Music reflects deep feelings and moves people to action—hymns, marches, songs about love and disappointment, stir people’s souls. The power of music has been used throughout history to protest injustice and advocate for human rights. This exhibit celebrates artists who choose to create and perform music that makes an impact on society.

Jazz originally celebrated the Black community and incorporated social protest. Jazz masters such as Nina Simone, Charlie Mingus and John Coltrane frequently composed music as anthems for humanity.

Folk and popular music has been widely used in social movements from labor to war protests around the world. Performers like Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Bruce Springsteen are well known for their songs for social justice.

In the 1960s, rock musicians participated in anti-war and social protests, and in more recent years, in addition to lyrics of protest, rock music has been central to global fundraising concerts such as Live Aid.

Early rap music captured the sense of rage and alienation reflected in the world of poor urban Blacks and has since incorporated anti-drug and feminist messages. A new level of social responsibility is emerging in today’s underground hip-hop movement.

In the classical world, Beethoven’s Ode to Joy, finished in 1824, has achieved worldwide popularity as an anthem for human rights.

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**GET UP, STAND UP**

**STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS**

**GET UP, STAND UP**

**DON’T GIVE UP THE FIGHT**

—Bob Marley

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**VOICES OF CHANGE**

*Artists Speak Out*
BROKEN BOTTLES UNDER CHILDREN’S FEET
BODIES STREWN ACROSS THE DEAD END STREET
BUT I WON’T HEED THE BATTLE CALL

—Bono

BONO

U2’s lead singer Bono (b 1960) is well known as a social activist. Since the band’s founding in 1976, U2’s performances have included powerful anti-war messages. “Music can change the world because it can change people,” Bono says. “You can’t fix every problem, but what you can fix, you must.”

Music opposing war is part of many cultures—anti-war songs have probably been sung since the birth of conflict. In the 19th Century songs such as the Irish “Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye” protested war and recruitment. “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier,” was popular during World War I, and later conflicts have given rise to a large body of anti-war songs from many countries.
ALL WE ARE SAYING IS GIVE PEACE A CHANCE.
—John Lennon

Singer, songwriter and activist John Lennon (1940-1980) once said, “If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there’d be peace.” Lennon’s songs “Give Peace a Chance” and “Imagine” are anthems of the peace movement.

Songs about peace come from many religious traditions, as well as from popular music. Pre-peace songs are generally designed to inspire, rather than calls to action and anger. Friedrich Schiller’s 1785 “Ode to Joy,” celebrates human unity and Beethoven’s musical setting of the poem is an international peace anthem.

During times of war, peace songs vie with anti-war songs as expressions of hope and dedication to a peaceful future.

Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream • Ed McCurdy (1950)
Let There be Peace on Earth • By Million, BI Jackson (1955)
Where Have All the Flowers Gone • Pete Seeger (1956)
Create the Day • Bruce Woodley/The Seekers (1964)
Crystal Blue Persuasion • Tommy James and The Shondells (1969)
Shir LeShalom, Song for Peace • Rotblit/Rosenblum (1969)
Give Peace a Chance • John Lennon (1969)
Imagine • John Lennon (1971)
Peace Train • Cat Stevens (1969)
Peace Will Come • Tom Pastoe (1972)
There’ll Be No Peace Without All Men as One • Ray Charles (1972)
Give Me Love • George Harrison (1973)
One Love • Bob Marley (1973)
Bring the Boys Back Home • Pink Floyd (1979)
Death in a Strider • The Clash (1981)
Ein bißchen Frieden/A Little Peace • Nicole (1982)
I Saved the World Today • Eurythmics (1999)

Test data
NINA SIMONE

Nina Simone, (1930-2003) pianist and legendary soul singer, grew up in the American South and many of her songs reflect her experiences with racism and her dedication to black pride. “I’m a real rebel with a cause,” she said.

Early jazz singers sang about race, oppression and pride. The American Civil Rights movement gave rise to many songs, some borrowed from African American spirituals. Freedom songs such as “Keep Your Eye on the Prize,” “If You Miss Me at the Back of the Bus,” and “We Shall Overcome,” were anthems of the movement. Apartheid in South Africa also inspired many protest songs. Themes of racial equality and prejudice continue to be explored by musicians in a variety of genres.
IF I HAVE TO, I CAN DO ANYTHING
I AM STRONG
I AM INVINCIBLE
I AM WOMAN
—Helen Reddy

Helen Reddy (b 1941) is an Australian-American singer-songwriter whose “I Am Woman,” became a worldwide feminist anthem. She says that, after searching for songs to reflect how the woman’s movement had changed her, “I realized that the song I was looking for didn’t exist, and I was going to have to write it myself.”

