

SINGING FOR OUR LIVES

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Holly Near

We are a gentle, angry people,
and we are singing for our lives.

We are young and old together,
and we are singing for our lives.

We are a land of many colors,
and we are singing for our lives.

We are gay and straight together,
we are trans, bi, queer together,
and we are singing for our lives.

We are a justice-seeking people,
and we are singing for our lives.

Yes, we are singing for our lives.

WITH ONE VOICE

Robert Seeley, Robert Espindola

Did you know where you were going
when your journey first began?
Did you know the lives you'd touch
as you walked with an opened hand?
Did you ever stop to realize
the strength one voice can bring?
When hearts are joined in harmony,
it's with one voice we sing!

With one voice that speaks the voice of all,
our liberty resounds.
With one hand that seeks the hands untouched,
our dignity is found.
With one heart that beats for hearts grown cold,
we embrace our humanity.
Only as we dare to look will we have eyes to see.

That with one voice, with one song,
with one spirit of community to make us strong.
We will celebrate and rejoice
as one family with one voice.

Did you know where you were going?
Does anybody really know?
Only as we choose to reach
can we expect to go.

Only as we give our heart,
and in other hearts rejoice,
Will there be strength for our journey's length
to sing out with one voice.

One flame that burns in a raging storm,
illuminates the night.
One bird that soars over mountain heights
sets other wings to flight.
One seed that grows on barren plain
can flower all the earth.
And one voice that sings with dignity
gives other voices worth.

With one voice, with one song,
with one spirit of community to make us strong.
We will celebrate and rejoice
as one family with one voice.

THOU, LORD, OUR REFUGE

Felix Mendelssohn

Thou, Lord, our refuge hast been from age to age,
Ere Thou hadst brought forth the mountains,
or the earth hadst formed, or the world created,
Thou art God from everlasting, world without end.
Hallelujah!

WHERE THERE IS LIGHT IN THE SOUL

Chinese proverb, Elizabeth Alexander

Where there is light in the soul
there will be beauty in the person.
Where there is beauty in the person
there will be harmony in the home.
Where there is harmony in the home
there will be honor in the nation.
Where there is honor in the nation
there will be peace in the world.

Continued...

I CELEBRATE MYSELF

James Deignan

I celebrate myself even when I don't know how.
I take the good I have in me and fling it to a thousand stars.
I celebrate myself even when I'm not alright.
I hold the good I have in me and cherish it like a child.
The world never taught me how, I barely knew I could.
But if birds can chirp and rivers can flow,
Trees can grow and children can laugh

Then I can celebrate even when it's hard.
I take the love I feel in me and share it with a thousand stars.
I celebrate myself.

READING

Alex Heetland

One boy sitting reading a book.
Boy meets girl, they fall in love,
They adventure then fall in love,
Or they fight then fall in love.
One boy thinking, "Where am I? Where is me in this book?"

One girl sitting reading a book.
Girl meets boy, they fall in love,
She wears a dress and falls in love,
She gets rescued then falls in love.

Straight stories, always straight stories.
One girl thinking, "Where am I? Where is me in this book?"

One kid reading a book.
Boy meets boy, they fall in love.
Girl meets girl, they fall in love.
They adventure then fall in love.

Gay stories, yes bi stories,
Trans stories, lesbian stories,
Pan stories, non-binary stories,
Ace stories, all the queer stories.

One kid thinking, "There I am. There is me in this book."

Just me sitting reading a book.

RESILIENCE

Abbie Betinis

Resilience, we are strong;
shoulder to shoulder keep movin' on.
Resilience, make a new plan;
stand up again and say, "Yes, we can."
Oh! Oh! We are strong; hold on!
I wanna make it and I know we will,
yes its hard to keep goin' but it's worse to stand still.
Resilience.

TESTIMONY

Stephen Schwartz

I don't want to be like this...
I don't want to be who I am...
Ev'ry day that I don't change,
I blame myself, I am not trying hard enough...
I don't want to be like this...
I don't want to be how I am...
When they find out, no one will love me,
I'll lose my fam'ly and all of my friends...
I'm trapped like a fish with a hook in its mouth...
I am impersonating the person I show as me...
I'm an imposter...
I am a spy behind enemy lines...
I pack my feelings so deep inside me they turn to concrete...

I don't want to be like this...
I don't want to be how I am...
Ev'ry night I ask God to end my life...
I am an abomination...
God take this away or take me away...
I don't want to be like this...
I don't want to be who I am...
I don't want to be how I am...
I don't want to be what I am...
I don't want to be anymore...
Today I'm going to hang myself...
I'm trapped...
Today I'm going to slit my wrists...
I'm stuck...
Today I'm going to jump off my building...
I'm trapped...
Take me away...

