Children Of The Sun

Holdin' hands across the seas,
We are brothers and sisters of the sun.
Our world is a place where love needs to grow.
Every living thing on earth is one.

Everything we do, and everything we say Links us with each other constantly. Everything that is, everything that lives Has to be given a chance just to be.

Holdin' hands across the seas,
We are brothers and sisters of the sun.
Our world is a place where love needs to grow.
Every living thing on earth is one.

All the living beasts, and every living plant Grow in harmony together.

In the world we see creatures being free, Free to hope, free to dream, free just to be.

Holdin' hands across the seas,
We are brothers and sisters of the sun.
Our world is a place where love needs to grow.
Every living thing on earth is one.

-Paul F. Page June, 1992

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Performance Notes:

• The piece begins in a fairly subdued fashion, presenting the original statement (chorus) without fanfare and in unison. The accompaniment is straight-forward.

• The immediate repeat of the chorus provides a clue to the performance of the rest of this piece: harmony begins to appear in the choral score (TB); the accompaniment is more florid; increased energy spills into the verse (mea. 29-38). The immediate repeat of the opening statement is significant because it is *this text* that the piece is trying to convey.

• With mea. 40 the piece begins to take on an increasingly vigorous character. 4 parts of vocal harmony are distinguishable, though not complicatingly so. (That comes later.). A

second "verse" is presented in mea. 49-56.

•The key change at mea. 57 provides the boost for independent vocal harmony at mea. 58. The chordal accompaniment (played *forte*!) provides support for the vocals but lets them breathe independently.

•From mea. 67 onward the piece takes on a life of its own. The quadruple repetition of the text ("Holdin' hands across the sea") builds tension, first presented a cappella and then

followed by a vigorous accompaniment to heighten the dramatic impact.

•At mea. 83-97 the choir sings a cappella. There is a sense of immediacy or urgency established by the contrasting meters of 6/8 and 2/4. Done precisely in rhythm the effect is to create a "barrel roll" which catapults the singers into the instrumental bridge (mea. 97-104) and provides them a moment of respite before tackling the final pounding out of the piece's central statement.

•From mea. 104-113 the chorus is repeated vigorously and is followed by 18 measures of energy-building keychanges, hammering out the song's textual theme. Mea. 129-131 provide the apex of the composition and need to be sung with precision and *power*.

• Once more the chorus is repeated (mea. 132-140)

•From mea. 141 through mea. 170 the score expands to two choirs and an optional CROWD line, each with independent voicings, each with many measures of repeated material, each beginning softly and building in volume and intensity as each new voice enters. All these parts are easy to sing though the visual texture of the score appears to be complex. The accompaniment provides the basis for the energy in this section, contrasting, as it does, the metrical presentation of the vocal parts by the dotted rhythm. This section may be repeated; the idea is to build the number to a quasi-frenzy. [Choir members, the audience and anyone participating in the moment should be moved to DO what the text suggests: holding hands, fellowship, arm in arm, waving hands to the spectators, swaying to the music.] The director is really in charge at this point because the repeats are all optional

•The finale calls for the full compilation of vocal and instrumental forces singing fortissimo. THEIR voices will be heard above everything at the conclusion. At this point

the accompaniment becomes unnecessary...and non-existent.

 $\sqrt{}$ If deemed useful or desirable, the text—or parts of it (e.g. "Holding hands, Children of the sun")— could be translated to a number of international languages.

√Caution: The piece is marked at a moderate tempo. The nearly uncontrollable tendency will be to "race" as the number gets moving. Resist the urge to let it get away. Control of the tempo will be paramount for successful performance.

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[SATB, keyboard]



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