The background is a dense, colorful collage of various protest signs, drawings, and text fragments. Visible phrases include "Hear what we say, We want freedom today!", "NOTHING", "is a big part of modern day", "WILDCARD", "UNINERABLE", "FREEDOM", "LAVE", "C", "LIVE", "W", "tion", "LIVE", "FREEDOM", "W", "tion", "LIVE", "FREEDOM", "W", "tion".

"Hear what we say,
We want freedom today!"

RISING VOICES

AN ACTIVIST ALBUM
BY WILDWOOD 5TH GRADE

A celebration of human rights, animal rights,
and planet rights. A better future starts here.

With special guest artist Maggie Wheeler



RISING VOICES

AN ACTIVIST ALBUM
BY WILDWOOD 5TH GRADE

Everybody has a voice, even if you're an animal or really old or really young. We believe that music can change the world because music can change people. Music is a universal language. Everybody wants to listen to music, and then you'll hear the message. We want people to walk away thinking that they can help.

WHY DID WE MAKE THIS ALBUM?

“We want people to notice that the world’s not perfect and if we want it to change we have to do something.”

—SADIE C.

“We want people to take away a message of understanding and know what’s going on and how to solve it.”

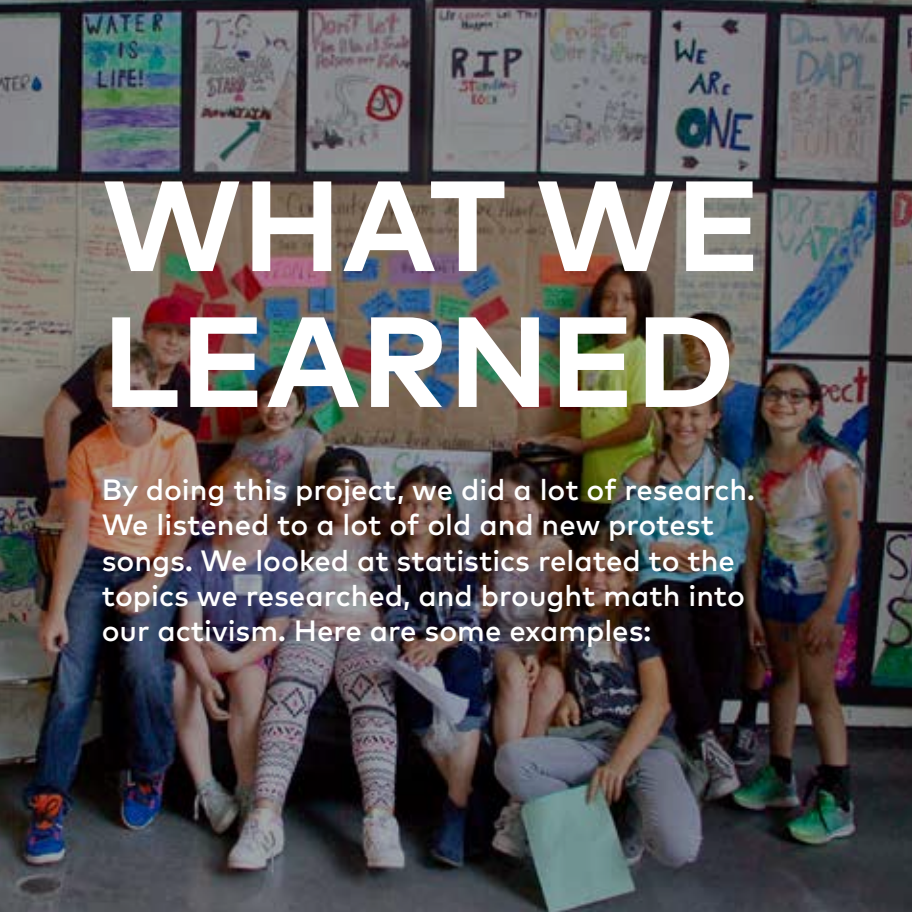
—TESS A.

“We want people to realize that anyone can make a change no matter how young they are.”

—STELLA G.

“To inform people about causes; influence them to make change.”

