



You Have a Voice

**An Ensemble Experience for Harps & Voices
by Deborah Henson-Conant**

Beta Edition v.1 ~ Jan. 31, 2024
for Dutch Harp Festival 2024
Lever & Pedal Harp

Golden Cage Music, Inc.
HipHarp.com

~ **NOTES** ~

About this Edition of "You Have a Voice"

This piece is about the heart of Ensemble playing: the experience of listening, moving, playing and singing *together*. The notes are deceptively simple. The piece requires total commitment to listening, watching, and allowing the words, the soloist's self-expression and the conductor's movements to determine the pace, volume and rubato rhythm of the piece.

When you play this simple harmony, play each note with your second finger - so you'll play the top line with your right hand and the bottom line with your left hand (it doesn't matter which hand you play the first note with), and follow-through physically so it's almost like your hands are flapping slowly like a graceful bird.

Beginners can play just one of the lines, but with alternating hands, so it still creates the sense of slow flight.

This piece requires truly listening, matching the ensemble and singing the harmony as you play. It's an opportunity to expand your ability to combine physical and musical expression so that you develop the skills of physical musicality and musical physicality - and it's a chance to sing and play in harmony with others in a piece that's so simple it truly allows you to be *present* to creative expression instead of worrying about notes.

I originally created this piece to play with audiences, as part of a one-woman musical show called "What the H*ll are you Doing in the Waiting Room for Heaven??" The show is about Aubrey, a casting coach in the Waiting Room for Heaven who coaches the newly-deceased to win their auditions for the Heavenly Choir. The only problem is that Aubrey, herself, has never auditioned and has been hiding behind her position of After-Life coach. It's in this song that she comes to realize she has lost her soul's voice and realizes she must return to life to reclaim it.

"You Have a Voice" is a song created to sing with an audience "who can't sing", a song that allows them to experience singing or humming in harmony without needing to 'learn' a melody, words or a harmony part - and it's magical when sung and played by harpists.

Where does this piece fit in the Harp Repertoire?

This piece can be played in concert by singing harpists, as an opportunity for audiences to experience their voices in harmony with others without needed to learn or practice.

This Pre-Publication Edition was created for the 2024 Dutch Harp Festival.
For updates or errata list:

Go to HipHarp.com, look for the Projects and then for You Have a Voice.

~ LYRICS ~

Note:

- The lyrics aren't always sung in this particular order
- In the concert, you will be singing the simple harmony and responding to the movement of the soloist's voice.
- You will continue to play the simple pattern throughout the song when you're playing with the soloist. So, to play this in ensemble, you only need to '*learn*' 7 notes - but you need to *play and sing* them while *listening and moving with the whole the ensemble*
- Other additions to the music will be shared in rehearsal

You have a voice that's yours alone
This is the tie that binds you
Deep in the dark of ever-more
That's how your soul can find you

So raise your voice, for in the end
It's all you have to bring
This is the sound that turns lost in to found:
When you sing

You have a voice that tells a tale
Nobody else can tell it as well
This is the tale, the song, the story of you.

So raise you voice, for no-one else
Can give the gift you bring
This is the sound that turns lost into found:
When you sing

You Have a Voice

by Deborah Henson-Conant

Hrps

This is the melody the soloist will sing over the harmony you play and sing. I added it here in case you want to try playing and singing it yourself.

You have a voice that's yours a - lone.

This is the tie that binds you.

Deep in the dark of ev - er - more,

that's how your soul can find you. So

raise your voice, for in the end, it's

all you have to bring, and this is the sound that turns

lost in - to found: when you sing