

Every Man, Woman, and Child

a musical presentation of *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* by Merrill Collins

GLOBAL PEACE DAY PARTY – EVERY YEAR 9/21

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – EVERY YEAR 12/10

Hello friends! I have developed this unique human rights project over the past several decades, with help from dozens of musicians, producers, and global peace leaders. Now I am thrilled to have YOU bring your creativity. Let's activate human rights with music!



—Merrill Collins

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START by making a plan, figuring out who and where to gather. If it's a fundraiser, choose a beneficiary. For Peace Day, you can even put your event on the [International Peace Events](#) map.

2

CHOOSE THE MUSIC.

[Listen](#) to the “core” vocal, to get your head around the melody and lyrics. Then select from:

Hip Hop featuring Austin Starchild includes a reading of all the 30 articles of the UDHR. (3:47)
[Amazon](#) | [iTunes](#) | [Indie](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#)

HighLife featuring Pope Flyne has a long break for doing your own readings or presentation of the UDHR. (5:06)
[Amazon](#) | [iTunes](#) | [Indie](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#)

The original **Ballad** featuring Harrison Crenshaw and Michelle Crenshaw also has a long break. (3:50)
[Amazon](#) | [iTunes](#) | [Indie](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#)

Here are the original song



Lyrics by Merrill Collins:

We, the peoples,
We hold these truths for all creation.

We hold these truths,
Only we can make more evident.
Every living soul is worthy of a deep respect.
We the people here by birth,
We the keepers of the Earth,

Give every man, woman, and child
Our human rights.

The right to live as long as we have to live,
The right to share all that is here to share.
The right to give all we have come to give.

Give every man, woman, and child
Our human rights.

3

GATHER A GROUP

Choose your collaborators. Share the musical track or have each person purchase it. (This supports the artists, thank you!) Schedule rehearsal times.

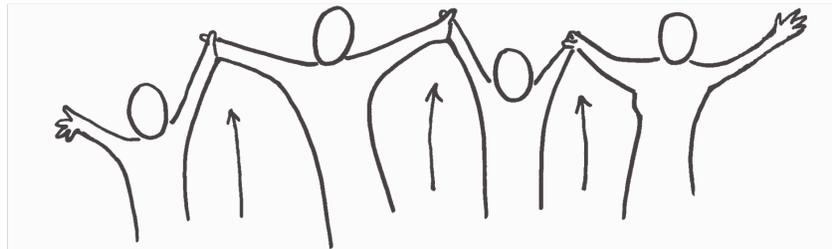
& CREATE CHOREOGRAPHY.

Here are some ideas:

Add voiceover guided imagery to the meditation tracks ~ or just breathe and expand.

- Spin the *Every Man, Woman, and Child* HIP HOP recording at a mellow party, or on your show. This song contains a reading of all the articles. Listen or read along with freestyle dance. Great for Nia, raves, conscious dance of all types.
- Using the *Every Man, Woman, and Child* WEST AFRICAN HIGHLIFE recording, create choreography for a dance show or dance class. Or play it at a party to call attention to human rights issues. Why not do a flash mob? This song has a long break in the middle for a reading of the rights, and reading can be enhanced with interpretive body movements.
- Using the recording, *Every Man, Woman and Child* BALLAD or the musical scores, Create a praise dance, ballet, or other interpretive dance to a recording or vocal performance. Other options include the MEDITATION and YOGA FLOW.

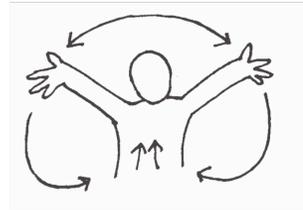
These are the original hand motions of the song, performed by a community at the United Nations, for Amnesty International, etc.



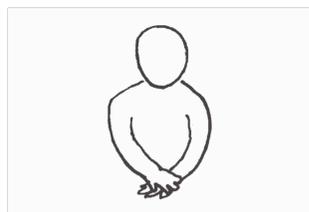
"We, the peoples,"



"We hold these truths"



"for all creation"



"We hold these truths"



"only we can make more evident"



"every living soul"



"is worthy of a deep respect."

4

PLAN THE TEXT PREPARATION.

Choose which form you would like to use to interpret the statements of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There are myriad ways to present the articles.

- Exactly as written in [the original 1948 document](#).
- Paraphrase possibilities as suggested in the EMWC Project Manual
- Paraphrase options found on the internet or through your organization
- Suggestions from the children performing, prepared in advance.
- Suggestions from the audience, prepared in advance.

The UDHR has been translated [into over 500 languages](#). You can browse or [search for them](#) online. Read the entire document in one language, or translate various articles into the languages of your audience.

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PLAN AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION & MATERIALS

Audience participation increases understanding of the text, since we have all had personal experiences of our rights being violated, and our needs being unmet. You can have the audience read the text, create artwork, do collage work or photography. Display images in a gallery, on a bulletin board, or in a projection. You can alternate pictures of human rights being violated with pictures of human rights being respected.

6

TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS

Legal: Collect release forms from participants. Minors will need release forms signed by parents. Producers of this project are granted the right to use any of the *Every Man, Woman and Child* songs in public video recordings by the publisher, Spiraling Music, with attribution, under a Creative Commons international 4.0 Attribution + Noncommercial license. If you wish to make a commercial project simply contact info@spiralingmusic.com and request our creative partnership agreement.



Publicity: Create a flyer, use the Earthdance press release and/or get one of our awesome [Public Service Announcement](#) tracks. These clips were created as a background for voice-over radio or podcast announcements about performances. Here are some script ideas for using this background music:

- *“Join us for a community expression of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document, ratified without dissent after World War Two, has become a guiding document*

in global efforts to understand, promote, write and enforce laws. When we all read it together, these ideas come alive.”

