# **GIVE US HOPE**

from SOUNDS OF A BETTER WORLD = small voices calling for Three-Part Treble Voices & Piano

Lyrics by James Papoulis, Leo Schaff & Regine Urbach

Music by James Papoulis arranged by Francisco J. Núñez

#### Optional spoken introduction:

Adult: Of all the feelings that a young person can have, there is one that makes life seem desolate... empty...

And sometimes not even worth living... When it is not there: "Hope"

Hope for the future... Hope to be loved... Hope to be heard...

When children are without hope, they are robbed of one of the most defining parts of their childhood... We must never underestimate the power of giving hope to a child.

Child: The whispers of my heart speak so softly...

Are they really there if no one hears them?...

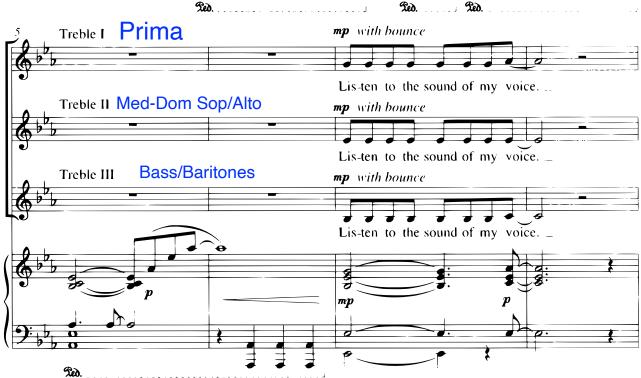
(piano begins introduction)

My voice is so small, and so soft... can you hear me?

Give us hope, and we'll show you the way.

J = 110, with a joyous feeling throughout





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# Sounds of a Better World – Small Voices Calling ABOUT THE COMPOSER

James Papoulis's work focuses on combining the music of his roots – classical and jazz – with the rhythms and influence of worldbeat, folk, and multi-ethnic sounds. His compositions for choirs, orchestras, string quartets, and chamber ensembles have been performed worldwide, including London's Royal Albert Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and a 300-member children's choir, and at the Great Wall of China with a 500 member children's choir. He recently collaborated with Geoffrey Holder to re-create the Alvin Ailey Dance Company's signature piece, *The Prodigal Son*, and a 45 minute orchestral/tribal suite for the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

He enthusiastically participates in the Arts in the Schools program, introducing various forms of music to students, and writes and produces songs with them. The lyrics that the children write, reflecting their thoughts and hopes, have been a great source of inspiration to him.

### **PROJECT NOTES from the composer**

Give Us Hope is from the project SOUNDS OF A BETTER WORLD = small voices calling, a series of songs focusing on children, which examines their world and how small steps can be made to improve it. When this journey began for me almost five years ago, I was very disturbed to learn of various incidents around the world where children were subjected to adverse conditions. I began to wonder how they could possibly develop into caring, responsible adults, with such hardship defining their childhood. As I read more and explored our attitudes as a society toward children, I began to feel that we (as Dr. Martin Luther King said) "...must ask ourselves how responsible we are for the well-being of others..." Do we have the courage to feel responsible? What ideals do we strive for? How can we find innovative ways in which the personal and social problems of childhood can be overcome? Can music be utilized as a potential bridge to reach out and address these issues?

What I have come to understand is that we must send the best part of ourselves into the future through our children. If we want society to evolve, we need to understand the importance of childhood, and how vital our role should be in doing whatever we can to nurture every child. We should all be aware of our powerful influence on their minds. Through this incredible journey that *Sounds of a Better World* has taken me on. I hope to have somehow addressed these issues and to have embraced the joy that children can bring to this world.

For more information on the project **Sounds of a Better World = small voices calling**, visit soundsofabetterworld.org

Original recording from the compilation CD (VR CD 2001) SOUNDS OF A BETTER WORLD = small voices calling on Vital Records, Inc.

James Papoulis is donating his composer royalties to the Foundation For Small Voices.

The Foundation For Small Voices is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing awareness and funding to programs supporting the empowerment of children throughout the world by fostering their creativity through music and role models.



## Can You Hear...Small Voices Calling

Jim Papoulis, composer

Dedicated to the belief that music "can heal, reveal, challenge, communicate, educate and celebrate, as we journey towards creating a secure global future for our children," composer Jim Papoulis and The Foundation for Small Voices have a very specific mission: to bring awareness and funding to organizations that support the empowerment of children throughout the world by fostering their creativity through music & art in education and mentoring programs.

Combining tribal, R&B, dance, pop, and classical forms, Papoulis's music is now available for choirs. An essential and profoundly beautiful addition to the choral literature for developing choirs in the school market.

"...a rousing...musical symposium of hope...a genuine, talented plea for peace in the next millennium." —The New York Times Online

Can You Hear (3-pt treble)	M051473007
Can You Hear (bass & percussion instrumental parts)	M051104949
Give Us Hope (3-pt treble)	M051472994
A Light Inside (3-pt treble)	M051473922
When I Close My Eyes (2-pt treble)	M051474592

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