

WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN, Hansen & Sagen

SATB Youth Voices with Opt Children's Choir
Opt. instrumental parts available



We Are Your Children

Music by

Jason Hansen & Larry Sagen

Lyrics by

Larry Sagen

Program Notes

“We Are Your Children” is written with a simple, melodic verse that is tuneful to sing, but earnest in its message. Loosely based on a digitally-generated melody by Larry Sagen, it blends contemporary pop styles, including hip hop and gospel, within a traditional choral music pedagogy. “We Are Your Children” is especially well suited for individual youth choirs, honor choirs, community ensembles, and combined voices from elementary, middle, and high school choirs. Suitable for performance at any time of year, the work offers a meaningful and impactful addition to concerts and festival programs. This piece was made possible with the support and contribution of Mark Johnson, Phillip Brunelle, Kyle Pederson, Audrey Riddle, and Judy Sagen.

For more information about “We Are Your Children” and to download additional copies visit: www.weareyourchildren.us

Available for SATB with opt. Children’s Choir; SA (Two-Part) voices
Rhythm Section (Drums, Bass, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar)

Composer Notes

After more than five decades working with children and youth I created “We Are Your Children” in honor of America’s 250th birthday as both a song and a call to action. At a time when so many young people feel overwhelmed, unheard, anxious, and uncertain about the future they are inheriting, I wanted to write something that speaks to people’s hearts rather than their politics — a grassroots movement where children’s and youth choirs across America sing to their communities and leaders to remind them of our shared responsibility to the next generation.

My hope is simple: to help give young people a stronger voice, and inspire adults to stand up for our children with compassion, courage, and hope. The arrangements are free for all children’s and youth choirs. All net proceeds will be donated to youth music and youth leadership nonprofits.

-Larry Sagen

Performance Time

ca. 3 minutes and 25 seconds

About the Authors

Larry Sagen (b. 1951) has spent a lifetime bringing people together to uplift children and youth. For more than fifty years, he has served as a teacher, coach, mentor, family therapist, nonprofit founder, community organizer, and lifelong youth advocate. Among his proudest achievements is founding the International Youth Hall of Fame, which helped 16 communities honor more than 3,500 young people through a “pay it forward” model of leadership, service, and compassion. A lifelong poet and lyric writer, Larry has written works for moments of national celebration, including *Freedom Got a Facelift* for the 1986 rededication of the Statue of Liberty, and *Listen to the Children* for an opening ceremony of the 1990 Goodwill Games. He treasures collaborations that bring words of hope to life through music.

In November 2025, after being diagnosed with cancer, Larry was moved to write “We Are Your Children” as a gift to America’s children in honor of the nation’s 250th birthday. Larry holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Minnesota and an M.S.W. in Family Therapy from Washington University in St. Louis. Married for 41 years, he is a proud stepfather, father-in-law, and grandfather.

Jason Hansen (b. 1987) is a Twin Cities-based musician with a reputation for his work in the choir and theater. He has built a distinguished career as music director, arranger, and orchestrator, working with schools and theater programs from elementary to collegiate levels. As a theater artist, Jason has aided in the development of many new works, including several world premieres, and has provided arrangements or orchestrations for choral programs and theater productions at regional theaters throughout the country.

His diverse artistic abilities have paired him with projects covering widely varied musical styles from rock to classical to jazz to folk music. Having grown up in a musical family in Minnesota, he enjoys creating music in the vibrant musical community he calls home. Jason holds a degree in music from the University of Minnesota.

A National Youth Anthem for the Next Generation

We Are Your Children

Lyrics by
LARRY SAGEN

for SATB voices and opt. Children's Choir, accompanied,
with optional Rhythm Section*

Music by
JASON HANSEN & LARRY SAGEN

Steady, but lyrical (♩ = c. 80)

The musical score is written for SATB voices and piano. It begins with a tempo marking 'Steady, but lyrical (♩ = c. 80)'. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part starts with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) enter with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The score includes measures 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The piano part features chords and single notes, while the vocal parts have melodic lines with lyrics 'Ooo' written below them. The score is marked with measure numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Also Available for S.A. (Two-Part) voices

Rhythm Section Part (Drums, Bass, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar) available for download at www.weareyourchildren.us

