

Welcome to

Sound Connections

Unity's New Thought Music Resource

Issue #55 October, 2009

*Produced by Music Ministry Team and the Sacred Music Resources Department.
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Melinda Wood-Allen, Todd Lowry*

Our online New Thought music community is now over 1600 strong!

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*Melbourne, FL,
Fort Wayne, IN*

MESSAGE FROM RICHARD



Dear Sound Connections Family:

I greet and bless all of our new Sound Connections readers who have joined our family after our amazing week at Unity Village for the Sound Connections Music conference. Nearly half of those attending were first timers and opting on to the newsletter this month.

This issue's Sound Connections update will contain a link to lots of pictures of the week, and emails from attendees about their experience.

To me the most valuable aspect of Sound Connections is embedded in the title - the connections. Before SC, we were all just "voices crying in the wilderness", so to speak. There was no formal organization for our music ministries or our music ministers. We are a small movement and we are positioned globally now to grow and to make a huge difference in the world consciousness. The connection we establish with one another helps unify our musical message to the world and helps us project an image of a strong, organized movement.

On an individual level, most every comment I received mentioned the personal transformation that took place during the week. You leave the gathering "on fire" for the service you are to your church. You are "inspired" to write more or to step out of your comfort zone and try new approaches to worship. You now feel supported, knowing there are many more like you out there facing similar issues and you now have someone you can talk to about them. You have returned home with lots of new music and resources to help you get through the holidays and the rest of the year. You now better understand the unique and powerful theology that makes up our movement and you realize the importance of finding music that supports that theology.

Yes, Sound Connections is a relatively small gathering - just over 150 this year, but the impact we have as church leaders and music ministers is far reaching beyond the walls of our churches.

I'd like to thank our fabulous keynotes, Daniel Nahmod, Karen Drucker, David Roth, Harold Payne and Sloan Wainwright. Virtually every evaluation form asked for them all back again next year. The infrastructure of the entire event of course, was your music ministry team led by Sue K Riley. This team works relentlessly throughout the year to produce new songbooks and resources for you and to plan this wonderful event.

More than anyone though, we thank you all who attended and added your unique creative energy to the event. You stepped up, stepped out and stepped in. You said yes to your church and to your own personal growth. You committed the time and the money to better yourself and to nurture your talents. **YOU made Sound Connections, Sound Connections.**

Next year, as a result of the survey we took in July and August, Sound Connections will move to the Summer toward the end of July. **The exact dates are Tuesday, July 20 - Saturday, July 24.** Response to this change has been mostly positive as September begins a very busy time for most teachers, and music directors.

If you attended Sound Connections this year, your job now is to hold on to that inspiration and enthusiasm you brought home with you and to pass it on to your ministry and to the people you serve. If you did not attend this year's conference, whether you are a minister, music director or traveling New Thought artist, plan now to attend next year's gathering. Ask your board and minister to work it into the 2010 budget and make a personal commitment to be there and to make a difference in your own life, how you approach your important work and in the service you provide your congregations and audiences.

Richard Mekdeci
Sacred Music Resource Coordinator

THIS MONTH'S FREE SHEET MUSIC ATTACHMENT

Angels for Each Other

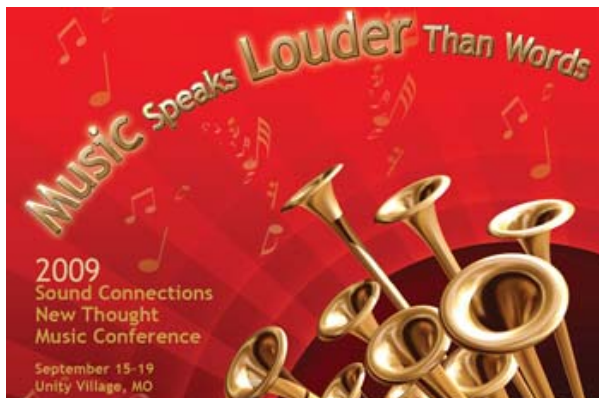
by Richard Mekdeci & Cliff Rubin

This anthem was the theme song for Unity's 2009 World Day of Prayer - "Reach In, Reach Out. We can Change the World." You can hear an audio clip at www.worlddayofprayer.org. Purchase the full piano/vocal score and Richard's new CD, "The Daymaker" containing this song at www.empowerma.com.

