

Questions to consider while listening to  
GIVE US HOPE, CAN YOU HEAR, WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, and OYE.

If one of the songs had to be your favorite today, which would it be?

The songs have several elements: lyrics (words), instruments (piano, djembe, bass)  
Rhythms (the type of beat), and voices (solos, choir, spoken word), and meter (beats per measure).

Which song had lyrics that you liked?

Which song had rhythms that you liked?

What instruments could you hear in each song?

Which song had meter changes within it?

Could you hear when the choir was singing harmony (more than one note sung together at the same time) or melody (single notes of song)?

All of the songs were written from the perspective of a young person.  
Is there a particular idea in one of the songs that you can relate to—longing for something to hope for, hoping for someone to hear you, searching for the place inside of you where you feel strong, shouting out for someone to really listen to you?

If you could write the words to a song (lyrics), what would you want to write about? Your home life, your friends, your family, school?

If the lyrics could be about what you are afraid of, what would the title of your song be (the song title is typically from the main idea or refrain of the song)?

If the lyrics could be about what you dream of and hope for, what would the title of your song be?

Would you like to write a new song with the composer?

If you could choose anyone to perform the song, who would that be?  
What is it about that person that is like you, or is like the person you want to be?

Study Guide for WNYC Soundcheck January 2004

All of the songs are written for more instruments than you heard today performed live. If you could add instruments to the songs, what would you add?

Have you ever sung with a group or choir?

If so, and if you had to choose one aspect of singing with the group that you really enjoyed, what would that be (meeting students from different backgrounds, being surprised by your own voice or the voice of someone else in the group, feeling good about what you were singing...)?

If you could interview the composer, what would you ask him about?

(His childhood, his parents, who he writes music with, why he became a composer, how many songs he has written, when he started writing songs, what is a favorite recollection that he has of writing a song, of listening to someone perform it...)?

We are looking forward to hearing from you at [soundsofabetterworld.org](http://soundsofabetterworld.org)  
[Smallvoices@aol.com](mailto:Smallvoices@aol.com).



Logo and Cover Design for new composition written with Papoulis and the Northshore Country Day School Choristers entitled IS THERE PEACE?

Choral Director Linda Kiricibasi

[www.soundsofabetterworld.org](http://www.soundsofabetterworld.org)