

Don't miss a free performance & presentation by Michael Honey!

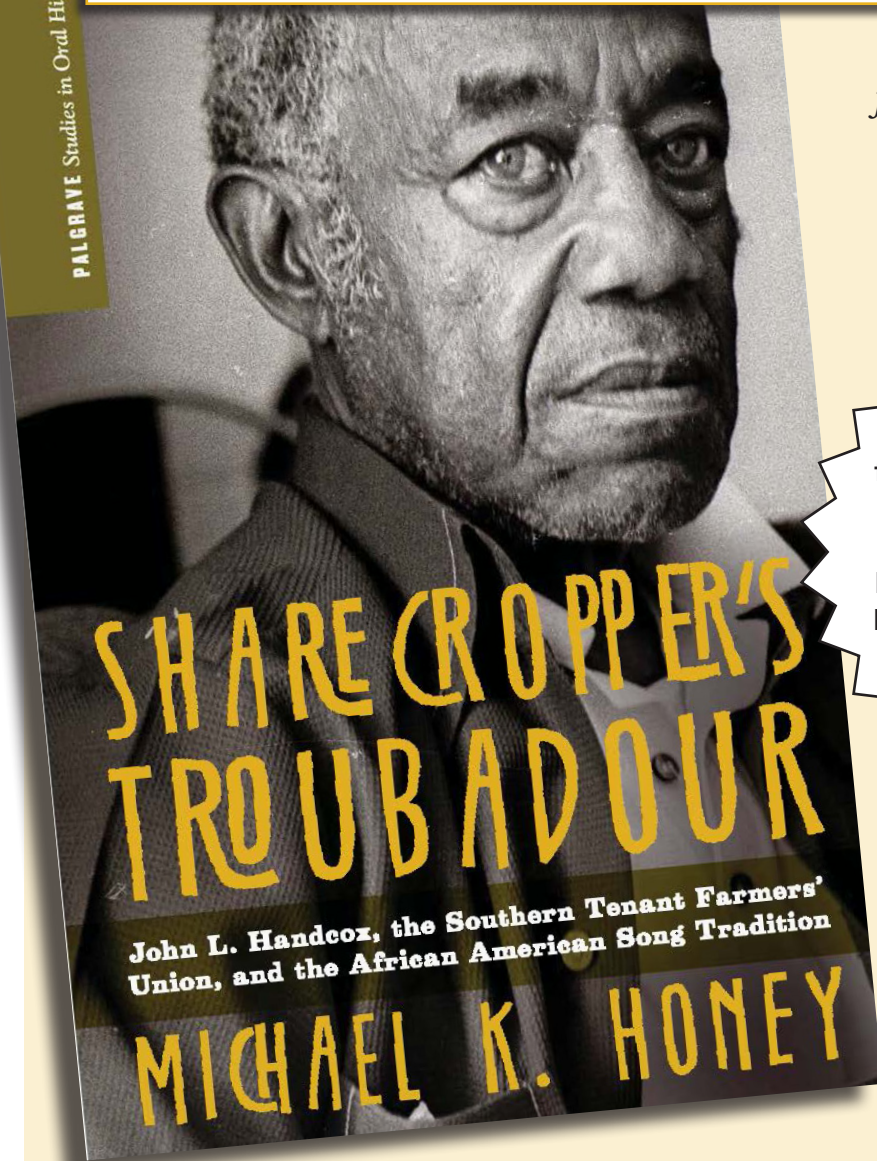
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

Book Presentation – 3:30 - 5 PM, Communications Bldg., Room 230, UW Seattle campus

**Performance with Seattle Labor Chorus in honor of Pete Seeger – 7 - 8:30 PM,
United Methodist Church, 1415 NE 43rd St., Seattle**

Sponsored by University Bookstore, Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, American Ethnic Studies

PALGRAVE Studies in Oral History



*The latest book
from award-winning
labor historian*

Michael K. Honey

with a forward by Pete Seeger

"John's story will not be forgotten, now that Michael Honey has got it down on paper. As long as human beings like to sing...I believe his songs will live on. In that sense, John will never die."

– Pete Seeger

*Michael Honey's books
are available through
Amazon.com,
University Bookstore,
Powell's Books,
and other booksellers*

Folk singer and labor organizer John Handcox was born in 1904 in the Arkansas delta of King Cotton amidst segregation and sharecropping, but went on to become one of the most beloved folk singers of the prewar labor movement. This beautifully told oral history gives us Handcox in his own words, recounting a journey that began in the Deep South and went on to shape the labor music tradition.

Descended from African American slaves, Native Americans, and white slaveowners, John Handcox was born in 1904 in the Arkansas delta of King Cotton amidst segregation and sharecropping at one of the hardest times and places to be black in America. Over the first few decades of the twentieth century, he survived attempted lynchings, floods, droughts, and the ravages of the Great Depression to organize black and white farmers alike on behalf of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. He also became one of the most beloved folk singers of the prewar labor movement, composing songs such as “Roll the Union On” and “There Is Mean Things Happening in this Land” that bridged racial divides and kept the spirits of striking workers high.

Though he withdrew from the public eye for nearly 40 years—missing the “folk boom” of the 1960s—he resurfaced decades later, just in time to denounce the policies of the Reagan administration in song, and his work was embraced by new generations of labor activists and folk music devotees.

Michael Honey’s fascinating and beautifully told history gives us John Handcox in his own words, recounting a journey that began in a sharecropper’s shack in the Deep South and went on to shape the labor music tradition, all amid the tangled and troubled history of the United States in the twentieth century.

Sharecropper’s Troubadour is available at 20% discount from Amazon.com

Listen to some of the songs of John Handcox online at:

<http://faculty.washington.edu/mhoney>



Michael K. Honey is the Fred T. and Dorothy G. Haley Endowed Professor of the Humanities at the University of Washington Tacoma, and was a 2011 Guggenheim fellow. He is author of numerous award-winning books on labor, race relations, and Southern history, including *Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King’s Last Campaign* (Norton). His interviews and writing regularly appear in national media such as *The Atlantic*, NPR/Fresh Air, *The Nation*, *History News Network*, *ColorLines*, and many other print and digital publications.

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