You will find this song attached at the end of this PDF file. This service is offered with permission from the author. Please contact the author if you would like to purchase additional copies of this music.

If you would like a piece of your sheet music offered in future issues of Sound Connections, just send a PDF file of your song to music@unity.org for review.

SOUND CONNECTIONS TESTIMONIALS



Music definitely spoke loudly at the 2009 Sound Connections music conference. Keynotes Daniel Nahmod, Karen Drucker, David Roth, Harold Payne and Sloan Wainwright dazzled, mesmerized and touched hearts. Wonderful discussions about New Thought worship, what makes a New Thought song, and how we can better serve our communities and the world ensued.

There was celebration by way of Spiritual Dancing, sacred drumming and Silent Spirit

Sharing which showcased the incredible talent we have in our movement.

We laughed and cried together, bonded with each other, prayed with each other, supported one another and were all pure egoless expressions of Spirit for 5 days.

The Unity World Orchestra and Unity World Chorus gave an incredible performance at the banquet giving the conference a wonderful balance of classical and orchestral music.

The Grace Note award and Presenter's Concert following the banquet was an exquisite balance of beauty, fun and inspiration.

Here is the experience in the words of those who attended:

You should be very proud of Sound Connections this year. Did you dream that you would have such a large impact on the music programs around the country when you started this conference 5 years ago? Here is what I have seen happen.

- *The quality and quantity of music being composed, written, and performed inside of Unity churches, and going out to a much larger audience has been hugely increased. The bar has been and continues to be raised.*
- *Musicians/Singer/Songwriters who may have only been regionally known are now gaining national recognition and bookings at Unity churches.*
- *The sharing of information, comradery, and friendship among the music family of the Unity movement has been heartwarming and profound.*

*Congratulations!
Roger Tomhave*

*Thank you so very much for the wonderful experience you created for all of us who attended Sound Connections. It was a wonderful event, we're already starting campaigning for our Board to budget to send our music director to next year's event. Our calendar is marked, and we'll see you then! Blessings- and our compliments and gratitude to the entire music ministry team-
Nita and Jon Strauss*

*The few days I was able to attend the conference were wonderful beyond words. I met the most amazing people - let out the song of my heart - and found my joy amidst a very trying personal time in my life. . . I feel new songs rising from within and I can't wait to write them all down and work them out. Thank you - Thank you - Thank you.
The conference was an amazing experience for me and I look forward to doing it again next year.*

*Sound connections this year found me in treatment for leukemia, financially stressed and under pressure to stay in my office and get back to work. There was a cloud of fear hanging over me as complications from the treatments were potentially life threatening. I did have to miss or come later the first two mornings but from the first time I entered the Activity Center I was home. Many times the music and love brought me to cleansing tears. I have no suggestions or critiques. I was deeply in need of ministry and received a grand dose of it there. To anyone doubting the value of Sound Connections, I say come spend a full day with us and then make your decision.
Of course all my concerns resolved triumphantly within a few days and the music we've brought home is changing our lives. It is time for FIRE.
Stan Slaughter, Lee's Summit, MO*

*Today is Thursday and I finally feel like I am back in my body!!! Sound Connections 2009 had a huge impact on me. It took me days to stop crying. These were/are tears of joy and profound gratitude. The love that I felt there has opened my heart even wider. I feel so blessed that I get to be part of such a wonderful family. I had a huge shift there and I am so excited to be a voice for this amazing music. Thank you so much!
Sally Peterson – Vail, CO*