—HANAMI W. AND HOPE H.

A group of about ten diverse students, mostly teenagers, are posing for a photo in front of a wall. The wall is densely decorated with various protest posters and drawings. Some of the visible posters include "WATER IS LIFE!", "RIP Standing Rock", "WE ARE ONE", "Don't Let the U.S. go to War", "DAPL", and "Human Rights". The students are dressed in casual clothing, and some are holding papers or signs.

WHAT WE LEARNED

By doing this project, we did a lot of research. We listened to a lot of old and new protest songs. We looked at statistics related to the topics we researched, and brought math into our activism. Here are some examples:

Human Rights Abuse:
Although slavery as a system is illegal in every country on earth, there are an estimated 30 million slaves in the world today

As climate change melts sea ice, the U.S. Geological Survey projects that two thirds of polar bears will disappear by 2050. (National Wildlife Federation)

Animal Rights Abuse:
The ASPCA estimates that there could be as many as 10,000 puppy mills in the United States.

WE LEARNED A LOT OF LIFE LESSONS:

- If you set your mind to something (like making the recording) you can kind of do anything.
- We learned that you should always put in your ideas because even if it doesn't seem that good it could lead to something great.
- We learned that each person's part matters in contributing to the whole.
- Our biggest challenge was time and the deadline to complete project. We had to write 3 songs in less than one week.
- Coming up with the tune for the chorus was challenging.
- Our favorite parts were coming up with the song and singing it. We loved when it all came together in the studio and everyone's work paid off.

- Our least favorite parts were figuring out the jobs, who does what, executing some of the jobs like budgets with party planning. It was hard having to agree on certain words and tunes, and figuring out who was going to sing.

OUR PROCESS

- Brainstorming ideas for our activism; there were so many!
- Narrowing down to one topic per advisory class
- Creating lists of rhyming words and phrases to begin to create song lyrics
- Hearing from local activists about their inspiring work in the world to interrupt unfair systems
- Writing up job applications for each job and the teachers assigning the jobs in social studies
- Students who had the job of songwriters : writing the songs, narrowing down, and adding stuff with the help of adult musicians.
- Students who had the job of tech support: videotaping and creating movies to document the process.
- Students who had the job of artists: creating visuals for the album cover and songs themselves

- Students who had the job of events and promotions: planning the release party, making fliers and posters, announcements and lists to plan ahead for what we would need at the event
- Singers, rappers and musicians who had the job of preparing for our live performance at the party
- Creating 3 large scale 7x7 foot art pieces using the themes of animal, human and planet rights to have hang at the event
- ...And so much more!

In reflecting on our experience, we would change certain things about the process. We would have fewer singers, hold auditions and have rehearsals.

LIFE SKILLS USED IN THIS PROJECT:

Integrity

Common Sense

Organizing – a ton of organizing goes into making an album

Curiosity

Patience – we had to wait our turn during the recording

Interpersonal Skills

Tolerance

Initiative

Perseverance

Courage

Kindness

Sense of Humor

Flexibility – changing tune, words, adding a rap

Responsibility – taking on jobs, missing free time. If you didn't finish your part it would affect other people

Problem Solving – figuring out which jobs everyone had

Generosity – people at the studio giving their time was so generous

Cooperation – working with others who may have different ideas



FREEDOM TODAY

This is a song about slavery and the mistreatment of people and workers.

We wrote this song about problems that too many people in the world face in 2017. This song is a peaceful protest song about what we buy and the people behind those products. We named the song to convey the message that all slaves should have freedom today.

We hope to bring an awareness to people about modern day slavery in order to make people aware that this actually still happens in the world. Slowly but surely, if we are paying attention to the problem, we can work to get rid of it.