- “Do you know your rights? Come and learn about Human Rights at a presentation at [place] by [community group] to celebrate [occasion] on [date].”
- Read the article paraphrases in the background.

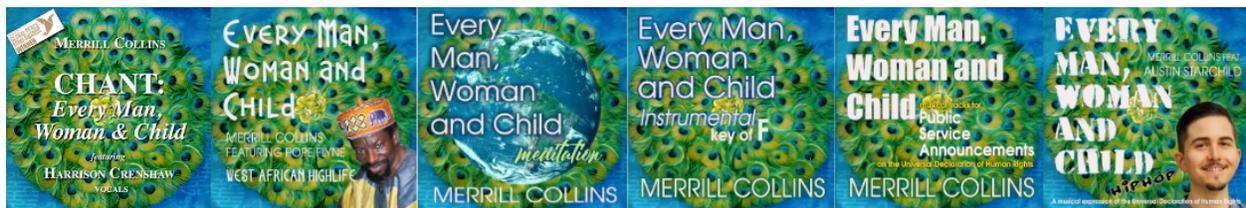
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SHARE YOUR EVENT!

Please share photos, stories, and recordings of your event on the [project Facebook page](#). Videos sent to emwc.spiraling@gmail.com will be considered for broadcast on YouTube & the [Peace Channel](#). When sharing online, please use the words "Every Man, Woman and Child" or "EMWC" in the title of the project. Add the location and project expression (i.e. "Yoga Flow" or "Meditation") with the names of the recording artists. If you post on social media, you can use the hashtags #everymanwomanandchild, #humanrights, #peaceday, #udhr, and #globalpeaceparty as well as any related to #dance #yoga #meditation or #jam. Please tag @MerrillCollins as well as @Earthdance and @PathwaysToPeace. Here's your basic social media post... make it your own!

“Activating human rights through music! Check our our #peaceday #dance on #humanrights with @MerrillCollinsMusic @Earthdance @PathwaysToPeace.”

Thank you for your participation! The more we all understand and uplift our human rights, the better we can become at giving them to each other on every level, from the personal to the political. —Merrill Collins, composer



Every Man, Woman, and Child was the first grassroots arts project to embody and promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1984. It was displayed at the United Nations Center in Geneva as an example that has inspired thousands of expressions at the grassroots level since then. We hope to see the words and vibration of this song spread throughout the globe to help bring a new era of peace to Earth. Learn more at www.spiralingmusic.com.

More About the Music

All recordings are available on Amazon, CD Baby, iTunes and Spotify. Learn more at www.spiralingmusic.com. All of our tracks are suitable for dance classes, parties, or performances. Each rendition has a unique character and purpose, but are united by musical and lyrical themes.

Every Man, Woman, and Child BALLAD

This is the “core” song in the project. All other iterations refer back to this version, so whatever interpretation you choose, please listen to it with your group and note the musical themes and hand motions that accompany the lyrics.

Every Man, Woman, and Child WEST AFRICAN HIGHLIFE

West African Highlife, or HiLife, was a dance beat that spread throughout Africa like wildfire in the 1970s and 80s, and reached throughout the world. This exciting, haunting interpretation of EMWC features Pope Flyne, a former pop star in Ghana (*The Sweet Talks*, *Medican Lantis*, etc.) adding drums and a new vocal interpretation to the new age score. A slow but energetic rhythm invites dancers of every age to move their feet, and a long break creates a space where rights can be read. Great for drum circles, or any added percussion.

Every Man, Woman, and Child HIP HOP

This version by Austin Starchild is on the ambient end of hiphop and already contains readings of the articles! Great for radio, playlists, and dance parties.

MORE IDEAS:

For Nia, Sufi, Raves, or other embodied awareness practices, choose the **Meditation** (21:51) or **Yoga Flow** (19:44), both of which are fluid and meditative. MEDITATION contains improvisations on the melody in deep tonal and meditative flow. YOGA FLOW has a nice Indian rhythm that allows for beautiful interpretation, with Sanskrit chants vocalized over the music.

More About this Project

Every Man, Woman, and Child is an educational performance piece by Merrill Collins based on

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Community groups of all types can use this project to cultivate and perpetuate the deepest levels of respect between people and toward all of life.

The UDHR is both historically and presently a significant document. Written after WWII in the spirit of protecting the globe from the repetition of destructive, inhumane activities associated with war, the Declaration reflects the deep concerns of the people at that time. It was adopted by the United Nations without dissent in 1948 to promote and advance respect for human rights everywhere. It has since been translated into over 500 languages and guides all efforts in international law.

The song, *Every Man, Woman, and Child* is a musical rendition of the document that can be used in a multitude of ways to create feeling and understanding of human rights on a global scale. The project includes recorded music, musical scores, curricula for youth and adults, and a solemn ceremony that can be interpreted in any community worldwide. All participants, whether performers or audience members, can study the idea of human rights through learning the song lyrics and reading articles of the UDHR. Performers engage in a deeper process of understanding what human rights mean in daily life. This is an ideal project for observation of and education around Peace Day (September 21st), Human Rights Day (December 10th) or any occasion or civic action intended to uplift awareness to the level of humanity.

Although the idea of this *Every Man, Woman, and Child* can be grasped by an individual simply listening to a song, it is intended for performance. The project may be activated very simply with as few as two people—one speaker and one—but the more who participate, the greater the impact. Presentations are suitable for and adaptable to nearly any setting or assembly. Anyone can produce a performance of this piece by adapting the material to the needs of their own community, shaping it with available languages, age groups, musical resources, time and space. Now, with many available recordings, this music can reach into situations where there might not be instruments or live musicians. However, in all cases it is preferable to include the live musicians of any community.



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS