

WE ARE YOUR CHILDREN, Sagen & Hansen

SA (Two Part) Youth Voices
Opt. instrumental parts available



We Are Your Children

Lyrics by

Larry Sagen

Arrangement by

Jason Hansen

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: help give young people a stronger voice, and inspire adults to stand up for our children with compassion, courage, and hope. “We Are Your Children” is our gift to America’s children. Arrangements, rehearsal tracks, conductor’s guide, and performance resource are free of charge because we believe no child or choir should be excluded by financial barriers. All net proceeds from broadcasts, licenses, downloads, streaming, and special initiatives will be donated to youth music and youth leadership nonprofits.

-Larry Sagen, Founder

Performance Time

ca. 3 minutes and 30 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 SA (Two Part) voices, accompanied,
with optional Rhythm Section*

Arrangement by
JASON HANSEN

Steady, but lyrical (♩ = c. 80)

SOPRANO
ALTO

PIANO

mp

Ooo

2 3

Ooo

mp

Ooo

4 5 6

Also Available for S.A.T.B voices and opt. Children's Choir
Rhythm Section Part (Drums, Bass, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar) available for download at www.WeAreYourChildren.us

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06.2026

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._

SOPRANO *mf*

ALTO

We are your

13 14

15

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 -

Absus2 Eb(add9)

18 19

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

Bb(add11) Absus2 *mp*

20 21 22

23

RAP SOLO:

8

S.A. *mf*

Ooo

We did - n't

Ooo

Ooo

Ooo

mf

E $\flat$ (add9)

Absus2

E $\flat$ (add9)

A $\flat$ (add9)

23

24

25

26

27

8

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

E $\flat$

Gm

27

28

8

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

3

Woah

Cm7

29

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

Bb7sus4

30

(RAP SOLO)

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!

f *Eb* *Gm7*

31 32

end solo

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

Absus2 *Cm7/Bb* *Bb9sus4*

33 34

35

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 -

Ab Eb

38 39

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

Bb Eb/G *mf* Ab(add9) Bb9sus4

40 41 42

43 *unis. mf*

Let the stu - dents be the teach - ers 'Cause the child - ren best ex - plain

mf

E $\flat$

B $\flat$

43 44

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

Cm7 Fm11 A $\flat$ Cm7

45 46

the same! We are your

B $\flat$ 9sus4 C9sus4

47 48

49

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

49 50

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

51 52

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

53 54

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

55 56

ff
F
Bb

Dm11 Bb C9sus4

F C F/A

Bb Bb(add9)

57 *div.*

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____ Stand up for us, your chil - dren.

div.

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____

f F Am7 Bb C F Am7

57 58 59

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____ Stand up for us, your chil - dren.

Bb Csus4 F Am7 Bb C

60 61 62

Stand up for us, your chil - dren.____ Stand up for us,____ to - day!

Stand up for us,____ to - day!

F Am7 Bb(add9) *ff* Bb(add9) *mf* F(add9)

63 64 65 66