

QUOTES ABOUT SI KAHN AND HIS MUSIC

Rosanne Cash, singer, songwriter, author: "If the 'arc of the moral universe bends toward justice', as Martin Luther King said, then Si Kahn has devoted his life to riding that arc. His powerful impulse to service, combined with deep compassion, is a force of nature. I put Si in the same category as Woody Guthrie, as Pete Seeger, and in a strange way, with my Dad, who shared his righteous sense of humanity, and his love of the 'meek', who he truly believed would 'inherit the earth.'"

Studs Terkel, Pulitzer Prize winning author: "Si Kahn fuses life with song."

Dave Higgs, *Bluegrass News*: "In a world rife with many talented songwriters, Si Kahn stands alone. And his deeply thoughtful, elegantly simple, sometimes majestic, often aching moving and always hard-hitting songs have stood, and will continue to stand, the test of time."

Bruce Kaplan, President, *Flying Fish Records*: "Probably the best songwriter I ever had contact with."

Robert Christgau, *Village Voice*: "Subtlety, originality and sheer conceptual elegance."

Kathy Mattea, Grammy winning artist: "Si reminds us that we are, in all our messy, glorious humanity, unspeakably beautiful. And through the mirror of our history, he quietly hands us a gentle, firm, beautiful wake-up call. No hook, no anger, no hidden agenda, just the flame of a beautiful heart, calling to that flame in all of us. And just for today I can believe it, because I have seen it through his eyes."

Pete Seeger: "Si Kahn is one of the best...a solid thinker who is able to humanize the political...I hope he lives to be 120."

***Hampshire Life, Northampton*:** "Maybe the best-known American musician-activist after Pete Seeger...Also, he has a sense of humor."

***The Capital Times, Madison, Editorial*:** "One of the epic figures in contemporary American folk music and activism."

Rich Warren, Host, *Folkstage* and *The Midnight Special*, WFMT: "A terrific sense of humor, which works to drive home the political and social messages in his carefully crafted songs. He is so wonderfully human in performance and it's obvious he deeply means what he says and what he sings."

Mary Chapin Carpenter: "Keep writing your wonderful songs, the world needs them so much."

Geoffrey Himes, *Rolling Stone*: "A poetic detail and an ironic understatement unknown in political folk music since Dylan's early folkie days."

Jane Ashley, *USA Today*: "Some call him a poet. Others say he's a modern-day Woody Guthrie."

Derk Richardson, San Francisco *Bay Guardian*: “One of this country’s most talented populist songwriters since Woody Guthrie...He frames personal stories...with the unstrained poetry of everyday language.”

Jennifer Dunning, *New York Times*: “Affirmation and gentle wit.”

Lynn Van Matre, *Chicago Tribune*: “His songs, which reflect by turns uncommon amounts of humor, compassion, passion and poetry...represent some of the finest efforts in the contemporary folk vein.”

Nat Hentoff, *The Nation*: “A strong, clear, supple voice and the timing of a classic storyteller.”

Mark Moss, *Sing Out!*: “Rarely are life, music and political action so firmly fused.”

Ariel Swartley, *Boston Phoenix*: “Si Kahn is the first artist since Woody Guthrie to swoop down on a body of traditional material, transform it utterly and send it home with a shine on.”

Ken Hunt, *Folk Roots, England*: “His wonderful rural, old time, blues-soaked, pain-filled voice produces consistently moving interpretations of his songs.”

Charles Johnson, *Bluegrass Unlimited*: “In concert, he’s a particularly powerful and warm performer...He mesmerizes the crowd with his songs, which are thoughtful, provocative and often wryly humorous.”

Geoffrey Himes, *Washington Post*: “Not since Wallace Stevens scribbled poetry in the hours after his insurance job has a hobbyist/artist created a body of work as impressive as Si Kahn’s.”

Matt Watroba, *Sing Out!*: “One of our very best songwriters...The feeling behind most of Si Kahn’s music has everything to do with singing deep from the heart in a circle of friends.”

Linda Rocawich, *The Progressive*: “Known nationwide as an accomplished singer, songwriter and recording artist in the political folk tradition.”

Dick Pleasants, *WUMB, Boston*: “I love Si Kahn. I love the way he makes me feel when I meet him and when I listen to his music...As folk music should, Si brings us back to the place we should be.”

Frye Gaillard, *Creative Loafing*: “One of the most important folksingers of his time.”

Scott Alarik, *We’re Still Here* liner notes: “By the unique, timeless, grassrootsy measures with which great folk songs have always been judged, it can be argued that he is the most successful folk songwriter of his generation.”

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