

Introduction

By LeRoy Chatfield

Joan Baez was a staunch supporter of Cesar Chavez and his farmworker movement for two reasons, I think: she believed in social justice for farmworkers, and she supported the commitment of Cesar Chavez to nonviolence.

In 1966, Baez gave back-to-back farmworker benefit concerts at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, both concerts sold out within a few hours after the tickets became available. (My recollection is that approximately \$70,000 – more than \$500,000 in 2007 dollars - was raised for the cause of the farmworkers at the Santa Monica benefit.)

Throughout the years, Joan Baez attended many farmworker movement gatherings: rallies, meetings, picket lines, funerals, and conventions. On this occasion, she attended the end of the fast of Cesar Chavez at the Convention Center in Phoenix, AZ – June 4, 1972.