friend and neighbour:
 G7 C
 Workers of the world, unite!
 Am Em
 For the hands that do the labour
 Am D7 G
 Have some history to write.

Act 2

Part 1

History you learn in your grammar school
Is like a story told by the village fool:
It's full of sound and fury but doesn't mean a lot.

C G Bm D7
 It's all about dead white men and all the wars they fought.
G C G
 And what about the women? Well, sister, can't you guess?
C Am C G
 They're mostly whores and harlots or damsels in distress.
D Em C Em
 For while the knights in armour were making history,
C G Am D7 G
 They kept their wives sequestered inside the nursery.
Dsus Em A7 D
 (Chord progression to support key change.)

Part 2

D G D
 But nursery workers are history makers,
A7 D A7
 So, mothers and daughters, it's right up your line.
D D7 G
 You spinners and weavers are movers and shakers,
Bm Em A7 D
 Your hands on the fabric of Nature's design.
G D
 Your ancestors gathered the seeds and the flowers
A7 D A7
 And brought home their harvest to bless and to share.
D D7 G
 The blazes they kindled unlocked all the powers
Bm Em A7 D
 Of fire and wa - ter, of earth and of air.
Gsus Am D7 G
 (Chord progression to support key change.)

Part 3

G
 Let the ruling gender tremble
G7 C
 When they see your time has come,
Am Em
 When they see your ranks assemble,
Am D7 G
 Marching to a different drum.

 Now's the time to join the choir,
G7 C
 All you women of the world,

^{Am} Time to raise your voices higher,
^{Em}
^{Am} Let your banners be unfurled.
^{D7}
^G There can be no substitution
^{G7} For the hands that hold the key,
^C
^{Am} For the women's revolution
^{Em}
^{Am} Rising from the nursery.
^{D7} ^G
 So put down the chowder ladle.
^{G7} Women of the world, unite!
^C
^{Am} For the hands that rock the cradle
^{Em}
^{Am} Have some history to write.
^{D7} ^G

Act 3

Part 1

^G History was all about the famous men
^C Who sailed the seven seas with the sword and the pen.
^{Am} They bristled with bravado, excelled in sex appeal.
^C They busted out all over with missionary zeal.
^G Well, half of all the natives they soon turned into slaves,
^C And most of those remaining they laid into their graves.
^{Am} And while the brave explorers were making history,
^D They turned the natives' country into their granary.
^C ^G ^{Am} ^{D7} ^G
^{Dsus} ^{Em} ^{A7} ^D
 (Chord progression to support key change.)

Part 2

^D But granary workers are history makers,
^G ^D

Am **Em**
For the hands that reap the harvest
Am D7 G
Have some history to write.