

## Arlo Guthrie "Victor Jara"

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words by Adrian Mitchell, music by Arlo Guthrie

Victor Jara of Chile  
Lived like a shooting star  
He fought for the people of Chile  
With his songs and his guitar  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

Victor Jara was a peasant  
He worked from a few years old  
He sat upon his father's plow  
And watched the earth unfold  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

Now when the neighbors had a wedding  
Or one of their children died  
His mother sang all night for them  
With Victor by her side  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

He grew up to be a fighter  
Against the people's wrongs  
He listened to their grief and joy  
And turned them into songs  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

He sang about the copper miners  
And those who worked the land  
He sang about the factory workers  
And they knew he was their man  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

He campaigned for Allende

Working night and day  
He sang "Take hold of your brothers hand  
You know the future begins today"  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

Then the generals seized Chile  
They arrested Victor then  
They caged him in a stadium

With five-thousand frightened men  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

Victor stood in the stadium  
His voice was brave and strong  
And he sang for his fellow prisoners  
Till the guards cut short his song  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

They broke the bones in both his hands  
They beat his lovely head  
They tore him with electric shocks  
And after two long days of torture, they shot him dead  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

Now the generals they rule Chile  
And the British have their thanks  
For they rule with Hawker Hunters  
And they rule with Chieftain tanks  
His hands were gentle, his hands were strong

Repeat first verse

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