I am definitely still vibrating from the "sonic love". It was an unforgettable week filled with love and music. Petros Long Jordan

*I just wanted to say thank you for an amazing conference. It exceeded well beyond my expectations in every way! I know that I have been further deepened and enriched by the experience.....and I feel that the music is flowing out of me right now. Thanks again and Many Blessings,
Sue B.Proud Detroit, MI*

I am pretty speechless, still, after my unforgettable experiences at Sound Connections. The emotional sharing I had with my now new Sound Connection friends, in word and song, have moved me to a level of fellowship love that I have not experienced before. I am SO grateful! I am truly motivated to use my newly supported creativity to enhance my personal life and contribute more to the positive music movement. I will be back next year for sure! Thanks again to the TEAM for such inspiration, patience and love!

Cherie Shipley, Carson City, NV

*I thought the Sound Connections experience was just awesome...every year seems even better than the last. The Friday concert was just extraordinary.
CathyDewitt, Gainesville, FL*

*Richard, I had a fabulous experience last week and even though I returned Fri. eve to make a Sat. gig, I did so with a wide open heart. . . The combination of nuts and bolts learning for new thought music ministry and pure wake-up spirituality was perfect. The presenters were just right and the church service model that the music team gave us each morning I will never forget. As a friend in consciousness work once commented, "I came to learn some technical stuff and damned if it wasn't about ME again!".
Love, Brad Henty, Music Director Unity Church of Charleston, SC.*

*Thanks again for an inspiring experience. I've been changed at depth and look forward to speaking with my minister about how valuable this experience was.
Thanks for the prayers,
Linda Missad*

*I want to thank you once again for the VISION and the WORK that you have created and done to make this life-changing conference happen! I was moved to tears more than once, again this year!.. and touched and inspired beyond my expectations
My particular favorites this year were Daniel Nahmod, and Karen Drucker... along with Sloan, David, Harold and all the presenters. Again, thank you all... so much!
Blessings in harmony, LINDA Chubbuck Lee's Summit, MO*

*Wow.....What an empowering, spiritual, loving and informative Sound Connections workshop this year. My first official (all week long) experience was incredible! I met so many talented and new friends from across the country. The band I put together for my song share was superb.....great musicians and singers.....I LOVED IT!
Barbara Johnson, Kansas City, MO*

That was quite an event. I'm already recruiting people here for January and July. It was such a sacred experience, thank you so much for that. What talented people, all of them and that drumming really helped the closure of the conference, wow. It was beautiful, fun, joyful, sacred.....how could you ask for more? Sharleen Jenkins, Utah

*Once again, thank you for all of the energy and effort you and the music team put forth to make sound Connections Conference a huge success! My husband, Paul, and I felt bathed in love and touched by song and Spirit. Namaste,
Barbara Krause*

I just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of the work, planning, and effort put into the Sound Connections conference. Elizabeth and I feel that it was truly a life-changing experience, and we plan to return next year. Being able to sing in the choir was awesome, and for the first time I feel really connected to a particular movement (aka denomination). We feel so blessed to be included at Unity. Thank You, Michael Melton

Joe Ginorio of Virginia took lots of pictures and posted them on a site for all to see. Just cut and paste the following link into your browser:
http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=ginorio1&target=ALBUM&id=5385480374947511569&authkey=Gv1sRgCL7UqLSbhb7nlwE&invite=CI_Z16IH&feat=email

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED TOPIC

Diversity in Music by Melinda Wood Allen



As music planners, choir directors, music teachers, performers, spiritual seekers and finders (not to mention parents, sons and daughters, partners, siblings, friends...) We all must play several different roles and perform many functions. I constantly find joy and wonder in the metaphors and lessons for life inherent in everything I do. Nothing that happens in my day is without a lesson for me, if I will only accept it.

