

AND WE'LL ALL GO TOGETHER
AN "AUDIOVIDEO WALKABOUT" PROJECT
EXPRESSING THE INDIGENOUS LEGACY IN HUMANE LIVING

PETER GOLD, PRODUCER

Project Synopsis

A field documentary project to record digital video, stills and audio clips among several indigenous peoples on their respective continents, for inclusion in the audiovisual program, entitled: *And We'll All Go Together*. The program takes the form of an evocative, multimedia essay on the wisdom and humanity of these cultures, and how urbanized and indigenous peoples are necessarily partners in the quest for peace and harmony in the world and with one another. A sample version of this program is included on a DVD disc.

Concept of the Project

Ours is a wondrous world. And since time immemorial human beings have danced in synchrony with it. We are all members of a great assembly of life on this Planet Earth. We are all relatives in this world. And by extension, we humans exist to help one another into becoming the best examples of ourselves and community in our earthly home.

The great naturalist John Muir once observed that, "when one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." As in nature so too in human affairs. Knowing this, how can our hearts and minds not be stirred to reaffirm our rightful place in the the web of life and this glorious world?

Since its very beginnings, humanity had set its genius to finding a life of meaning in a world of great promise. As glaciers advanced and retreated; as seas rose and fell; as lands upheaved and wore down; as forests arose then died back, humanity adapted and adjusted to the rhythms of the world. It saw the world as you or I would view our own mother – as the source of nurture, inspiration, refuge and wisdom.

Over many millennia, humanity managed to survive – even to thrive. The world was supportive of the originally small numbers of humans beings populating it. They learned important lessons early on, primary among which being that, "we are all in this world together" and as such, "as go the few, so go we all." To this end, in every succeeding generation, awakened people have striven to walk the road of life wisely. Now, in these troubling times, we must again consider how to tread the path of life in a meaningful and wholesome manner, in order to bequeath to our descendants a world in harmony and health.

Fortunately, such an integrative vision of self and world continues to be held as a sacred trust, still, by a number (albeit dwindling) of indigenous and traditionally-minded peoples. They continue to abide by time-honored principles and well-tested practices for living on the earth and with one another.

For them, as for us, time is now of the essence. But for the last indigenous peoples of our world, the phrase, "time is of the essence," is a particularly poignant one. As their natal lands fall victim to the bulldozer and drilling bit, along with their world go precious natural resources and wisdoms-for-living, which may well never be regained.

Sources of healing agents, values for living in harmony, and ways of restoring and maintaining our environments - indeed our very peace of mind - are disappearing at an alarming rate in today's globalized, brave new world. Along with them go our best models for wholesomely maintaining human life and a sustainable world.

As such, all human beings are indeed each other's "keepers." We are necessary actors responsible for one another's progress in this life, and for the fate of our children and their progeny. To this end we must heed the precious message in living preserved for all humanity by its indigenous human relations. To do so means to support them in their quest for survival and self-determination.

In order to get this message out, this project was conceived and has taken its first steps toward fruition. And it is in this regard that you are cordially invited to participate in its unfolding.

AND WE'LL ALL GO TOGETHER: A LIFE-AFFIRMING PRACTICE IN WORLD SONG

If music is the international language, then song is the voice of the world. Music - no matter how obscure in tonality and complex in rhythm - moves the body and spirit in a way that no other medium of expression can match. It affects the body's basic processes as it stirs the heart. When the song's lyrics are in perfect synchrony with the flow of melody and pulse of rhythm, the song is perfect and powerful - regardless of whether the poetic language is understood or not. And when the language is understood, the poetic meaning is reinforced by the music and reinforces, in turn, the overall impact of the song.

In recent years, numerous efforts have been brought to communicating positive values - such as respect, harmony and compassion - through what can be called the "practice of world song." The *We Are The World* initiative started it all. Thereafter, world song has been composed and performed to aid hunger, to support the cause of refugees, and the like.

This project, named after the song it sings, is entitled: *And We'll All Go Together*. It is based on the partnership of the chorus and melody of one of the world's most recognizable traditional songs: *Will Ye Go, Lassie Go?* - with newly-composed lyrics holding contemporary significance. Its original lyrics were composed by the nineteenth century Scottish poet, Robert Burns, while its melody is evidently

traditional. People worldwide know this song to varying degrees, for its melody deeply insinuates itself into the psyche at first hearing.

