BEFORE THE HURRICANE BEGINS
Bob Dylan 1963

by

Olof Björner

A SUMMARY OF RECORDING & CONCERT ACTIVITIES, RELEASES, TAPES & BOOKS.

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1  INTRODUCTION

Joan Baez helps establish Bob Dylan as the leading folk song artist, he performs as guest or "surprise" artist at a number of her concerts. The second important album, The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan is at last completed and released. Dylan continues his almost frantic song writing, this year sees no less than 34 new songs and also a number of poems. The third album gets recorded rather quickly and is completed by the end of October. It is released in January 1964.

2  YEAR AT A GLANCE
3 CALENDAR

1, 2, 3 January   Dylan is interviewed for the English "performing arts" magazine "Scene".

2, 3 January   Dylan visits Rory McEwen and meets up with Eric von Schmidt, Richard Farina and Ethan Signer. McEwen also takes Dylan to meet Robert Graves.

2, 3 January   Possible appearance at the Surbiton and Kingston Folk Club, Surbiton, Surrey.

4 January   Second and last day of recording "Madhouse on Castle Street".

5 January   Flies to Rome to join Odetta and to try and locate Suze Rotolo. She has however just returned to the US. He performs at a folk club in Rome and writes both Girl From The North Country and Boots Of Spanish Leather.

12 January   Back in London Dylan, von Schmidt and Farina join Martin Carthy on stage at The Troubadour.

13 January   BBC broadcasts "Madhouse on Castle Street".

14-15 January   Dylan appear as Blind Boy Grunt on some six tracks during the recording of the album Dick Farina and Eric von Schmidt.

16 January   Dylan flies back to New York.

January   Dylan writes a poem called Go Away Bomb for Izzy Young who is compiling a book on "the bomb". The project is never finished.

January   Dylan performs an early version of Masters Of War in the home of Alan Lomax who also records it and also the following talk between Dylan and Izzy Young.

21 January   A new song based on the old English tune Nottamun Town is performed at Gerde's Folk City. It is called Masters Of War.

February   Dylan appears on Skip Weshner's radio show.

February/March   Nat Hentoff interviews Dylan for the liner notes to the new album. Parts of the interview later appear in the June 1963 Playboy magazine.

8 February   Recording of the so called "Banjo Tape" in the basement of Gerde's Folk City.

March   Dylan is surprise guest at Oscar Brand's "World of Folk Music". He performs two new songs Girl From The North Country and Only A Hobo.


12 April   Town Hall concert. The concert programme features a new Dylan poem My Life In A Stolen Moment. This is the first concert in which Dylan performs his own songs only. The concert is recorded by CBS for a possible live album.

19 & 20 April   Dylan Plays Café Yana in New York City, New York.

22 April   Dylan plays Palm Gardens in New York City, New York.

24 April   What is scheduled as the first recording session for The Times They Are A-Changin' turns out to be the last Freewheelin' session.

24 April   Dylan plays Gerde’s Folk City in New York City, New York.
25 April  Dylan plays at The Bear in Chicago.

26 April  Studs Terkel show on Chicago WFMT radio. Dylan performs seven songs, including four new: Farewell, Bob Dylan's Dream, Who Killed Davey Moore and Boots Of Spanish Leather.

10 May  Dylan plays at The Brandeis University Folk Festival in Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts. 7 songs are 2010 released on Bob Dylan In Concert: Brandeis University 1963.

12 May  The "Ed Sullivan Show" incident. Dylan refuses to appear when he is instructed not to play Talkin' John Birch Paranoid Blues.

18 May  Monterey Folk Festival. Duet with Joan Baez on With God On Our Side.


May/June  Stays with Joan Baez in Carmel, California.

May/June  Returns to Minneapolis and is as usual recorded by Tony Glover.

6 July  Dylan attends a "Voters' registration rally" in Greenwood, Mississippi, performing yet another new song Only A Pawn In Their Game. Part of this performance is filmed and included in the film Don't Look Back.

26-28 July  Newport Folk Festival. The festival programme contains a Dylan poem called For Dave Glover.

30 July  Dylan records two songs for the TV-program "Songs Of Freedom", broadcast on WNEW.

Summer  Dylan is surprise guest on NBC's "Tonight" program.

August  Release of the single Blowin' In The Wind/Don't Think Twice, It's All Right

August  Dylan is interviewed by Jack Smith from the radical newspaper "The National Guardian". The interview is later reprinted in Broadside.

