

VOICES AROUND THE WORLD

ANNE KEELING REPORTS ON THE CHARITY PROJECT THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER 5,000 STUDENT VOICES



"We are involved with the local orphanage through the project. It's had a great effect on them – it's made them feel connected to the world, like they are not alone." - Student, The International School of Riga, Latvia.

"I've enjoyed the singing so much and it makes me happy that we're raising money for other schools." - Student, Mutiara Nusantara International School, Bandung, Indonesia.

"The one thing everyone has in common is music, everyone listens to it and everyone is touched by it, so being able to put your point across in music is the best thing ever." – Student, Meopham School, Kent, UK.

"The project is good because it involves young people from all kinds of backgrounds. We are all singing the same song and we are all linked by the music." - Student, St. Francis College, San Paulo, Brazil.

"I think it's good how the project has brought together all the children in the schools. It's told them that their voices do matter." - Student, Otjikondo School, Outjo, Namibia.

Have you been involved in the *Voices Around The World* singing project this year? You might be one of the 33,000 students from around the globe who has learnt and performed one of the choir parts for the 2015 song *Listen To Us*. Or you might be one of the 5,000 young people whose voices are being featured on the new *Listen To Us* charity song recording to raise money for schools in Tanzania. If you're not one of these, then you can still join in the project by downloading the song, connecting on social media, or getting your school to sign up to sing next year!

The *Voices Around The World* project gives students the chance to Sing Out! Speak Out! And Change The World! This year students aged between 5-19 from 96 different countries did just that, including a school in Syria.

"During last year's project, I visited a school in Dubai to help the students with their recording," says *Voices Around The World* organiser Laurie Lewin. "I spoke to a young girl there who'd been practising the song with me. I asked her which

country she would most like to sing with and she said: 'I'd like to be singing this with my friends back in Syria.' She was a Syrian refugee. Thanks to her wish, this year we are thrilled to have children from Al-Shams (The Sun) School, Sweida city, Syria joining us on the recording!" Many students have shared their voice by singing this year's song and by sharing their thoughts. ●

Listen to Us is available to download from *iTunes* and the *Voices Around The World* website www.voicesaround.com where you can also find out how to join in the 2016 project.

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