This version is titled after a phrase in the original refrain: "*and we'll all go together to that wild mountain thyme,*" to exemplify the fact that we humans are all together in this world and are necessarily active participants in its fate and affairs. As such we all bear responsibility for the planet and for the welfare of future generations. To this end, Robbie Burns' masterpiece has been updated and made relevant to the contemporary world and its monumental challenges.

The lyrics of *And We'll All Go Together* are composed by singer-songwriter, ethnomusicologist, anthropologist and author Peter Gold. They call upon perennial wisdom and ways for living in the world, which are still practiced and preserved by its indigenous peoples. Representative Native peoples from each inhabited continent are sung about in the song and, in turn, sing to us concerning how to relate wholesomely to the Earth and its myriad beings - humanity included. The song concludes with lyrics which bring us into the modern world and into harmony with the human family as a whole.

The program's song and visuals have the overall intent of conveying the abiding oneness within the glorious diversity of humanity. Its production timing is fortuitous, given both the misunderstandings and strife present in today's world, as well as the recent launch by the United Nations of the Second Decade of Indigenous Peoples.

And We'll All Go Together is a "natural" as a joint audio and visual synthesis. The song may be readily performed in a variety of musical and community settings, given its ease of learning and easily recognizable melody. Such contexts may range from the family home to organizational and neighborhood events, by way of "sing-alongs" utilizing the program's visuals as backdrop to the song.

You are invited to participate in supporting the production and promulgation of *And We'll All Go Together*. For as the title and refrain call out to us: as goes humanity so goes the world.

For continuing information on this project, please contact:

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Production Schedule and Requirements of Support

The project is described as an “audiovideo walkabout.” The “audiovideo” component refers to the gathering of field digital video, still images and audio among the indigenous peoples sung about in *All Go Together*. They include: Native Americans, Tibetans, Saami-Laplanders, Australian Aborigines, Balinese and the Bushmen of Africa. Each serve as representatives of the indigenous peoples on their respective continents. In addition, a seventh people, Robbie Burns’ own indigenous highland Scots, will be visited and recorded.

The “walkabout” component is derived from the timeless pilgrimage made by traditional Australian Aborigines, as they continue to follow in the footsteps of their spiritual ancestors, in oneness with the sacred reality of the Dreamtime from which all life issues. This project is itself a form of walkabout. It is a “walk about the world” (using modern and local modes of transport) by a seasoned researcher and communicator in support of living ways of knowing and being.

The program producer, Peter Gold studied field anthropology under Dr. Margaret Mead at Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History. He has served as a curator of collections, education and exhibits at several museums and taught ethnomusicology and anthropology at the City University of New York and Indiana University. He has recorded six albums of indigenous and traditional musics from Mexico to the Georgian Republic to Tibet and is presently research associate at the Laboratory of Anthropology and Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, and director of the Ancient Ways Project, a public educational endeavor on indigenous and traditional wisdom and the arts.

Peter Gold is also a singer-songwriter of “world fusion songs,” expressing universals of wisdom and spirit. Two CDs have been released of his compositions and this program’s soundtrack is based on his latest in-studio, multitrack recording work.

The planned “audiovideo walkabout” will supply carefully shot, high definition digital video and still footage as replacement for sample visuals in the demonstration version of the program (provided on a DVD disc along with this essay). In addition, digital audio will be recorded both of traditional musics and environmental sounds. These will be blended tastefully into the final soundtrack mix.

The audio and video clips will be recorded in representative communities of each culture, highlighted in the soundtrack’s lyrics. They will be visited at their invitation, which will be conveyed through intermediaries (contact with whom has mostly been established at this writing).

Each community will be explained the project and will be acknowledged as primary collaborators for their participation in the shooting of the video clips and the recording of traditionally-performed musics.

BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS

Funds are being solicited for the following purposes of the project, with a total worktime duration of 16 weeks:

Airplane travel: domestic and international; based on wide-latitude travel to seven countries on an around-the-world ticket: \$4000.

Surface travel expenses: \$1200.

Per diem economy lodging and food expenses, based on host countries' cost of living: \$6400.

In-field incidentals and customary gifts: \$840.

Total funds requested: (US)\$12,440.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT!