

We Move The World – A ‘Free’ Proposal for All Choirs

Branko Stark, President of The Croatian Choral Directors Association

The Croatian Choral Directors Association is a relatively young association, the goals of which are to improve both the profession of choral director and choral singing as a whole in Croatia. Also, our goal is to be a recognizable member of the world choral family, making our contribution to the growth of choral music on a global scale, in accordance with our abilities and our professional and artistic capacity. In this spirit we first launched the project called *IPDCM-International Project for The Development of Choral Music*. The project covers our educational programs for choral directors, choral singers and young choral composers, and has been active since 2009 in several countries. Our second project is *The International Symposium ARS CHORALIS on Chorusology¹, Singing and Voice* in Zagreb, which we have been organizing since 2010. Both of these projects will be introduced in detail on another occasion. In this article we wish to present our third international project.



In Croatia, we sing *The World Choral Day* regularly. Collective singing all over the world on the same day creates a unique synergy and positive vibrations, something our world desperately needs, especially in these times. Thinking about this brought us to the conclusion that it would do the world a lot of good if all the choirs around the globe would, in addition to the normal repertoire, sing one special, collective song. One song which would symbolically unify all the choirs of the world under one 'musical banner', a song about all the beautiful and noble things that are represented in choral singing and choral unity. We wanted to make the song speak of hope and happiness, peace and love, friendship and human harmony. All of these attributes have a certain, added strength when joined with music and singing. It could be used to ignite the good in the hearts and souls of people. In this spirit I wrote and composed a song called *We Move The World*. It is dedicated to all the choirs in the world, earning the subtitle *World Choral Song*.

We move the world,
we are the light,
we sing all day,
we sing all
night.

We touch the moon,
the stars above,
we sing for
peace,

we sing for love.

And the world shall see
what can be done,
to be together here
as if we are
one.

All the bells will ring
and the sun will shine
right into
our hearts,
into
yours and mine.

Open up your soul
and spread out your wings,
take all the joy and
hope that
music
brings.

All the clouds are gone
when you take my hand
and this song
we sing

will never end

The song was composed as a pop-choral song, so it could be played on any occasion and for any generation. It can be sung *a cappella* or accompanied by a variety of instruments (keyboard, guitar, orchestra ...). There are two versions of the song. One is for mixed choir SATB, and the other for equal voices SSAA/TTBB. Both scores are compatible and both versions can be sung simultaneously. The song starts with the chorus, so as to be stronger in relaying its message. Both scores can be downloaded from the website of *The Croatian Choral Directors Association* (www.choralcroatia.com). Also available are the audio recordings of the song, in MP3 format. One version is vocal, and the other is the instrumental version. This way, every singer in the world can practice the song with the score and instrumental backing. Using the score is free of charge and can be copied freely. The more, the better!



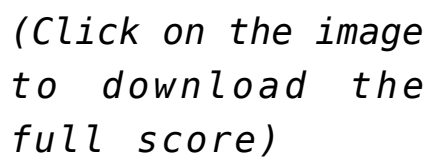
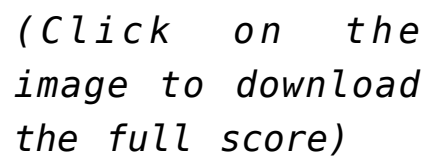
The mixed choir score is printed in this issue of ICB. The score for SSAA or TTBB is available for download from our website. The song was premiered at the ARS CHORALIS symposium in Zagreb in 2010, to great acclaim. After this, it started its journey round the world. It entered the repertoire of a great number of choirs, and is sung collectively at different

choral festivals, competitions and concerts in many countries. In the photographs you can see the premiere in Zagreb, along with the concerts in the Solomon Islands and in Cochin, India.

¹ *Chorusology: chorus+logos, the multidisciplinary science of the choral art. This is a neologism created by the Croatian Choral Directors Association. They have also founded the International Choral Institute for Chorusology (the scientific branch of the Association).*



(Click on the image to download the full score)



Branko Stark (1954), composer, conductor and voice instructor, is a teacher at the *Arts Academy* (University of Split-Croatia). He has written over two hundred compositions for which he is the recipient of numerous awards. He teaches singers, choral directors, composers, actors, speech therapists, phoneticians and speakers and also engages in voice rehabilitation. Mr. Stark has participated in more than thirty scientific symposiums and has been guest professor at many faculties in Croatia and abroad. His specialty is the theory and practice of voice, vocal stylistics and expression stylistics in singing and speech, hermeneutics and works published on these subjects. He gives lectures, seminars, master classes and workshops worldwide (Argentina, China, Slovenia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, USA, Korea, South Africa, Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brunei, Latvia). Mr. Stark is also a prominent adjudicator for many international choral competitions (Croatia, Germany, Italy, Austria, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea). He is President of the *Croatian Choral Directors Association*, head of the *Vocal Academy*, a member of the International Council of the *World Choir Games* and member of the *International Federation for Choral Music*. Email: info@choralcroatia.com

Edited by Gillian Forlivesi Heywood, Italy