- Buy "fair trade" items so no money goes to slave owners
- Bring awareness to your government officials and ask them to investigate businesses that may be using slave labor, trafficking, or treating workers badly
- Know your own worker's rights
- Say something if you see unfair treatment
- When you see or hear something that looks like slave labor, call C.A.S.T.'s official hotline number: 888-KEY-2-FREE

FREEDOM TODAY



A
Can't you see
We should be free
E D
Of poverty
E A
And slavery



A
If you make the change
You can break the chain
E D
Stop the pain
E A
So much to gain



E
But they force force force
D
They take take take
F#-
From the people that we love but
E
Do not know
They work work work
D
Without pay pay pay
F#-
Enough tears shed
E
With less than an equal say



A
Buy local goods
From mom and pop
E D
Skip the corp
E A
Shop the Shop



A
Conscious consumers
End slavery sooner
E D
Well, Join the fight
E A
To shine light



E
But they force force force
D
They take take take
F#-
From the people that we love but
E
Do not know
Full of lies lies lies
D
Make them cry cry cry
F#-
solely greed they do not need
E
And wealth they stole



No more Chain gangs
No more dangerous bangs
No more hangings
No more chain gangs
We got ta Fight the fight
To end the fight
To see the light
Before it's out of sight...
Equality for everyone
Is not achieved by the butt of a gun
Fight with love
We are one
Fight with love
We are one



A
They make you work
They make you bleed
E D
To grow the plant
E A
You must plant the seed



A
Freedom must start somewhere
E D
But first the people
E A
have to care



A
Hear what we say
We want freedom today

(Last chorus and then repeat tag
acapella till end)

**SONG BY MONIQUE AND LINDA'S
CLASS MEMBERS: CHLOE, LILAH,
ISABELLA, LUNA, ESME, STELLA,
BEN, LAUREL, HOLDEN, ABE,
JORDAN, MILAN, OLIVER, JACK,
HARRY, ME'ARAH**

Dear People of the USA

BY ESME, HOLDEN, JORDAN, LUNA, ME'ARAH, OLIVER

Dear People of the USA,

We are sorry that 50 million people are living in starvation.

It's not fair that some slave all day with very little pay.

Did you know that 16 million youths struggle with hunger?

Think about it.

We wonder if we will get dessert.

Some wonder if they will get dinner.

One out of 6 Americans struggle with hunger.

20% of kids in the USA live below the poverty line.

They never really get a chance to shine.

96,000 seniors living alone are food insecure.

We get food every day. Imagine being unsure

Of where your food comes from - can't you see...

None should ever be that hungry!

To Slave Owners

BY CHLOE, HARRY, ISABELLA, MILAN, AND STELLA

Dear Slave Owners,

Why do you treat others with such disrespect?

They are people too.

How would you like it

if someone enslaved you?

Is thirty million slaves enough for you?

You are pricing people at the same rate as dolls!

You are paying them nothing, nothing at all.

It is inhumane!

Completely insane!

35 billion dollars in greed,

How much more money do you need?

India is in first place,

China and Pakistan trying to chase.

This should not even be a race!

From,

People Who Love People

Creative Writing

BY AUDREY, ESME', MARCO, MATEO, MIA, AND SAM

Dear Polluters,

Our kind is being neglected and killed. If a human floats is stranded, floating in the water, you send every force in your power, alert the news, send messages to their families, and try your hardest to rescue them. If a polar bear floats out to sea, you let it be and write a dumb blog page about "how sad it is that these poor polar bears are floating out to sea." You should proceed to say, "Someone should help them!" Well, don't leave it to someone else because if everyone says that to themselves, guess when we will take care of it? Never! In fifty years, the ocean will be a wasteland full of plastic, trash, and the remains of our underwater civilization. If you don't participate and leave it to someone else, the ocean will turn into one big trash island instead of the current singular little ones, which are already badly polluted. The Great Garbage Patch currently spans from the US West Coast to Japan, which is a 13 hour plane ride!

If there is no ocean, there are no sea creatures. Coral produces 70% of our oxygen. If the ocean is gone, only the trees and rainforests you are rapidly cutting down will be left to produce only 30% of the current oxygen. You may think throwing your candy wrapper or soda bottle into a body of water somewhere is fine, but if all seven billion people on earth think the same, your oceans will be destroyed. Many of us are perishing because you all have decided that our home is your trash can, and you can throw whatever you want, whenever you want in it. If we go unsupported because of the belief that someone else will save us, you all will have no ocean for the rest of human life. This garbage can kill us and deform our bodies. It can also poison the food we eat and when we eat the sick, poisoned food we can die. You are so focused on women's rights, gender equality, which are good causes, but what about us? Please save us from this frightening prediction of the future.

