

CARNEGIE HALL

Weill Music Institute

“Oye”

Jim Papoulis

About the Composer

Jim Papoulis’ work focuses on combining the music of his roots – classical and jazz – with the rhythms and influence of worldbeat, folk, and multi-ethnic sounds. His compositions for choirs, orchestras, string quartets, and chamber ensembles have been performed worldwide, including at London’s Royal Albert Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and a 300-member children’s choir, and at the Great Wall of China with a 500-member children’s choir. The arrangement featured in Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute Link Up program was specifically orchestrated for the 2010-2011 Link Up: The Orchestra Sings curriculum and performances by Jim.

He works closely with The Foundation for Small Voices to conduct Songwriting Workshops for children worldwide, encouraging them to find their own voices, to write the lyrics that truly reflect their thoughts and hopes, and to be confident that they are heard. These experiences composing with children continue to be a great source of inspiration to him.

Project Notes from the composer

While working in Mexico, I had the opportunity to work closely with young children from economically challenged areas. The children from one particular inner city school program at Colegio MacGregor, Acapulco were part of a Small Voices Songwriting Workshop that Hyatt Regency Acapulco sponsored. The children spoke little English but were easily reached through the music and rhythms I played; with the help of enthusiastic translators we connected further. When I asked them if they had a message that they would want to convey to the world in song, their answer was very simple: to listen. The translation of “listen,” or “listen up,” is “OYE.” This seemed like a wonderful, easy word to sing, and our “OYE” is a result of those experiences.

When I hear this song performed, I am suddenly transported back to the streets where these children walk, go to school, live with little, and dream; they dream that somehow, somewhere, their small voices will be heard. For little Fernando, his friends and teachers at Colegio MacGregor, I remain an ardent listener. – *Jim Papoulis*

Performance Notes

Oye should remain true to its cultural and rhythmic roots – those of South America. Performed with a fun spirit that continues to gain momentum until the final measure, the freshness of “Oye” will come to life. Each time the refrain “OYE” is sung, there should be a crescendo of tempo, of enthusiasm, and of rhythmic intensity.

Translation

Esta solo, llorando
En silencio, en la oscuridad
Esta sonando, deseando
Con esperanza, por la oportunidad.

*All alone, in the darkness
They are crying out for your help
They are hoping, they are dreaming
They are asking, for a change to be heard.*

Escuchalos, escuchalos, ellos te llaman.

Are you listening, can you hear their cries?

Escuchalos, miralos
Escucha lo que tartan de decir
Estan en busqueda, del camino
Pequeñas voces llamandote.

*They are watching, they are listening
They are searching to find their way
Can you see them, can you hear them calling
What their voices are trying to say.*