

Singing for a Sustainable Future: The EcoVoice Project

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The social impact of music happens not only through a common understanding of the discourse around it but also through the experience of simultaneity. The mutual synchronizing of sonic and bodily experiences creates a bond that is pre-communicative and perhaps deeper than shared conscious meaning. This can happen through the interaction of composers and performers, performers and performers, performers and listeners, and listeners and listeners. The more involved a person is in doing music, whether in composing, performing, or listening, the tighter the bond is.

- William Roy, *Reds, Whites, and Blues*

This quote from sociologist William Roy speaks directly to the embodied experience of singing together, a social activity that is practiced around the globe in a variety of forms. With millions of people engaged in singing practices around the world, a coordinated campaign to mobilize this network to address climate change holds immense promise. This presentation will showcase the work of The EcoVoice Project, a Chicago-based non-profit organization with a mission to use music to inform, connect, and inspire people to act for environmentally just causes. The primary focus of this organization is to mobilize communities through organized singing, especially through choral music composition and performance, as well as other community events that encourage group singing. In addition to providing an overview of singing as a means for climate activism, specific EcoVoice projects will be shared, including recent composer commissions and the EcoVoice Song initiative, which seeks to engage communities across North America. The presentation will conclude with group singing exercises, including several selections from The EcoVoice Song Collection.

References

Roy, William. *Reds, Whites, and Blues*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010.