Songs about women’s rights and issues include music from the women’s suffrage movement—often changing lyrics to well known songs, such as “Oh dear, what can the matter be, women are wanting to vote,” and “Keep Woman in Her Sphere” to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne.” In the 1970s an American women’s music movement gave birth to feminist songs and musicians including Cris Williamson, Holly Near and Meg Christian. Many recent women’s songs focus on independence and strength.
HOW MANY ROADS MUST A MAN WALK DOWN BEFORE YOU CALL HIM A MAN?

—Bob Dylan

Singer-songwriter, poet and painter Bob Dylan (b. 1941) said, “A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom.” Dylan has long been celebrated both for his music and for his dedication to social justice. “Blowing in the Wind,” and “The Times They are Changing,” are iconic songs in the civil rights and anti-war movements.

Songs that call for justice range from early folk music to modern lyrics about the importance of caring for others. Social justice music can be uplifting or angry, and is international. World musicians sing about their homelands, about labor and peace and to raise consciousness.

Bob Dylan

The list is your land • Woody Guthrie (1945)
The Mickey Mouse • Dave Bartholomew (1957)
O I had a Hammer • Pete Seeger (1958)
Blowin’ in the Wind • Bob Dylan (1962)
He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother • The Hollies (1969)
There But for Fortune • Joan Baez/Phil Ochs (1964)
What’s Going On • Marvin Gaye (1971)
El derecho de vivir en paz [The right to live in peace] • Victor Jara (1971)
Harassed for the World • Mayb Bryan, (1978)
Mania • (The) Hollies/John Lennon (1969)
Lover in the American • UB40 (1981)
The Message • Grandmaster Flash (1981)
Where the Streets Have No Name • U2 (1987)
Cry for Freedom • Whitesnake (1982)
All That You Have is Your Soul • Tracy Chapman (1988)
We Shall Be Free • Garth Brooks (1992)
Mr. Wendal • Aesop Rock (2005)
Rage Against the Machine (1999)
Sleep Now in the Fire • Rage Against the Machine (2000)
Diamonds from Sierra Leone • Kanye West (2005)
We’re All in This Together • Ben Lee (2005)

The Times They Are A-Changin’ • Bob Dylan (1964)
Atomic Energy • Sir Lancelot (1947)
Cry Me a River • Sam Hinton/Vera Parlow (1950)
A Hard Rain's a-Gonna Fall • Bob Dylan (1963)
So Long Mom I'm Off to Drop the Bomb • Tom Lehrer (1965)
Cue of Destruction • P.F. Sloan (1969)
Who's Next • Tom Lehrer (1972)
Political Science • Randy Newman (1974)
Stop the World • The Clash (1977)
They've Got a Bomb • Crash (1993)
99 Luftballons • Nena (1983)
Enola Gay • Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark (1980)
Mutually Assured Destruction (M.A.D.) • Eiffel (1988)
Russians • Sting (1985)
Eagle Fly Free • Helloween (1988)
Blackened • Metallica (1988)

THE ICE AGE IS COMING,
THE SUN IS ZOOMING IN
ENGINES STOP RUNNING
AND THE WHEAT IS GROWING THIN
A NUCLEAR ERROR,
BUT I HAVE NO FEAR
LONDON IS DROWNING—AND I
LIVE BY THE RIVER
—The Clash

English punk rock band The Clash was formed in 1976 and disbanded in 1986. The band's political lyrics and rebellious attitude had a far-reaching impact on rock and alternative rock music.

After the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, songwriters began to explore the new age. As early as 1947, Calypso singer Sir Lancelot wrote "Now it's up to the people to crusade/To see that no more bombs are made." A growing number of musicians protested against further development of nuclear weapons. Heavy Metal music has been concerned with nuclear warfare since the 1980s and satirists like Tom Lehr ("So Long Mom, I'm Off to Drop the Bomb") also dealt with the issue.
CHILDREN

MY NAME IS LUKA
I LIVE ON THE SECOND FLOOR
I LIVE UPSTAIRS FROM YOU…
THEY ONLY HIT UNTIL YOU CRY
AND AFTER THAT YOU DON’T ARGUE WHY
YOU JUST DON’T ARGUE ANYMORE

—Suzanne Vega

SUZANNE VEGA

Suzanne Vega (b 1959) writes and sings folk-inspired music with literate lyrics. Her 1987 lyric about an abused child, “My Name is Luka,” is internationally popular and one of her best-known songs.

Songs about children and their rights come out of many cultures, from sentimental Victorian ballads to lullabies old and new. There are a number of modern songs about the vulnerability of children and the need to protect them. International projects in countries like Senegal and Nepal encourage children to produce radio programs and write songs on children’s rights.

