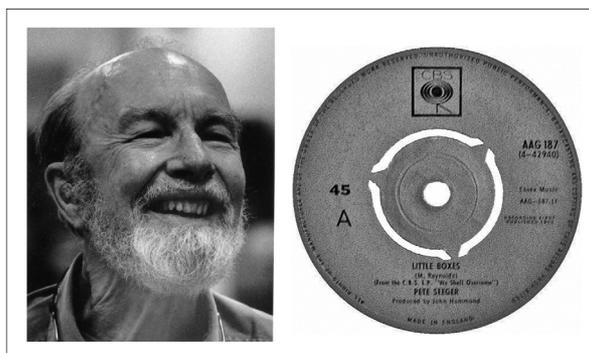




JUST FOR THE RECORD

by Dennis Barker



Pete Seeger: *Little Boxes*

"And they're all made out of ticky tacky, and they all look just the same....."

Malvina Reynolds

I'm sometimes a little slow to things. By the time I discovered the Showtime series *"Weeds"*, the folks from Agrestic had already put 5 seasons into the can. And, while I sometimes find the program a bit caustic for my gentle nature, I was immediately taken with the show's theme song, *"Little Boxes"*. A catchy tune, commenting on American homogeneity, this shout for individualism, offered in weekly incarnations, performed by varied artists in divergent styles, piqued my interest. My first thought was that it might be an old Woody Guthrie tune, but it didn't take long for my search to lead me to American folk music icon Pete Seeger.

Seeger, a life long activist, cut his musical teeth during the 1930's and 40's with the *Almanac Singers* and *The Weavers*. Writing and singing songs steeped in labor rights, racial equality and anti militarism, Seeger moved to the forefront of folk music, and became a fixture on American radio.

"I am not going to answer any questions as to my association, my philosophical or religious beliefs or my political beliefs, or how I voted in any election, or any of these private affairs. I think these are very improper questions for any American to be asked, especially under such compulsion as this."

Pete Seeger : House Un-American Activities Committee

Indicted for contempt of Congress, and blacklisted in 1955, for taking the 5th, in front of the HUAC, Seeger would spend the 50's battling for his own civil rights. However, as the 1960's emerged, his voice would again be heard as an activist for peace, and in protest against the war in Vietnam. With his banjo emblazoned with the motto: *This Machine Surrounds Hate and Forces It to Surrender*, Seeger would reel off a series of satirical songs attacking LBJ and the war. Pete Seeger's contributions to folk & folk rock music would continue throughout the 60's, and with such memorable songs as *Where Have All The Flowers gone*, *If I had a Hammer* and *Turn Turn Turn* solidifying his place as a cultural icon assured.

"Little Boxes", which has been widely covered, was written in 1962 by American folk singer/songwriter Malvina Reynolds, for her good friend Pete Seeger, who had often provided music, or helped with lyrics for her compositions. Seeger recorded the satirical tune at Columbia Records during 1963, and the record which was released on their ABC label, would reach #70 on Billboards hot 100.

In 2009, Pete Seeger celebrated his 90th birthday at Madison Square Gardens, surrounded by dozens of his musician friends. Pete continues to perform.

Pete Seeger: Little Boxes: Columbia (ABC) #42940 (RELEASED 1963)

Goldmine 45 record price guide, Values original copies of "Little Boxes" with original sleeve, in near mint condition, at \$8.00

To listen the recording, along with Reynolds version, visit our website at:

<http://newcenturycollector.com/records>