From,
Scared Sea Creatures

EDUCATION

BY ABE, BEN, JACK, LAUREL, AND LILAH

Did you know that 60 nations
can't guarantee rights to education?
Ignoring people's needs.

I can't believe it!
121 million young people
don't have quality education.
We need to help.
Can't you see it?

Leaving people uneducated -
they can't multiply or add
left vulnerable - could be ripped off
and their future's looking bad
Uneducated people can't teach...
uneducated people...
can't teach...
uneducated people...
and it goes on and on and on.

People are giving feedback
but feeding a system that's not fair
instead of starving it.
We need to formulate a solution
by giving rights to education.
Because that positive feedback will
loop back to you.

Don't let yourself get brainwashed
by the people trying to pain-wash
the future of people.
No matter how small...
no matter how tall...
everybody deserves an education!
Hold hands and join our worldly nation.

Education - building a better civilization
the allocation of information
is the basis of education.
In order to achieve enlightenment,
we need to kick and get the fight in it
to turn 136 countries

with educational safeguards
into a world of learned nations.
No need for further conversation.

No matter how small...
no matter how tall...
everybody deserves an education.
Hold hands and join our worldly nation. (x 5)



OPEN HEART

This song is about the environment.

It talks about how we can change it and why we want to change it. We are trying to convey a message that is positive rather than negative; Instead of what NOT to do, think about what you can do.

**TAKE
ACTION!**

- Reduce, reuse, recycle
- Conserve water, save trees
- Pick up trash when you see it
- Walk and bike when possible
- Turn off lights
- Use reusable bags and bottles
- Buy products that come from companies that use facilities and transportation with less fossil fuels
- Think about how you connect to the systems of pollution and change what you do even slightly to help interrupt these systems that are not good for the planet

OPEN HEART

C
We have a reputation
From an older generation
F
Wanna change it
Re-arrange it
C
We have the realization
That can save our civilization

V1

F
Wanna praise it
F
And embrace it
AM
There is no point in yelping
C
All you got to do is helping
F
Wanna mend it
G
And defend it

DM7. AM7
Get ready for the world to change
DM7 AM7
Everybody has a part
DM7 C
Solutions are already in range
DM7
(Let's do it with an open heart)

CH

C
Heal it
Heal the planet
F
Fix it
Fix the planet
C
Love it
Love the planet
F G
(Let's do it with an open heart)

V2

C
We have too much pollution
Got to find a new solution
F
Please reduce it
Don't produce it
C
We've got to start conserving
And don't forget preserving
F
For the water
G
And the trees
AM
Too many people smoking
C
So now everybody's choking

BR

F
Gotta care
G
So Clean the air
C
We traded the earth's beauty
AM
For stuff that we could keep
F-
Turned out to be cruelty
BB. G
So we tossed it in the deep

PC

DM7
Get ready for the world to change
Everybody has a pact
Solutions are already in range
(Let's do it with an open heart)

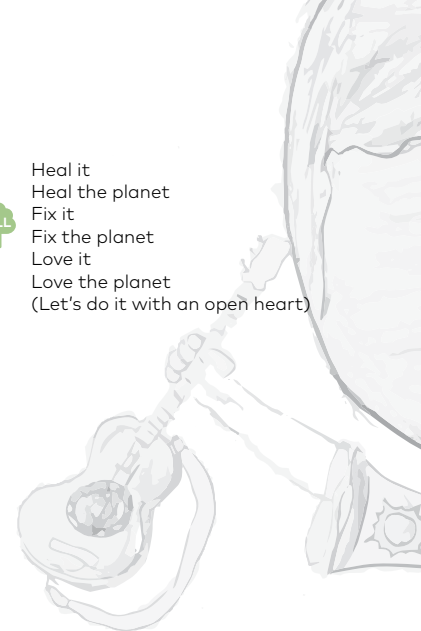
CH

Get ready for the world to change
Everybody has a pact
Solutions are already in range
(Let's do it with an open heart)

CH1

ALL

Heal it
Heal the planet
Fix it
Fix the planet
Love it
Love the planet
(Let's do it with an open heart)



SONG BY SANDI, LINDA AND NICOLE'S CLASS MEMBERS:
AUDREY, BOBBY, EVAN, ESME,
HANAMI, HOPE, IZZE, JUDE,
KEELA, MARCO, MATEO, MIA,
NEIL, NOE, RIDLEY, RYAN, SAM

Stop Making Plastic!