3 August  Dylan is guest performer at Joan Baez' concert at the Camden Music Fair in New Jersey.

6, 7 August  1st and 2nd recording sessions for The Times They Are A-Changin'

10 August  Dylan is guest performer at Joan Baez' concert in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

12 August  3rd recording session for The Times They Are A-Changin'

13, 16  Dylan is guest performer at Joan Baez' concerts in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

14 August  Dylan is guest performer at Joan Baez' concerts At the Boys Club in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

17 August  Dylan is guest performer at Joan Baez' concert at the Forest Hills Stadium.

Late August  Sidney Fields from New York Mirror interviews Dylan.

28 August  Dylan performs at the Washington Civil Rights March.

9 October  Dylan is guest performer at Joan Baez' concert at the Hollywood Bowl.

Mid October  Michael Iachetta from the New York Daily News interviews Dylan.
Dylan returns to solo concerts, this day at Ann Arbour Hill Auditorium.

4th and 5th recording sessions for *The Times They Are A-Changin'*

Andrea Svedburg from Newsweek interviews Dylan.

Solo concert at Philadelphia Town Hall.

Solo concert at Carnegie Hall, New York. Audience includes Dylan's parents. This show is also recorded by CBS for a possible live album.

6th and last recording session for *The Times They Are A-Changin'*

Solo concert at Boston Jordan Hall.

Solo concert at Syracuse University Regent Theatre.

Solo concert at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

Dylan gives a reluctant concert somewhere in New York State, the day after the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Solo concert at St. Lawrence College, Canton, New York

Solo concert at Newark Mosque Theatre.

Dylan types and signs an unsigned letter to Tony Glover:

*hey man that surprised me yes/I am run runnin an ease droppin my route/an tryin not t get surprised an shook up when/the door slams. big door. out of Edgar allen poe sometimes .../yeah I guess I could say I needed a harp player/but I’d be lyin/an misguidin I wish I did .../honestly wish I did ... but I dont play blues on my guitar/I don’t play southern mt stuff either now/My guitar strings have escaped my eyesight .../they remain with me now as a friend/a flashin dashin friend who stands in front a me/makin me look better .../an its getting so now that I’m growin not t need it ... an soon I expect I will shout my words/with out it. for it’s colors are wearin off on/me an soon I myself will vanish into the sound/hole ... an all that will be going down will be/stark naked undressed obscene flesh colored/songs ... yes maybe lunatic ... ha/you ask about harps/I cant even understand how my own harp fits into/me ... it has the fuckin job of tryin t meet me/hard hard ... oh pity my own poor harp/I am a writer of words I am honest/I do not mean t harm nothin an nobody save that/thats runs against the boards of nature/its a big nature ... sometimes a circus nature/an other times a courtroom nature/but above all it is my nature/an I own stock in it/as much as anybody/an I will defend my clown courthouse/with the eyes of a lawyer/dont got enuff bread this month/last month gave too much money t scc or as you’d say/sncc ... or as winny churchhill snick .../find myself owin the government/money I dont have/gotta pay it nex month/I don’t know whn I can get that kind of bread/but for christs sake I should be able t shouldn’t I?/Maybe February .../goin up t woodstock t finish my book/at last look my man was lookin over new york/from the empire state ... seein strange fish in the hudson river an thinkin of england .../he’s got some ways t go yet yes. ha/sue says I should get a new warmer coat/I shake my head an bring her spare ribs .../she gets discusted an walks away in a flurry silent flurry .../but me?!/shit man I run an grab her/an promise t get a warmer coat .../sue laughs an I laugh/an nite falls .../take it easy man/dick farina’s*
mimi got out a the hospital/richard’s hip/he dont pay nothin’/look man i’m ppor i aint payin’/he dont even think about it/’I want an investigation a them doctors/I dont remember that one there that charged/me this price here/’an nite falls there too a brown pacific nite an we ride in the mornin …

13 December   Dylan receives the Tom Paine award at a Bill of Rights dinner held by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee at the Grand ballroom of the hotel Americana in New York. In a very uptight acceptance speech Dylan questions the validity of what his wealthy and liberal audience believe they are fighting. He even says that he can understand Kennedy’s murderer. A few days later he sends a poem called A Message from Bob Dylan to the Committee in which he is offering to make up for any losses in donations that may be the result of this unfortunate speech.

