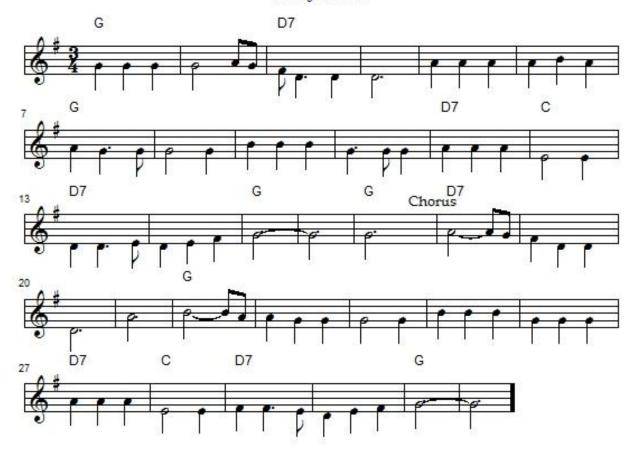
Roll On Columbia

Woody Guthrie



Chorus:

Roll on, Columbia, roll on Roll on, Columbia, roll on Your power is turning our darkness to dawn So roll on, Columbia, roll on

- 1. Green Douglas firs where the waters cut through Down her wild mountains and canyons she flew Canada Northwest to the oceans so blue Roll on Columbia, roll on Chorus
- 2. Other great rivers add power to you Yakima, Snake, and the Klickitat, too Sandy Willamette and Hood River too So roll on, Columbia, roll on Chorus
- 3. Tom Jefferson's vision would not let him rest An empire he saw in the Pacific Northwest Sent Lewis and Clark and they did the rest So roll on, Columbia, roll on Chorus

- 4. It's there on your banks that we fought many a fight Sheridan's boys in the blockhouse that night They saw us in death but never in flight So roll on Columbia, roll on Chorus
- 5. At Bonneville now there are ships in the locks
 The waters have risen and cleared all the rocks
 Shiploads of plenty will steam past the docks
 So roll on, Columbia, roll on
 Chorus
- 6. And on up the river is Grand Coulee Dam
 The mightiest thing ever built by a man
 To run the great factories and water the land
 So roll on, Columbia, roll on
 Chorus
- 7. These mighty men labored by day and by night Matching their strength 'gainst the river's wild flight Through rapids and falls, they won the hard fight So roll on, Columbia, roll on Chorus

"Roll On, Columbia, Roll On" is an American folk song written in 1941 by American folk singer Woody Guthrie, who popularized the song through his own recording of it. The song glamorized the harnessing of the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest. The 11 hydroelectric dams built on the American stretch of the Columbia helped farms and industry, but their construction also permanently altered the character of the river.

The song became famous as an anthem about American public works projects arising out of the New Deal in the Great Depression. In 1987, it was adopted as the official folk song of the State of Washington.

"Roll On, Columbia, Roll On" was part of the **Columbia River Ballads**, a set of twenty-six songs written by Guthrie as part of a commission by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the federal agency created to sell and distribute power from the river's federal hydroelectric facilities (primarily Bonneville Dam and Grand Coulee Dam).

As he did many times, Guthrie used a well-known tune for his lyrics. In this case it was Leadbelly's "Good Night Irene".

The best known recordings are by Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger.