

***AN INVITATION TO CREATE A SONG
FOR THE REMAKING OF OUR WORLD...***

**"I hear the world singing,
The varied songs I hear.
We, too, sing the world:
We sing the body electric."**

(Adapted from Langston Hughes & Walt Whitman)

Dear Friend of song,

As no doubt, you have been reminded in countless ways, we are living in unprecedented times. Events have unfolded that have brought everything we know and hold dear into question — *even the future of singing itself*.

In the past, we have faced the greatest challenges — 9/11, the horrendous assassinations of the sixties, and Pearl Harbor — by reminding each other what truly matters and what we hold in common. During these times, we have always affirmed our unity through community, despite our differences. And through all these times, music endures and continues to bring us together as one human family: we raise our voices in song, individually and together, inspiring each other to go forward when we are the most troubled or challenged, yet ultimately, we celebrate the aliveness and joy of singing.

Today, living on the edge of the unknown, all of us are looking for new ways to co-create music and community. More than ever, we need new songs that speak to the present moment and give voice to our needs, our fears, our hopes, and yes, especially our joys.

Conspirare is engaged in daily conversations about how we can respond to the needs of our community, and we invite you to join us in creating a movement of new song. We aim to inspire and curate a new repertoire of songs that are born out of the desire to transcend our current local, national, and global crises. We envision a bright future that is filled with new songs that can be sung by all people, regardless of musical ability, either individually or in community.

For this songbook, we invite you to create a song on a text in the public domain or a text that you have written. Some general themes that you might consider are:

- Unity;
- Community;
- Renewal;
- Kindness;
- Compassion;
- Inclusion;
- Intersectionality.

We envision a collection of songs from the United States and throughout the world that emerges from the experience of “breathing together” with new songs that quicken our common breath and ideals. We are seeking songs that can be sung by any number of people in communal and domestic spaces, including home gatherings, clubs, meetings, retreats, and camps, as well as concerts. Moreover, we imagine a collection that celebrates and elevates freedom – our individual freedom and the reality that each of us is freedom inhabiting a body form. To this end, we imagine songs that express inclusivity and the contributions of all the peoples of our world.

We are very excited about the creation, performance, and publication of this songbook as part of a new song movement for our times and for the future. And we would be thrilled if you would join with us by composing a song for the collection, which we hope will be a force for healing, empowerment, and unity in the remaking of our world.

We will be launching this project in mid-August. Details of that event will come soon. We invite you to submit your song. Submissions will be considered on a rolling basis, reviewed quarterly.

If you would like to set up a phone call with one of the songbook curators or seek additional information, please contact Kendall Walshak at kwashak@conspirare.org

Thank you very much for your consideration.

All the best,

Craig Hella Johnson
Melissa Givens
Robert Kyr
Songs of Connection Curating Team