As a Unity Music Minister, one of the things I love the most and simultaneously find the most challenging is that I must serve the musical tastes and spiritual needs of such a diverse group of people from religious backgrounds that are often polar opposites to each other. (And doing it smack dab on the buckle of the Bible Belt, at that). What is a comforting old hymn to one church member may be a nightmare remembrance of a vengeful childhood "God" to someone else. A slow chant that helps one person go into a receptive, meditative state, may just sound like repetitive drivel to another. (I actually got a letter in the suggestion box saying, "I like the chants ok, but why do we have to sing them over and over again?") The thing I strive for, that we all search for in our jobs and in life, I think, is balance. In our congregational and special music, I try to find that balance in variety--of song style, period, subject, instrumentation, tempo, rhythm, and performers.

Life, like music, can be a serious business, but too much seriousness can turn into solemnity and squelch all the fun. Fun is vital in life and in music, but a steady diet of "rockin' out" or singing zippy joy songs would be like eating birthday cake every day. It's sweet, but where's the beef (or the Boca burger)? We all find comfort in the familiar, and comfort is a fine thing. But when we continually stay only with what we already know, life becomes stale as we lose opportunities to learn and grow. Joyous, upbeat attitudes and connection with others (beholding the Christ) are basic tenets of Unity and of my life, but so is quiet time to go within and commune inwardly with God. When I am willing to slow down and savor what's happening in each moment, to chant and meditate and be with myself, I am invariably better able to see the God in you...and God in you is the greatest gift I could ever receive. Live in Grace.

Love, Melinda

Melinda Wood Allen is the music minister and choir director at Unity Church in Fort Worth, a vocal coach, actress and member of the Music Ministry Team.

FROM THE ROAD

Bring this awesome group to your church or center!



HERE II HERE - Conscious Pop Music Band
"Higher Consciousness That Rocks!"

Recently featured on ABC Good Morning America, HERE II HERE (formerly known in the Unity world as "INNER VOICE") has been moving crowds to a frenzy since 2002 with its irresistible style of mainstream music that supports a peaceful planet.

HERE II HERE's passionate songs interweave a unique rhythmic blend of tribal pop, illuminated rock, and soul-inspired R&B harmonies that resonate with conscious lyrics of peace, awareness, connection, laughter, and of course - divine love.

The band's impressive resume includes performances at Miami Dolphin Stadium with Kenny G and Babyface, at The United Nations (NYC); at Agape Spiritual Center in LA with Rev Michael Beckwith; and with many spiritual teachers such as the Oracle of Tibet (spiritual advisor to the Dalai Lama), Neale Donald Walsch, Byron Katie, Gangaji, Donna Eden, and many more.

HERE II HERE's mesmerizing live performances are known to uplift and transform audiences, who come away buzzing in ecstatic reverie over what they just experienced. Watch recent live performance footage and ecstatic, wide-eyed Unity members and ministers rave about the band in this brief 2-minute video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKJW3y-Gve0>

A veteran Miami performer for Unity on the Bay's musically-vibrant, thousands-strong community, HERE II HERE is currently touring the USA in support of their Debut Album, performing both Sunday Services and full concerts at Unity Churches all over the United States and Canada. Book HERE II HERE for Sunday Services, Full Concerts, and performances in conjunction with Conferences, Prosperity Groups, Workshops, Youth Group Events, and other community gatherings.

=====

Artie Kornfeld - Co-creator of Woodstock 1969

"HERE II HERE rocks! I haven't felt this high since Woodstock"

WHERE Magazine

"A HERE II HERE concert is like a spiritual revival - listeners feel uplifted, happy, perhaps even enlightened."

Rev Sharon Clements, Unity Kitchener (Canada)

"When you're booking at Unity churches - it's always a bonus to be able to tell the minister how much this will benefit them in the eyes of their congregation - folks here think I'm brilliant for bringing in Here II Here!"