BY KEELA, NEIL, NOE, RIDLEY, RYAN

ACTIVIST

Stop making plastics that
go in the water.

But animals are dying!
The waves are crying!

The effects of plastic are
really drastic.
Stop making plastics!

POLLUTOR

I don't care, I'm turning
into a millionaire!

Waves can't cry. Give
plastics a try.

Keep making plastics,
they are useful.

ACTIVIST

Use more reusable things
and make less plastic.

If everyone says,
"Someone else worry
about it," then who will?

We all must do our part.
You must change your ways!

POLLUTOR

I'm just doing my job,
someone else can worry
about it.

But it's my work. It's my
life...

I'm willing to try...

To reuse, recycle, and
clean up the bays!

The Earth is Worth Everything

BY BOBBY, EVAN, HANAMI, HOPE, IZZE, AND JUDE

We need to stop the exhaust
Stop melting the frost
End radiation
In our nation
Why is the ice deforming
With global warming
Ice is being heated
Soon it'll be deleted
You're making polar bears hot
Thanks a LOT
Islands floodin'
Birds stop singing all of a sudden
Can't see the stars
From afar
No sunlight
For seeing any sights
Up in the sky
Melting ice, why?
We need to stop, now
We're eating up ice faster than a snow plough

Polar bears can't swim
Ice is right on the brim
Melting more than just a puddle
Penguins are still just trying to scuttle
Ice is going fast
The water is vast
We need to get together
To help the weather
Turn off your cars
or you'll leave scars
Let's all intend
To defend
Spend a penny
To help many
I'll roar
If we keep putting oil on the shore
Use activism
Not criticism
Let's all scheme
To get our dream
The Earth
Is worth
Everything.

RIGHT NOW

This song is about animal abuse and testing and how animals can't speak for themselves.

The main message of that song is to take action and fight against animal abuse now. Don't wait for tomorrow.

We hope the album will give people a message and move people to take action. Animals are being tested on and the things that are happening are worse than you can imagine. We need to help them and get them out of puppy mills and bad situations and get them off the streets.



**TAKE
ACTION!**

- Buy products that don't test on animals
- When you buy a pet, be aware of where the pet is coming from
- Adopt a pet from foster care or an animal rescue group
- Volunteer with a rescue group
- Donate needed items to the ASPCA or a local shelter
- Vote for more strict laws about hunting and guns so that animals will not become endangered
- Speak up for animals. They don't have a voice!

RIGHT NOW

C
Animals don't have a voice
Am
Animals don't have a choice
Dm G C
Can't defend themselves

C
Something here has got to change
Am
Do you even know the range
Dm G C
of what is happening

Am F C G
Do the right thing, Do the right thing
F
Do the right thing, Do the right thing
C
Do the right thing, Do the right thing
G
Right now

Am F Am E7
OHHHHH
Am F Am G
OHHHHH

Am
Right now, right now

Right now, right now

Right now, right now

Right now

Animals put in cages
Cruelty can be contagious
Help us set them free

Look at labels, help the fight
Help the animals see the light
Beauty cruelty free

Experiments are outrageous
You can also be courageous
Open you eyes and see

Save some lives and you just might
Animals freedom is in sight
Love can be the key



SONG BY MALLORY AND NICOLE'S
CLASS MEMBERS: AUGGIE, BELLA,
CASH, ELLIE, ELLA, HENRY, JACOB,
JEREMY, KAITO, LUCA, MAX, MILLA,
NITA, OZZIE, SADIE, TAYLOR, TESS



Cat/Dog

BY AUGGIE, ELLIE, LUCA, OZZIE, AND TAYLOR

Dog I should be pretty. My body should be plump,
but in this dark alley, I am next to a dump.

