

Justice Cry

Like a protest march, this mantra has a sense of urgency, but also a sense of hope and joyful anticipation. It is best sung unaccompanied. Start with a single voice, then gradually add voices, perhaps splitting into groups and singing it as a round. The singing should also start softly and then build gradually in volume and intensity, as more voices join the cry for justice. Confident singers can improvise harmonies on top of or below the main melodic line – especially where the text speaks of “ringing out.” It also sounds great with a tonic note (B-flat) hum/drone in the bass (male singers usually enjoy this). All voices could then return to singing in unison for a strong, unified finish. The use of percussion – in particular rhythm instruments such as drum and tambourine – would support the rhythmic nature of this piece. Marching or similar body movement, especially “linking hands” as indicated in the text, can also greatly enhance its impact.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a measure rest (marked with a '5'), followed by the melody for the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "Hear the voice of — jus - tice cry, — mov - ing through our — land, Hear the voice of — jus - tice cry, — mov - ing through our — land, ring - ing out o - ver hills and plains, link - ing hand with — hand. ring - ing out o - ver hills and plains, link - ing hand in — hand." The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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