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05.2026

7 SOLO:

mf I wake up ev - 'ry morn - ing, the news is all_ the same. An - oth - er name, an - oth - er face, an -

mp

7 8 9

- oth - er life_ e - rased. We see the truth; it's clear as day: The lies_ de - ceit, the greed. You

10 11 12

end solo

tell us we're_ the fu - ture. Help us sow the seeds_ we need_

CHILDREN'S CHOIR *mf*

SOPRANO *mf*

ALTO *mf*

We are your

We are your

13 14

15

chil - dren. Hear us loud and clear. We are your chil - dren. Look in - to our eyes

chil - dren. Hear us loud and clear. We are your chil - dren. Look in - to our eyes

mf
Eb(add9) Bb(add11) Cm7

15 16 17

— and feel the fears we fear. We are your chil - dren. Please don't turn a -

— and feel the fears we fear. We are your chil - dren. Please don't turn a -

Absus2 Eb(add9)

18 19

-way. We are your chil - dren. Stand up for us to - day.

-way. We are your chil - dren. Stand up for us to - day.

Bb(add11) Absus2 *mp*

20 21 22

23

RAP SOLO:

We did - n't

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

mf

Ooo

Ooo

Ooo

S.A. *mf*

Ooo

T.B. *mf*

Ooo

Ooo

Ooo

Ooo

Ooo

Ooo

Ooo

mf

Eb(add9)

Absus2

Eb(add9)

Ab(add9)

23

24

25

26

27

make this world we see. We did - n't build the walls of greed. We did - n't start the wars or fights. We did - n't take a - way the rights. We did - n't

Ooo

Ooo

Eb

Gm

27

28

8 teach to lie or hate. We did - n't cause the pain we face. We did - n't in -

Woah

Woah

29 Cm7

8 - vent the drugs and guns. We want a peace - ful world for ev - 'ry - one!

Bb7sus4

30

(RAP SOLO)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

f

We're ris - ing up! We need your help! We are your

S.A. *f*

We're ris - ing up! We need your help! We are your chil - dren!

T.B. *f*

We're ris - ing up! We need your help! We are your chil - dren!

f

E_b Gm7

31 32

end solo

chil - - dren. Stand up___ for us!

chil - - dren. Stand up___ for us! We are your

Stand up___ for us! We are your

Stand up___ for us! We are your

Absus2 Cm7/B_b B_b9sus4

33 34

35

chil - dren. Hear us loud and clear. We are your chil - dren. Look in - to__ our eyes

chil - dren. Hear us loud and clear. We are your chil - dren. Look in - to__ our eyes

chil - dren. Hear us loud and clear. We are your chil - dren. Look in - to__ our eyes

f
Eb Bb Cm

35 36 37

__ and feel__ the fears__ we fear. We are your chil - - dren.__ Please don't turn a -

__ and feel__ the fears__ we fear. We are your chil - - dren.__ Please don't turn a -

__ and feel__ the fears__ we fear. We are your chil - - dren.__ Please don't turn a -

Ab Eb

38 39

Three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: "-way. We are your chil - dren. Stand up for us." The piano part includes chords: Bb, Eb/G, Ab(add9), and Bb9sus4. Measure numbers 40, 41, and 42 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staff.

Three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts have lyrics: "Let the stu - dents be the teach - ers 'Cause the child - ren best ex - plain". The piano part includes chords: Eb and Bb. Measure numbers 43 and 44 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staff.

First system of the musical score. It consists of three staves: a vocal line (treble clef), a piano accompaniment line (treble clef), and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The lyrics are: "We're a world of diff - 'rent voic - es, but our cries all sound the same,". The piano part includes chord markings: Cm7, Fm11, Ab, and Cm7. Measure numbers 45 and 46 are indicated at the bottom of the piano and bass staves respectively.