Cat My fur is cold. My whiskers are shriveled in
this dark place.

Dog A truck is picking me up and taking me to a
strange room with bars.

Cat I can hear people giggle as they find the cat
they love.

Dog People come and go,

Cat/Dog But me

Cat/Dog I am still here...

Cat Why am I not loved?

Dog I sit here in silence in a cage wishing
to be eating some food.

Cat I scratch my own ears

Cat And brush my own fur

Dog My time has come...

Cat Please help me and put me out of
this misery!

Dog They are taking me to a room where
my life will come to an end.

Cat/Dog You can help me and make me
your friend.

Animal Testing

BY ELLA, KAITO, JACOB, MAX, NITA, AND SADIE

Rows of dogs
Three to a cage
Cats crying for help
And rabbits being burned.
Hamsters squeaking, 'Help!'
Have you ever been a guinea pig?

NO!

The true story has been kept from you.

*All alone.
Doctors who abuse.
Tested on and beaten.
Pain with every motion.
Scars on every limb.*

Pay attention and take a minute to check the labels!
Risking innocent lives, so companies can thrive.
And we all know that it is just not right!

We are stuck in places that not one pet should go.
How 'bout you try it, People?
See what life is like for us.

*We test for our **own** good
Though animals get hurt.
We don't know
that what we buy
Is a weapon to small creatures.*

**Everything matters and needs care.
Stop animal testing and everything is fair.**

Elephants and Rhinos

BY BELLA, CASH, HENRY, JEREMY, MILLA, AND TESS

Elephants

Every fifteen minutes an elephant dies.
You can even hear their cries.
Every day 96 elephants die.
There is no reason for poaching in any region.
They have floppy ears, watch them shed tears
As they say goodbye to their peers.
We just keep using ivory for our finery.
You say no worries we say hurry.
It is my journey to help elephants keep their ivory.
So please keep this in mind and we will see.
These things are not worth the currency.

Rhinos

Three left rhinos wept
You're killing your rep
Just take the step
for you to accept
and learn in depth
the end of rhinos
There are three, and they all need security
Their deaths are not worth the currency
You say no worries!
We say it's our priority
Use your bravery
They're in slavery
They worry - we are in a hurry
Can they make a recovery?
Make a choice where you stand
in the world of ivory.

Creative Writing

BY AUDREY, ESME, MARCO, MATEO, MIA, AND SAM

Dear World,

Please stop your poaching. Whole herds are grieving for days on end because you have killed our friends and family. We are dying in vain for your cruel sport. Our tusks are crucial to us surviving in the wild, and in addition to flat-out killing our loved ones, a portion of us are dying because we can not survive without what you have taken. Taking our ivory into different countries in the form of piano keys, trophies, and shaved off pieces is a cruel joke and a mockery to our species. How would you feel if your kind was being murdered for sport and money by another living thing that you peacefully share the earth with and have done no harm to?

We would ask forgiveness if we harmed you but hope you will stop your cruel sport. If this is continued, we may eventually die out altogether. Making a species of animals go extinct is robbing the earth of

its beauties. We dig water for you with our tusks in the dry season. When we eat, we create gaps in the vegetation which allows new plants to grow. Our forests and deserts would be overgrown and waterless without us. You deserve better; we deserve better. So please, if you can, take a stand and lend a hand for us. Don't use elephant ivory tusks as trophies or other things. We are all part of one earth, and if we become extinct that will affect other animals and then those will affect others and then you will end up being part of this devastation.

With hope,
The Elephants



WATER IS LIFE

Water Is Life, written by Sara Thomsen, is a peaceful song written in protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline.

This was the first peaceful protest song we learned in social studies class. We really enjoy singing this song. The lyrics are saying that everything is a part of the water system. Everything is impacted by the water cycle. There are Lakota phrases in the song that mean "Water is life." Sara Thomsen taught us that when we see issues in the world today we can sing in solidarity with communities to bring light and hope through music.

Even though problems in the world can be really big, we have learned that every little action matters. And coming together in song is one of the most powerful weapons of love.

