

# 5. Be the Change

Proof 3/28/19

Words adapted from Gandhi (attr.)

Music by Marc Kaplan and Colin Britt  
Jersey City, NJ | 2010

Steady (♩ = 88)

Melody

Harmony

1. Be the change \_\_\_\_\_ you want to see in the world, be the change  
2. Be the voice \_\_\_\_\_ you want to hear in the world, be the voice  
3. Be the light \_\_\_\_\_ you want to shine in the world, be the light

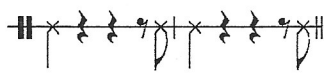
C/G G Cadd9 Am7

\_\_\_\_\_ you want to see in the world, be the change \_\_\_\_\_ you want to  
\_\_\_\_\_ you want to hear in the world, be the voice \_\_\_\_\_ you want to  
\_\_\_\_\_ you want to shine in the world, be the light \_\_\_\_\_ you want to

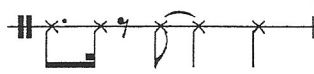
B7 Em Am7 C/D G

see in the world,  
hear in the world, } and change will come \_\_\_\_\_ to you. \_\_\_\_\_  
shine in the world, }

Rhythm for hand taps on heart:



Suggested percussion groove:



### Performance Suggestions:

- Start with soloist accompanied by minimal percussion (hand taps on heart, djembe, etc.).
- Repeat verse 1 with everyone in unison.
- Add harmony, SSA or SATB with bass doubling melody.
- Accompany with piano or guitar, and percussion ad lib.

*Colin writes: "Marc was asked to commission a piece for an All-County Choir, and as he was thinking about being the best version of himself, Gandhi popped into his head. The melody wrote itself in 5 minutes. He called me and the rest is history!"*

Always include songwriters' names when posting recordings. Link to this PDF: <http://songs.justicechoir.org/BeTheChange>

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# 10. I Lift My Voice

Proof 3/28/19

Words & Music by Andrea Ramsey  
Kansas City, MO | 2017

Rousing (♩ = 116)

C G/B C

1. When I lift my voice, let it be in song, A de -  
2. When I lift my voice, let it be for good, Let me

C Am G/B C

fi - ant note in the face of wrong, I won't stand a - lone, we'll stand  
care as much as I know I should,

F Am C Em Am G/B C

side by side, 'cause we know that love is al - ways jus - ti - fied.

## REFRAIN:

C F C/E F/A C/G G C/E

When they try to di - vide us, it will

F G F/A C/G G F C/G G7sus C

on - ly u - nite us. I lift my voice.

## Performance Suggestions:

- Teach the audience the Refrain (or last two measures).
- Try harmonizing on the Refrain.

*Andrea writes: "I was inspired by the line 'with glad defiance in my throat, I pierce the darkness with a note' from James Weldon Johnson's poem, 'The Gift to Sing,' and I created this tune in hopes of acknowledging the power of music and the importance of community in pursuing justice and unity."*

# 25a. Rise

unison version

Proof 3/28/19

Words & Music by Arianne Abela  
Detroit, MI | 2017

Stately (♩ = 63)

VERSES:

1. I will rise with all my daughters, I will rise against my foes. I will  
 2. I will rise for religious freedom, for a rich diversity, I will

rise with all the mothers, I will carry all their woes. I will  
 rise for all the weary, for each lonely refugee. I will

rise to fight for freedom, I will rise, though faced with fears. I will  
 work for all our women who deserve equal pay, I will

rise against all hatred while my eyes are veiled in tears.  
 work for all our children who a - - wait a better day. Sis - ters,

REFRAIN:

Oh, stand with me. Rise up hand in hand.

Oh, stand with me. We will rise to spread love across this

bit - ter land. bit - ter land.

ENDING:  
I will rise.

3. I will rise for love and justice that we may see a better day,  
 I will rise in peace and service for our world in disarray,  
 I will rise with all my brothers for all those who cannot stand,  
 I will rise with all our fathers who have lost a home and land.

4. I will rise to build up bridges for this broken world we see,  
 I will tear down walls between us that divide you and me.  
 Brothers, (\* skip to Refrain)

*Arianne writes: "We cannot ignore the hard times we face as a nation. I wanted to address some current issues with an easygoing song that was reminiscent of old Civil Rights songs that everyone could hum or sing."*

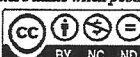
*Editor's Note: This 25a unison score may be sung together with the 25b harmony version.*

Made Possible by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Justice Choir Songbook, Volume 1

Always include songwriter's name when posting recordings. Link to this PDF: <http://songs.justicechoir.org/Rise>

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# 15. Lift Every Voice and Sing

Proof 3/26/19

Words by James Weldon Johnson, 1899

Music by John Rosamond Johnson, 1900

$\text{♩} = 66$

D G B7 Em G/D D#dim Em

Lift ev - ry voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring. Ring with the

Am B7 C Am/C D/G D7 G B7 E7

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the

Am B C C#dim G/D D7 G

list - 'ning — skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.

N.C.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

G G#dim

Sing a song full of the hope that the pre - sent has brought

D7 G B7 E7 Am B

us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -

C C#dim G/D D7 G

- gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry — is won. —

Made Possible by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Justice Choir Songbook, Volume 1

*"Known by many as the Negro National Anthem, 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' has stirred souls for over a century. One of the lines that resonates with me the most is, 'Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us...' What has the dark past taught you in your fight for equity and justice?" - Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, co-editor*



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Free download: [songs.justicechoir.org/LiftEveryVoice](https://songs.justicechoir.org/LiftEveryVoice)



# 35. We Choose Love

Proof 3/28/19

Words inspired by signs at the Women's March  
in Denver, CO, January 21, 2017

Music by Andrea Ramsey  
Boulder, CO | 2017

Marching (♩ = 84)

D A/D D A/C# Bm7 Em D A

Melody

We choose love, { 1. sis - ter,  
2. broth - er,  
3. sen-a - tor, } we choose love, We are

Harmony

unison D Bm G

march - ing { with our sis - ters } for our fun - da - men - tal rights,  
{ with our broth - ers }  
{ as your vot - ers }

D/A A D

We choose love.

### Lyric Suggestions: (or make up your own)

4. people, / with all people...
5. children, / with our families...
6. [school name], / with our teachers...
7. [country name], / with our nation...
8. [city/region name], / with our neighbors...

### Performance Suggestions:

- This is a "zipper" song: make up your own lyrics and 'zip' them into the bracketed sections.
- Have a leader call out new word choices during the final sustained note.
- If there's a more appropriate verb for your situation, change marching to "singing," "dancing," "asking," "praying," etc.
- Try improvising solos over the top (ex. "let me hear you!")
- For a solo or unison version, sing the top line only.

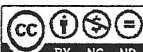
*Andrea writes: "During the Women's March in Denver, my friends suggested I create a song for us to sing while marching, so I drew inspiration from the signs around us to create 'We Choose Love.' I will never forget how it felt to sing full-throated, walking down the streets of Denver with a spontaneous chorus of other people joining our song."*

Made Possible by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Justice Choir Songbook, Volume 1

Always include songwriter's name when sharing. PDF: [Songs.justicechoir.org/WeChooseLove](https://Songs.justicechoir.org/WeChooseLove)

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