More Live Performance Videos:

www.hereiihere.tv

Hear Music Now:

www.hereiihere.com/musicplayer

"Waking Journey" USA/Canada Tour Schedule:

www.hereiihere.com/concerts

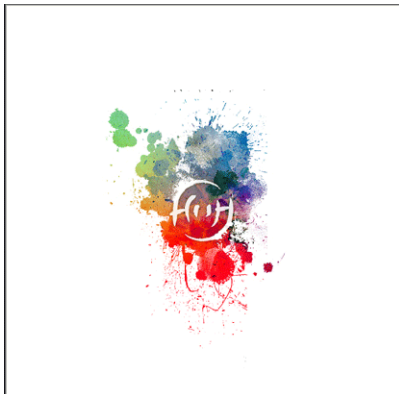
Phone: 812-480-1504

Email: here@hereiihere.com



If you are a touring artists and would like to be featured in [*From The Road*](#), submit your article to music@unity.org

CD REVIEWS



THE DEBUT ALBUM

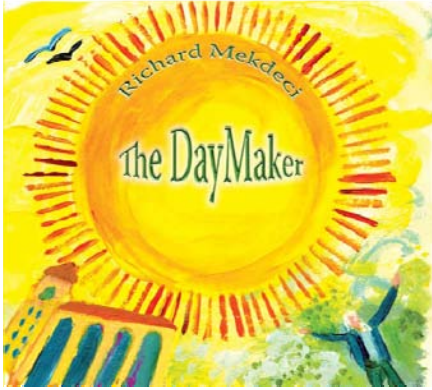
"HERE II HERE"

Born from the Musical Vision of 5 men walking the Waking Journey, Here II Here's stirring debut album features powerful lyrics that will lift you to higher levels of consciousness and jammin' world beats that will penetrate you to your core.

Reminiscent of THE DOORS' mystical jams layered underneath smooth BOYZ II MEN-style vocal harmonies and infused with the sacred power of a KRISHNA DAS Concert, HERE II HERE is blazing the trail for the Conscious Music Revolution. The 13-track Debut Album includes powerful songs like It's All Light, Plankton, Holy, Earthlings, Your Dreams and Waking Journey (Walk With Me).

GRAMMY-WINNING ARTISTS

This album is the long-awaited result of Here II Here's collaborative efforts with diverse artistic geniuses, including Grammy-winning engineer Doc Wiley and Grammy-winning producer Joel Sommeillan; as well as world class visual artists such as Michael Jackson's official photographer, Harrison Funk; child-prodigy painter Akiane Kramarik, who has appeared on Oprah Winfrey; and Jacqueline Ripstein, Artist of Peace Envoy for the United Nations.



The DayMaker – Richard Mekdeci

Review by Sue Riley

Pinch me, I'm dreaming...finally, at long last, it's really here...a NEW CD from Richard Mekdeci!!! I use Richard's songs continuously in my music ministry at Unity Church of Clearwater. I know that when I choose a song by Richard it will have a perfect Unity message, a catchy melody, and my minister will love the fact that it perfectly aligns with Unity principles. You are in for a treat with this CD!

“Fine Line” is a fun hip-hop song with an affirmation (the “fine line”) which is “Peace in our lifetime, one life at a time.” We are encouraged to believe that peace, everyday peace, is possible, not just a pipe dream and that “together we can create a world that works for everyone.” Each one of us can choose peace every day.

“Who Could Ask For More” was chosen as the theme song for the Association of Unity Churches International “Look for the Good” campaign. It reminds us that we create the world we live in by what we choose to focus on.

There are two wonderful prayer songs on The Daymaker, **“This Prayer’s for You”**, written by Rich Fagan, a Nashville hit songwriter, which was chosen as the theme song for Unity’s “Silent Unity” prayer ministry. (You can see the touching video of this song on YouTube), and **“Angels for Each Other”** written by Richard and Cliff Rubin. “Angels” was chosen as the 2009 World Day of Prayer Theme Song. What you’ll know is that the songs will touch your hearts and you will be reminded of the tremendous power of prayer.