COME ON

Come On is a song written by Maggie Wheeler, who is a guest artist on *Rising Voices*.

It is an activist song that was one of the inspirations for writing our own songs. This song inspires people to take action and do something now! It inspires us to want to actually interrupt unjust systems. Maggie's song motivates us to make a difference in the world. We are so honored that she is singing on our album.

COME ON

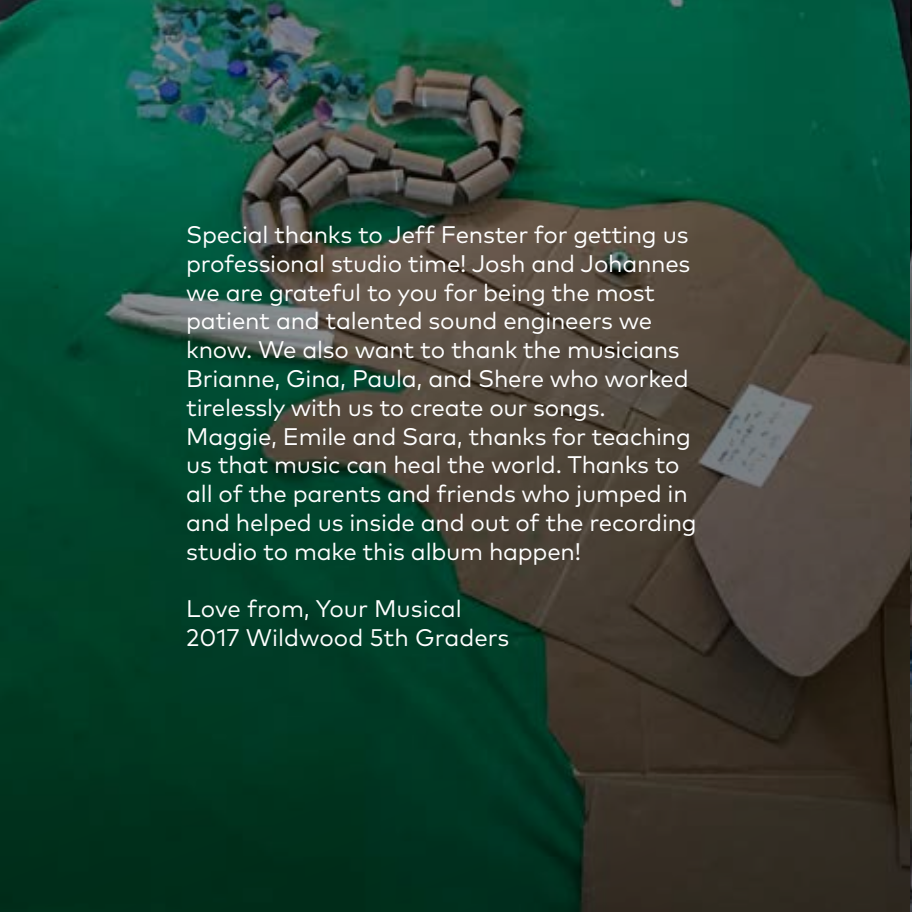
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Special thanks to Jeff Fenster for getting us professional studio time! Josh and Johannes we are grateful to you for being the most patient and talented sound engineers we know. We also want to thank the musicians Brianne, Gina, Paula, and Shere who worked tirelessly with us to create our songs. Maggie, Emile and Sara, thanks for teaching us that music can heal the world. Thanks to all of the parents and friends who jumped in and helped us inside and out of the recording studio to make this album happen!

Love from, Your Musical
2017 Wildwood 5th Graders



Colin Sam Nolan Tess Stella! Oliver Chloe Oliver Emie Ben Israel Masa Lyara
Luca Henry Mateo Audrey Holden Kaito Ryan Mia Mallory Luna Eva AUGIE Uta
Jack Kaito Monique ELLA ELLA Linda Tessa Riley Noe Nabaloo Mearah Marco Jimmy Max
Q Satec Ella Bobby Linda Nani Lilah ESMÉ IZZE Hanam Hope Joseph Jordan





RISING VOICES

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