—Suzanne Vega

PUT A LITTLE LOVE IN YOUR HEART
• Jackie DeShannon (1969)

OOO CHILD
• Five Stairsteps (1970)

SAVE THE CHILDREN
• Gil Scott-Heron (1971)

CAT’S IN THE CRADLE
• Harry Chapin (1973)

SAM STONE
• John Prine (1976)

BORN AT THE RIGHT TIME
• Paul Simon (1990)

WE ARE THE WORLD
• Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie (1985)

LUKE • Suzanne Vega (1987)

BROKEN HOME • White Lion (1989)

IT’S A HARD LIFE WHEREVER YOU GO
• Nancy Griffith (1989)

Belfast Child • Sinéad O’Connor (1989)

NOWHERE TO STAND
• K.D. Lang (1989)

KITE • U2 (2000)

ONE VOICE
• Billy Gilman (2000)

KID FEAR • Indigo Girls (2000)

CONCRETE ANGEL
• Martina McBride (2001)

I WILL • Radiohead (2005)

Original of the Species • U2 (2005)

Put a Little Love in Your Heart • Jackie DeShannon (1969)

Ooo Child • Five Stairsteps (1970)

Save the Children • Gil Scott-Heron (1971)

Cat’s in the Cradle • Harry Chapin (1973)

Sam Stone • John Prine (1976)

Born at the Right Time • Paul Simon (1990)

We Are the World • Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie (1985)


Broken Home • White Lion (1989)

It’s a Hard Life Wherever You Go • Nancy Griffith (1989)

Belfast Child • Sinéad O’Connor (1989)

Nowhere to Stand • K.D. Lang (1989)

Kite • U2 (2000)

One Voice • Billy Gilman (2000)

Kid Fear • Indigo Girls (2000)

Concrete Angel • Martina McBride (2001)

I Will • Radiohead (2005)

Original of the Species • U2 (2005)
WHERE DID ALL THE BLUE SKY GO?
POISON IS THE WIND THAT BLOWS…
OH, THINGS AIN’T WHAT THEY USED TO BE

—Marvin Gaye
Singer-songwriter, poet and visual artist Patti Smith (b 1946) has been called “the poet laureate of punk rock.” She once described her music as “three chord rock merged with the power of the word.”

More than 33 million people are now living with HIV and more than 25 million have died of AIDS. While improved treatment has reduced the death rate in developed countries, the virus continues to be rampant, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Many singers and songwriters have created songs to raise awareness and express indignation about the lack of support for AIDS victims. Gay Men’s choruses often include songs about AIDS in their repertoire.

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**AIDS**

…WOE TO THE YOUNG
ANOTHER HEARSE IS DRAWN
HAVE YOU SEEN DEATH SINGING
IN THE STRAW-COLORED LIGHT?

—Patti Smith

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**PATTI SMITH**

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Getta Lot o' Living to Do • Peter Alpap (1989)
Let's Talk About AIDS • Salt-N-Pepa (1990)
Feeding the Flame • Willie Boudreaux (1990)
On Every Corner • Artistic (1991)
The Last Song • Elton John (1993)
Don't Look Now • Williams Brothers (1993)
Power • Salt-N-Pepa (1993)
She Doesn't Know What Was John • Rula McIntyre (1994)
Streets of Philadelphia • Bruce Springsteen (1995)
Love Don't Need a Reason • Michael Callen (1995)
Shake Back Sleep • Paula Cole (1995)
Jonathan Wesley Oliver, Jr. • Lee Lennack (1996)
Patchwork Quilt • Dee Grant (1996)
Sweet Memory • Dean Godshalk (1997)
Someone Else • Keith Christopher (1998)
If It Wasn't Love • Mark Weigle (1998)
Is It Ever Over? • Mark & Dean (2000)

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BEFORE WE PACKED OUR BAGS AND LEFT ALL THIS BEHIND US IN THE DUST, WE HAD A PLACE THAT WE COULD CALL HOME, AND A LIFE NO ONE COULD TOUCH.

—Rise Against

RISE AGAINST

Rise Against is an American punk rock band, formed in 1999, which supports animal rights and other liberal causes. The band’s 2006 “Prayer of the Refugee,” is about refugees who come to America only to face discrimination and cruelty.

People sometimes flee their communities and countries searching for safety in times of conflict. Modern exiles include economic and political refugees. Refugees bring the music of their homelands with them, evolve new musical forms and create songs about their plight. In countries such as Afghanistan where music is banned by fundamentalists, refugees preserve their musical heritage. Popular music also sometimes focuses on people in exile.
The International Committee of Artists for Peace (ICAP) is an organization of passionately committed individuals using the creative power of the arts to bring about a peaceful society. Collaborating with individuals and organizations that share its mission for peace, ICAP employs dialogue and the full creative power of the arts to instill the ideals of humanism and nonviolence in today’s youth. Since 2002, ICAP has sponsored concerts, exhibits and dialogues in support of the United Nations Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace.

The mission of ICAP is to establish peace and develop peacemakers through the transformative power of art.

“...the life and essence of art—whether it is a painting, music or dance—lies in expressing a wellspring of emotion, the universal realm of the human spirit. It is a melding of the individual and the universal. That is why great art reaches out beyond ethnic and national barriers to move people the world over.”

—Daisaku Ikeda • Founder of ICAP, President of Soka Gakkai International