**Version of the traditional freedom song “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize”**

Composer: ? The lyrics and music of African-American and American folk songs in general were frequently rewritten, changed and adapted. The version below was common in the 1960s. The earliest recorded reference is from 1937, but there is evidence that the song was already being sung at the beginning of the twentieth century. Earlier versions included biblical references and were frequently adapted depending on the historical context.

For distinct recorded versions of the song available on Youtube see:

Sweet Honey on the Rock: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_tcZAqQUAg>

Mavis Staples: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZWdDI_fkns>

Bruce Springsteen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIgcBBxjgwE>

Pete Seeger: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xLD4bVZZlc>

*The only chain that a man can stand  
Is the chain of hand in hand  
Keep your eyes on the prize,*

*Hold on, hold on*

*We’re gonna board that old Greyhound,*

*Carrying love from town to town.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize,*

*Hold on, hold on.*

*The only thing we did wrong,*

*Stayed in the wilderness a day too long.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize,*

*Hold on, hold on.*

*But the one thing we did right*

*Was the day we started to fight.*

*Keep your eyes on the prize,*

*Hold on, hold on.*