14 December   Solo concert at George Washington University, Lisner Auditorium, Washington, DC

27 December   Chicago Orchestra Hall. Set includes the new song Restless Farewell.

4 RECORDINGS

4 January   Madhouse On Castle Street sessions.
14,15 January   Dobell’s Jazz Record Shop
February   Folkways Studio
8 February   The Basement of Gerde’s Folk City
February   Skip Weshner Show
Winter   Witmark Studio
March   Oscar Brand Show
March   Witmark Studio
March   Folk songs and more folk songs
April   Second McKenzie’s Tape
April   Witmark Studio
12 April  Town Hall, New York City, New York
24 April  The 8th and last Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan session
25 April  The Bear, Chicago, Illinois
26 April  Studs Terkel Wax Museum
May      Witmark Studio
10 May   The Brandeis University Folk Festival
May-June The Home Of Tony Glover
6 July   Vote Registration Rally
17 July  The Home Of Dave Whitaker
Summer  Unidentified Recording Studio, New York City, New York
26 July  Newport Folk Festival. Evening.
26 July  Newport Folk Festival. Evening finale.
27 July  Newport Folk Festival. Afternoon workshop.
27 July  Newport Folk Festival. Topical song workshop.
28 July  Newport Folk Festival. During Joan Baez’ set.
30 July  Songs Of Freedom
6 August 1st The Times They Are A-Changin’ session
7 August 2nd The Times They Are A-Changin’ session
12 August 3rd The Times They Are A-Changin’ session
August  Witmark Studio
17 August Guest appearance at a Joan Baez concert
28 August March On Washington (Washington Rights March).
October  Witmark Studio
23 October 4th The Times They Are A-Changin’ session
24 October 5th The Times They Are A-Changin’ session
26 October Carnegie Hall
31 October 6th and last The Times They Are A-Changin’ session
December Witmark Studio

For details about these tapes please refer to the corresponding session pages in Still On The Road.

5  THE FREEWHEELIN’ BOB DYLAN

This album was recorded during no less than eight different sessions from 24 April 1962 to 24 April 1963! Here’s a summary of these sessions:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Song</th>
<th># of Takes</th>
<th>PTFBD</th>
<th>TFBD</th>
<th>BIOG</th>
<th>BOOT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 April '62</td>
<td><em>Going To New Orleans</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Sally Gal</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Rambling, Gambling Willie</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Corrina Corrina</em></td>
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<td><em>The Death Of Emmett Till</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Talking John Birch Paranooid Blues</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>(I Heard That) Lonesome Whistle</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>25 April '62</td>
<td><em>Rocks And Gravel</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Let Me Die In My Footsteps</em></td>
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<td><em>Sally Gal</em></td>
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<td><em>Baby Please Don't Go</em></td>
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<td><em>Milk Cow's Calf's Blues</em></td>
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<td><em>Wichita (Going To Louisiana)</em></td>
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<td><em>Talking Bear Mountain Picnic Massacre Blues</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9 July '62</td>
<td><em>Baby, I'm In The Mood For You</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Bob Dylan's Blues</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Blowin' In The Wind</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Quit Your Low Down Ways</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Honey, Just Allow Me One More Chance</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Down The Highway</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Worried Blues</em></td>
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<td>26 Oct. '62</td>
<td><em>Corrina Corrina</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Mixed-Up Confusion</em></td>
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<td><em>That's All Right Mama</em></td>
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<td>1 Nov. '62</td>
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<td><em>That's All Right Mama</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Rocks And Gravel</em></td>
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<td>14 Nov. '62</td>
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<td><em>Don't Think Twice, It's All Right</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Ballad Of Hollis Brown</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Kingsport Town</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Whatcha Gonna Do</em></td>
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<td>6 Dec '62</td>
<td><em>Hero Blues</em></td>
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<td><em>Whatcha Gonna Do</em></td>
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<td><em>Oxford Town</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>I Shall Be Free</em></td>
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1. The Promotional edition of The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan
2. The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan
3. Biograph
4. Bootleg Series
A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall  1  1  1

24 April ’63  Girl From The North Country  6  2
Masters Of War  6  3
Walls Of Red Wing  3  1
Talking World War III Blues  5  5
Bob Dylan's Dream  2  2

For more details about these sessions please refer to the corresponding session page in Still On The Road.

Notes

A promotional version was released March 1963, the final version was released 27 May 1963. The following three songs from the first two sessions: Rambling, Gambling Willie, Talking John Birch Paranoid Blues, Let Me Die In My Footsteps were replaced with the following four songs from the last session one year later: Girl From The North Country, Masters Of War, Talking World War III Blues, and Bob Dylan's Dream.

Live history


Let Me Die In My Footsteps  Finjan Club, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 2 July 1962.


