

Songs and Hymns for *Sing for Justice*

Introduction to finding Songs and Hymns

The choice of songs and hymns ultimately rests with the organizers of your event. If you need help thinking about songs, here are a few suggestions:

Songs about justice could focus on particular issues e.g. “Farewell to Clayaquot Sound” by the Wyrd Sisters or could be more general e.g. “What does the Lord require” (CP 171 Bayly). Be creative. Think about the songs you know and love. Think about popular songs or particular singers where justice is a theme. Think broadly about justice as human rights, care for creation, peace, redemption, etc.

In a concert setting you might have a few solo singers who can sing more technically difficult songs. For group singing, try to choose songs that everyone can sing together without much difficulty. Use song or hymnbooks that you have multiple copies of. Or choose call and response songs or pieces that have sing along choruses so words don't need to be printed. Remember you must get permission to print copyrighted material, even if it is projected. See the section below on Printing Songs.

There are lots of places you can find songs and hymns to put together a program. If it's an informal evening, you could have a selection of books to spontaneously choose songs from or you could ask the participants to bring their favourites. For a concert you could have different sections or movements for the program (like in a symphony but this would be a singphony) perhaps with movements focusing on songs about the goodness of creation followed by songs of lament recognizing where we've gone wrong, and then songs about a new way, tackling the issues, and God's justice, peace, and renewal of creation. In this case, a mix of performance pieces and group singing could be used.

David Kai, Pat Mayberry, and M.E. Kish have generously donated the use of their music to be printed without charge for use for Sing for Justice events. These songs are available by request from info@ccsonline.ca

Song and Hymn Sources that we use around the Centre for Christian Studies

Common Praise Look at the Subject Index in the sections on Discipleship, Healing, Justice, Psalms, Renewal, Salvation/Redemption (see # 42 Crashing Waters at Creation), Servanthood, Song of Mary, Song of Peace

Voices United Biblical Characters: Mary/Hannah/Isaiah, Church: Mission, Dignity and Equality, Ecology, God: justice, God: righteousness, Healing, Integrity of Creation, Justice, Love for Others, Mission and Outreach, Oppression, Pain, Peace (world), Poverty, Prisoners, Prophets, Race Relations, Righteousness, Service, Social Concerns, Vision/Dream

More Voices Abuse, Commitment, Community, Creation, Discipleship, Diversity, First Nations Sunday, Healing, Hope, Inclusiveness, Interfaith, Justice, Lament, Love, Peace, Redemption, Transformation

Songs for a Gospel People

Rise Up Singing See the sections on ecology, freedom, hope, peace, sacred rounds and chants, struggle, unity, women, work

Songs for Congregational Singing by Carolyn McDade

Spirit of Singing edited by Mardi Tindal and Kate Middleton

A sample of musicians whose songs have been favourites at CCS

Carolyn McDade
Carole Etzler Eagleheart
Colleen Fulmer
Pete Seeger
Ann Turner
Nan Thompson
Pat Humphries
Holly Near

A few suggestions from the internet

Social Justice and Human Rights (Christian):

Musiklus Anthology

<http://www.musiklus.com/anthology/search/by-theme/208/JusticeHuman-Rights>
With a subscription you have permission to use all the songs in this anthology put together by Ron Klusmeier. There is a section on Justice/Human Rights with songs by Brian Wren, Shirley Erena Murray, Ron Klusmeier, Fred Kaan, and Walter Farquarson

Common Cup Company

<http://www.commoncup.com/store/>

It costs .99 to download songs from CD's. If you want to "use" a Common Cup song (i.e. print it for group singing) for a single occasion, the cost is \$10.

Jean and Jim Strathdee

<http://www.strathdeemusic.com/>

In the CD "Stand for what is Right" they share songs that offer hope and that call us to "stand up" and make a difference. Reprinting of ONE specific song or hymn for one-time use for printing is \$10.00. Reprinting of ALL songs or hymns in one local congregation for one year, renewable annually is \$50.00.

Social justice and Human Rights (general):

Social Justice and Human Rights Songs

www.sojust.net/songs.html

http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/arts/class_songs.html

<http://www.amnesty.org.au/features/comments/36016>

10 songs for social change

http://globalsolutions.org/blog/2007/05/Social-Justice-Top-40#.V3KqV_krLIU

The social justice top 40

<http://www.themeonline.ca/2013/songs-about-social-justice>

Printing Songs

You must get permission to reprint copyrighted songs that you will not be singing from hymn or song books. Licensing and Onelicense.net are copyright companies offering reprint permission on behalf of many publishers, writers and composers. Your church may already have a license or you might want to purchase a single use or special event license to have access to a broad range of church music. Check the websites of particular artists to find out how to use their music.

Onelicense www.onelicense.net 1-800-663-1501 \$30 USD for a single use license

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