We're a world of diff - 'rent voic - es, but our cries all sound the same,

We're a world of diff - 'rent voic - es, but our cries all sound the same,

We're a world of diff - 'rent voic - es, but our cries all sound the same,

Cm7 Fm11 Ab Cm7

45 46

Second system of the musical score. It continues the three-staff format. The lyrics are: "the same! We are your". The piano part includes chord markings: Bb9sus4 and C9sus4. Measure numbers 47 and 48 are indicated at the bottom of the piano and bass staves respectively.

the same! We are your

the same! We are your

the same! We are your

Bb9sus4 C9sus4

47 48

49

chil - dren. Hear us loud and clear. We are your

chil - dren. Hear us loud and clear. We are your

chil - dren. Hear us loud and clear. We are your

ff
F
Bb

49 50

chil - dren. Look in - to our eyes and feel the fears we fear. We are your

chil - dren. Look in - to our eyes and feel the fears we fear. We are your

chil - dren. Look in - to our eyes and feel the fears we fear. We are your

Dm11 Bb C9sus4

51 52

chil - - dren. Please don't turn a - way. We are your

chil - - dren. Please don't turn a - way. We are your

chil - - dren. Please don't turn a - way. We are your

F C F/A

53 54

Detailed description: This system contains the first three staves of the musical score. The top three staves are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in G major, featuring lyrics and a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment is on the bottom staff, with chords F, C, and F/A indicated. Measure numbers 53 and 54 are at the bottom.

chil - dren. Stand up for us to - day!

chil - - dren. Stand up for us to - day!

chil - - dren. Stand up for us to - day!

Bb Bb(add9)

55 56

Detailed description: This system contains the next three staves. The vocal parts continue with the lyrics 'Stand up for us to - day!'. The piano accompaniment features a Bb chord and a Bb(add9) chord. Measure numbers 55 and 56 are at the bottom.

div.

57

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____

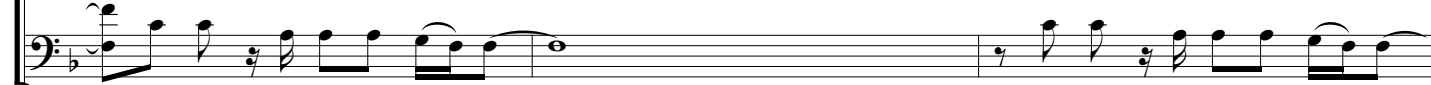
Stand up for us, your chil - dren.



Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____

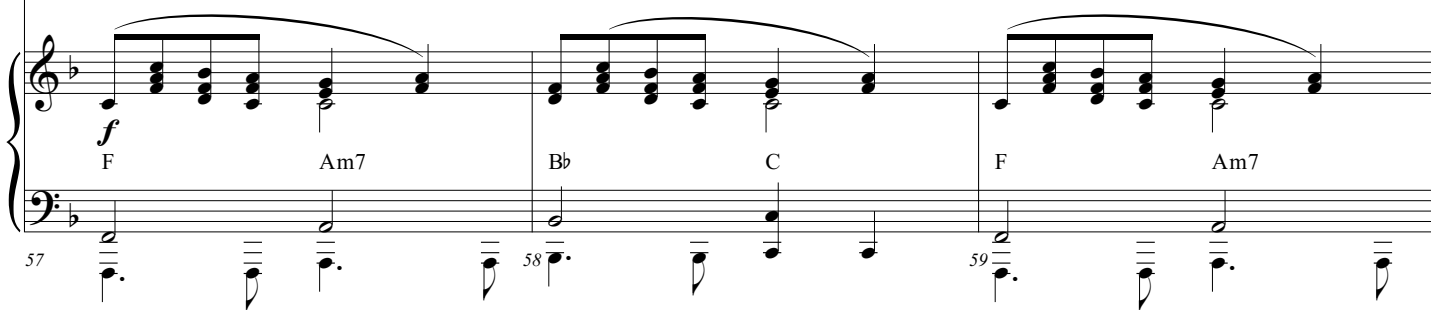


Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____

unis.

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.

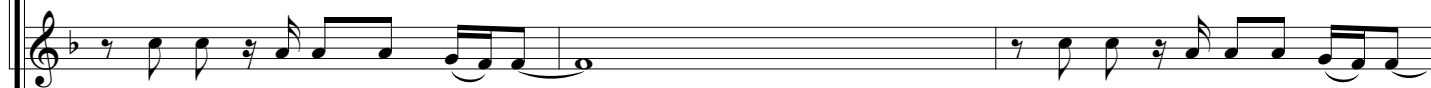


Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____



Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.



Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.



Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____



[illegible]

us, to - day!

us, to - day!

us! to - day!

65 *ff* B $\flat$ (add9)

66 *mf* F(add9)