Corrina Corrina  Gerde's Folk City, New York City, New York, April or May 1962.

Rocks And Gravel  Finjan Club, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 2 July 1962. Gaslight Café, New York City, New York, October 1962.

Don't Think Twice, It's All Right  first: Gaslight Café, New York City, New York, October 1962.


Masters Of War  first: Skip Weshner Show, New York City, New
Walls Of Red Wing
first: New York City Late 1962

Talking World War III Blues

Bob Dylan's Dream
first: Town Hall, New York City, New York, 12 April 1963

The following songs have probably never been played live:

Rambling, Gambling Willie
Down The Highway
I Shall Be Free

Officially released live versions:

Don't Look Back
Talking World War III Blues
Don't Think Twice, It's All Right

The Concert For Bangla Desh
Blowin' In The Wind
A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall

Before The Flood
Blowin' In The Wind
Don't Think Twice, It's All Right

At Budokan
Blowin' In The Wind
Don't Think Twice, It's All Right

Real Live
Girl From The North Country
Masters Of War

Hard To Handle
Girl From The North Country

Dignity CD-single
A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall

Blowin' In The Wind, Don't Think Twice, It's All Right, A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall, Girl From The North Country, Masters Of War, and Bob Dylan's Dream have all been played regularly during the Never-Ending Tour.

6 THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

This album was recorded during six session in the Columbia Studios in New York City in August and October. The following songs were recorded:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Song</th>
<th># of takes</th>
<th>TTTAC</th>
<th>BIOG</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 August</td>
<td>Boots Of Spanish Leather</td>
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<td>Only A Pawn In Their Game</td>
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<td></td>
<td>North Country Blues</td>
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5 The Times They Are A- Changin'

6 Biograph

7 Bootleg Series
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tracks</th>
<th>7 August</th>
<th>12 August</th>
<th>23 October</th>
<th>24 October</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Ballad Of Hollis Brown</em></td>
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<td><em>Seven Curses</em></td>
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<td><em>With God On Our Side</em></td>
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<td><em>Farewell</em></td>
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<td><em>Bob Dylan's New Orleans Rag</em></td>
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<td><em>Paths Of Victory</em></td>
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<td><em>Bob Dylan's New Orleans Rag</em></td>
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<td><em>Hero Blues</em></td>
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<td><em>Moonshine Blues</em></td>
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<td><em>Eternal Circle</em></td>
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<td><em>Only A Hobo</em></td>
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<td><em>The Lonesome Death Of Hattie Carroll</em></td>
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<td><em>When The Ship Comes In</em></td>
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<td><em>The Times They Are A-Changin'</em></td>
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<td><em>Percy's Song</em></td>
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<td><em>That's All Right Mama</em></td>
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<td><em>One Too Many Mornings</em></td>
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<td><em>Suze (The Cough Song)</em></td>
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<td><em>Bob Dylan's New Orleans Rag</em></td>
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For more details about this session please refer to the corresponding session page in Still On The Road.

**Notes**

The album was released 13 January 1964.

**Live history**

- **North Country Blues**

- **Ballad Of Hollis Brown**
  - first: Carnegie Hall, New York City, New York, 22 September 1962

- **With God On Our Side**
Only A Pawn In Their Game first: Silas Magee's Farm, Greenwood, Mississippi, 6 July 1963.


When The Ship Comes In first: Carnegie Hall, New York City, New York, 26 October 1963.


The Times They Are A-Changin' first: Carnegie Hall, New York City, New York, 26 October 1963.


Officially released live versions:
Don't Look Back The Times They Are A-Changin'
Only A Pawn In Their Game

The Bootleg Series Vol 4. One Too Many Mornings

Hard Rain One Too Many Mornings

MTV Unplugged The Times They Are A-Changin'
With God On Our Side

Not Dark Yet CD-single Boots Of Spanish Leather

Ballad Of Hollis Brown, Boots Of Spanish Leather, The Lonesome Death Of Hattie Carroll, One Too Many Mornings and The Times They Are A-Changin' have all been part of the standard repertoire during the Never-Ending Tour.

7 SONGS 1963

January Farewell Also recorded during the Another Side sessions in 1964. This is one of Bob Dylan's most covered songs, Tim Dunn lists 16 albums among them Dion: "Wonder Where I'm Bound" - Columbia 1969.

