

SOLIDARITY FOREVER

Ralph Chaplin

(new verses: 2. Bonnie Lockhart¹; 5. Steve Suffet)

1. When the union's inspiration through the workers' blood shall run,
There can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun
Yet what force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one
But the union makes us strong!

CHORUS: Solidarity forever (3x). For the union makes us strong.

2. We're in high schools and in childcare and in elementary schools
We have suffered long from cutbacks, but we will not suffer fools
Education will be funded when we fight to change the rules
And we make our unions strong!
3. It is we who plowed the prairies; built the cities where they trade
Dug the mines and built the workshops, endless miles of railroad laid
Now we stand outcast and starving midst the wonders we have made
But the union makes us strong!
4. They have taken untold millions that they never toiled to earn
But without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn
We can break their haughty power, gain our freedom when we learn
That the union makes us strong!
5. They divide us by our color, they divide us by our tongue
They divide us men and women, they divide us old and young
But they'll tremble at our voices when they hear these verses sung
For the union makes us strong!
6. In our hands is placed a power greater than their hoarded gold
Greater than the might of armies, magnified a thousand-fold
We can bring to birth a new world from the ashes of the old
For the union makes us strong!

<< from Songs for California Educators Rising; visit www.occupella.org for entire songbook >>

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