



Down by the Riverside

African-American Spiritual
Performed by Pete Seeger

[LISTEN](#)

PETE SEEGER (b. 1919)

It's no exaggeration to say that Pete Seeger has done more to popularize American folk music than any other contemporary musician, authoring or co-authoring the songs that have become folk standards: "If I Had a Hammer," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" and "Turn! Turn! Turn!" to name just a few.

Seeger's commitment to the revival of American folk music is rivaled only by his commitment to using music as an instrument for social change.

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ABOUT THE SONG

"Down by the Riverside" is an African-American spiritual that dates back before the American Civil War. The reference to the riverside in the song, though originally referring to the River Jordan in the Bible, was believed to be a coded way to refer to the Ohio River, where slaves could find safe passage north. Singers still sing this song at gatherings around the world where wars are being fought and people yearn for, hope for, and pray for, peace.

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4/4 Time

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Key C/Original Key G

(African American Spiritual/Before 1860) - Pete Seeger

INTRO {C,2m}

- 1) I'm Gonna Lay Down My Sword And Shield
Down By The Riverside... Down By The Riverside...
Down By The Riverside...
I'm Gonna Lay Down My Sword And Shield
Down By The Riverside
And Study War No More
-

CHORUS

*I Ain't Gonna Study War No More
Ain't Gonna Study War No More
Ain't Gonna Study War No More*

*I Ain't Gonna Study War No More
Ain't Gonna Study War No More
Ain't Gonna Study War No More*

- 2) I'm Gonna Talk With That Prince Of Peace
Down By The Riverside...Down By The Riverside...
Down By The Riverside...
I'm Gonna Talk With That Prince Of Peace
Down By The Riverside
And Study War No More

CHORUS

- 3) I'm Gonna Shake Hands with Everyone...

CHORUS

- 4) I'm Gonna Shake Hands Around The World...

CHORUS

4/4 Time

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE Key C/Original Key G

(African American Spiritual/Before 1860) - Pete Seeger

INTRO {C,2m}

- 1) I'm Gonna {C,4m} Lay Down My Sword And Shield...
Down By The Riverside...
{G,2m} Down By The Riverside
{C,2m} Down By The Riverside...
I'm Gonna {C,4m} Lay Down My Sword And Shield...
Down By The Riverside...And
{G,2m} Study War No {C,2m} More

CHORUS

*I Ain't Gonna {F,2m} Study War No More
Ain't Gonna {C,2m} Study War No More
Ain't Gonna {G,2m} Study War No {C,2m} More*

*I Ain't Gonna {F,2m} Study War No More
Ain't Gonna {C,2m} Study War No More
Ain't Gonna {G,2m} Study War No {C,2m} More*

- 2) I'm Gonna {C,4m} Talk With That Prince Of Peace...
Down By The Riverside...
{G,2m} Down By The Riverside
{C,2m} Down By The Riverside
I'm Gonna {C,4m} Talk With That Prince Of Peace...
Down By The Riverside... And
{G,2m} Study War No {C,2m} More...

CHORUS

- 3) I'm Gonna {C,4m} Shake Hands with Everyone...

CHORUS

- 4) I'm Gonna {C,4m} Shake Hands Around The World...

CHORUS