Girl From The North Country Also recorded with Johnny Cash and released on Nashville Skyline. A live acoustic version from Slane Castle, Dublin,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Song</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Cuban Missile Crisis</td>
<td>Not included in Lyrics 1962-1985!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bound To Lose, Bound To Win</td>
<td>Not included in Lyrics 1962-1985!</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Bob Dylan's New Orleans Rag</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Boots Of Spanish Leather</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dusty Old Fairgrounds</td>
<td>No known studio version. Covered by Blue Ash on their album &quot;No More, No Less&quot;, Mercury 1973. This version is also included on the LP version of the collection &quot;The Songs of Bob Dylan&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Talkin' World War III Blues</td>
<td>This song replaced Talkin' John Birch Paranoid Blues on the final version of the Freewheelin' album.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Who Killed Davey Moore?</td>
<td>Covered by Pete Seeger on a number of</td>
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**With God On Our Side**

June  *Eternal Circle*

Covered by Coulson, Dean, McGuiness, Flint on their album "Lo And Behold", Sire 1972.

July  *Only A Pawn In Their Game*

August  *California*


*Gypsy Lou*

*North Country Blues*

*One Too Many Mornings*

*Percy's Song*

*Seven Curses*


*Troubled And I Don't Know Why*

*When The Ship Comes In*

September  *Lay Down Your Weary Tune*

*The Lonesome Death Of Hattie Carroll*

*The Times They Are A-Changin’*

October  *Restless Farewell*

### 8 POEMS 1963

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Go Away You Bomb</td>
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<td>Occasionally #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Thoughts On Woody Guthrie</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lyrics 1962-1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>My Life In A Stolen Moment</td>
<td>Town Hall Concert programme</td>
<td>Lyrics 1962-1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Dave Glover</td>
<td>Newport Folk Festival programme</td>
<td>Stephen Pickering: A Commemoration, In His Own Write (bookleg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"I ain't a record note writer"  Liner notes to The New World Singers' self-titled album

In The Wind  Liner notes to Peter, Paul & Mary's album with the same name  In His Own Write (bookleg)

Poem To Joannie  Liner notes to Joan Baez' album *In Concert, Volume 2*  In His Own Write (bookleg)

11 Outlined Epitaphs  Liner notes to *The Times They Are A-Changin'*  Lyrics 1962-1985

A Message from Bob Dylan  Letter to the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee  In His Own Write (bookleg), Stephen Pickering: Praxis: One

Blowin' In The Wind  Poem in the Broadside Dec 1963 issue  In His Own Write (bookleg)

A Letter To Sis And Gordon  Poem in Broadside Jan 1964 issue  In His Own Write (bookleg)

9 SOURCES


10 SUGGESTED READINGS

10.1 General background

Michael Gray  *Song & Dance Man III. The Art Of Bob Dylan*  Cassell 1999. Hardback 918 pages (!!!)

10.2 Article compilations

Carl Benson (ed)  
**The Bob Dylan Companion — Four Decades of Commentary.**  

Craig McGregor (ed)  
**Bob Dylan. A Retrospective.**  
William Morrow 1972

Elizabeth M. Thomson (ed)  
**Conclusions On The Wall. New Essays On Bob Dylan.**  
Thin Man 1980

10.3 Selected articles

**Bob Dylan’s Publications in Broadside Magazine 1962-1965** – article by David Pichaske in The Telegraph #20

**Doing The London Waltz** – article in Brian Lawlan's book Steppin’ Out.

**The Frewheelin' Sessions** – article by Clinton Heylin in The Telegraph #10

**I'm Troubled And I Don’t Know Why** (lyrics) – The Telegraph #1

**The Witmark Demo Tapes** – article by Clinton Heylin in The Telegraph #16

**Uncopyrighted Songs** – article by Clinton Heylin in The Telegraph #25

**A Chat with Martin Carthy** – Matthew Zuckerman, Isis #83

**One Time In London** – Derek Barker, Isis #83

**The Madhouse On Castle Street** – by John Bauldie, The Telegraph 45 (Summer 1993)

**Christopher Ricks on The Lonesome Death Of Hattie Carroll** – The Telegraph 42 (Summer 1992)

**Eric von Schmidt Interview** – by Joseph Sia, On The Tracks #4 (Fall 1994)

**One Time In London** – Derek Barker, Isis #83

**Stealin' Stealin': Bob Dylan & The Blues, 1961-1963** – The Telegraph 54 (Spring 1996)

**The True Story Of William Zantzinger** – by John Bauldie, The Telegraph 42 (Summer 1992)

**The Wanted Man Interview: Robert Shelton** – The Telegraph 54 (Spring 1996)