Ah... hang in, hang on...
Wait... just a little longer...

I know it now... if I had made myself not exist,
there is so much that I would have missed...

I would have missed so many travels and adventures,
more wonders that I knew could be...
So many friends with jokes and laughter, not to mention
the joy of living in authenticity...
Sometimes I cry, life can still be hard,
but there's no part of me still crying, "Hide me..."
I would have missed the chance to sing out like this
with people I love beside me.

I have been brave, I grew and so did those around me,
and now look what a life I've earned...
It gets more than better, it gets amazing and astounding...
If I could reach my past, I'd tell [them] what I've learned...
I was more loved than I dared to know,
there were open arms I could not see...
And when I die, and when it's my time to go,
I want to come back as me.

DISAPPEAR

Benj Pasek, Justin Paul

Guys like you and me
We're just the losers
Who keep waiting to be seen, right?
I mean, no one seems to care
Or stops to notice that we're there
So we get lost in the in-between.

But
If you can somehow keep them thinking of me
And make me more than an abandoned memory
Well, that means we matter, too
It means someone will see that you are there.

No one deserves to be forgotten.
No one deserves to fade away.
No one should come and go
And have no one know he was ever even here.
No one deserves to disappear.

It's true.
Even if you've always been that
Barely-in-the-background kind of guy
You still matter.
And even if you're somebody who can't escape the feeling
That the world's passed you by
You still matter.
If you never get around to doing some remarkable thing
That doesn't mean
That you're not worth remembering.

Think of the people who need to know.
They need to know
So you need to show them.

I need to show them
That no one deserves to be forgotten.
No one deserves to fade away.
No one should flicker out or have any doubt
That it matters that they are here.
No one deserves to disappear.

When you're falling in a forest
And there's nobody around
All you want is for somebody to find you.
When you're falling in a forest
And when you hit the ground
All you need is for somebody to find you.

'Cause no one deserves to be forgotten.
No one deserves to fade away.
No one deserves to disappear.
No one should flicker out or have any doubt
That it matters that they are here.
No one deserves to disappear.

YOU WILL BE FOUND

Benj Pasek, Justin Paul

Have you ever felt like nobody was there?
Have you ever felt forgotten in the middle of nowhere?
Have you ever felt like you could disappear?
Like you could fall, and no one would hear.

So let that lonely feeling wash away.
'Cause maybe there's a reason to believe you'll be okay.
'Cause when you don't feel strong enough to stand
you can reach out your hand.
And oh, someone will come runnin'.
And I know they'll take you home.

Even when the dark comes crashin' through,
when you need a friend to carry you.
And when you're broken on the ground, you will be found.
So let the sun come streamin' in,
'cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again.
Lift your head and look around, you will be found.

There's a place where we don't have to feel unknown
and ev'ry time you call out you're a little less alone.
If you only say the word.
From across the silence your voice is heard.
Oh, someone will come runnin' to take you home.

Even when the dark comes crashin' through,
when you need a friend to carry you.
When you're broken on the ground, you will be found.
So let the sun come streamin' in,
'cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again.
If you only look around, you will be found.

Out of the shadows, the morning is breaking, and all is new.
It's fillin' up the empty and suddenly I see that all is new.
You are not alone.

Even when the dark comes crashin' through,
when you need a friend to carry you.
When you're broken on the ground, you will be found.
So let the sun come streamin' in,
'cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again.
If you only look around you will be found.

Continued...

HERE'S WHERE I STAND

Michael Gore, Lynn Ahrens

Here in the dark, I stand before you,
knowing this is my chance to show you my heart.
This is the start, this is the start.

I have so much to say, and I'm hopin'
that your arms are open.
Don't turn away, I want you near me,
but you have to hear me.

Here's where I stand, here's who I am,
Love me, but don't tell me who I have to be.
Here's who I am, I'm what you see.

You said I had to change, and I was tryin',
but my heart was lyin'.
I'm not a child any longer, I am stronger.

Here's where I stand, here's who I am.
Help me to move on, but please don't tell me how.
I'm on my way, I'm movin' now.

In this life, we've come so far,
but we're only who we are,
With the courage of love to show us the way.
We've got the power to stand up and say:

Here's where I stand, here's who I am.
Stand up, and be counted, I'm countin' on you.
If you're with me, we'll make it through.

Here's where I stand, here's who I am.
Love me, love me, love me and we'll make it through.
Here's where I stand, here's who I am.
Baby, baby, baby, I'm countin' on you.
Here's where I stand, here's who I am.
Love me, love me, love me and we'll make it through.
I'm counting, I'm counting, I'm counting on you.