“The Way of God” is probably one of Richard’s most requested songs. The chorus is a series of denials and affirmations claiming, “I am not weak, I am not helpless then affirming, “I am whole, I am worthy, I am the Way of God”. I’ve used this song every Easter for the past few years.

“Peace in Our Lifetime” is a lovely chant that can be performed as a round with your congregation or choir. It is a pure affirmation of our oneness and of the power we each have to bring about a peaceful world.

Richard also includes a few secular type songs on this CD, including the heart warming song that he wrote for his new bride Paula, **“Let’s Make a Short Story Long”**. This is a classic wedding song about breaking the mold of the short and sweet relationships and committing to the full story that is created when two hearts meet and become one.

All in all, this is a CD you will use and listen to over and over. I’ve heard many of these songs as they were being created and I am so excited to be getting the finished product. These are lovely arrangements, created by studio wizard Cliff Rubin, and many of the background vocals are by the amazing Faith Rivera. Rumor even has it that there is a songbook in the works.

I guess I will be getting multiple copies since my copy will be living in my car and I won't be loaning it out! What lovely, empowering Christmas gifts CDs make, don't you think? Happy listening.

The MAILBOX - YOUR LETTERS / Q&A

TODD'S COPYRIGHT CORNER

Hi Richard & Todd,

Wowza! I am still blown away from attending my first Sound Connections and am listening every day for hours (probably too many) to all the music we purchased. On fire..... Before I report back to our Minister and Board, I have a couple of questions regarding copyright...

In each of the Association songbooks we purchased, they contain this permission:

"Purchase of this book includes restricted permission from the songwriters to reprint the lyrics for overhead master, LCD projection, or Sunday bulletins for use in your church only. You may also include music from these songbooks on your recorded service tape as long as they are sold for \$5.00 or less. Any audio recordings used to raise money for profit must be licensed by the copyright owner".

At emPowerMA.com, I've read up on the Music Rights information and am clear about permissions as written on the website. Still, I am not certain about a couple of things, so here are my questions:

1. May I reprint lyrics for distribution to my music ensemble?
2. May I copy the song snippet CD's contained in the books for my musicians/ensemble?
3. If I purchase single CD with entire song of an artist, can I copy the CD for distribution to my musicians/ensemble?

Thanks for helping me with peace of mind & integrity!

Blessing!

Renée O'Geary, Music Director
Unity Church of Wimberley, TX

Hey Rosie,

Of course I bow to Todd's experience and knowledge on this but to answer the questions,

Yes, You may reprint lyrics for your ensemble

Yes you may reproduce the clips CD in the book

No, it is a violation of copyright to reproduce a song from someone's CD and pass it out to your group.

You may however get permission from the artist to do that.

Hope that helps.

R

MORE FROM TODD

The CCLI license only covers such things as printing lyrics in church bulletins, projecting lyrics on screen and recording church services on audio or video. They don't cover webcasts.

Christian Copyright Solutions (www.churchca.com) offers a license covering webcasts of religious services, but only when the music is performed by your own singers or musicians.

If you want to webcast a service that includes third-party copyrights (say, James Taylor singing "You've

Got A Friend"), you technically need two licenses--one from the music publisher and one from the record company. This, obviously, is an administrative nightmare.

Licensing issues are so complex, many, if not most, churches don't even make an effort. Technically, they may be infringing copyright law.

Songs like the Pachelbel Canon, are public domain. However, any recordings are likely covered by a separate copyright by the recording artist.

Obviously, one solution would be to get the EmPower license and limit music choices to those artists.

Conferences and Events



Make your reservations now for the Fifth Annual Posi Awards in beautiful Orlando, Florida. Hear all of your favorite Posi and New Thought artists together, enjoy fun and educational workshops and the late night Pajama Jam Music showcases by the pool.

January 18-20, 2010

International Plaza and Spa

10100 International Drive

Orlando, FL 32821

www.intlplazaresort.com

Call 1-800-327-0636 to make reservations. Ask for the Empower room block, at a beautifully discounted price of \$95 per room, including free in-room internet, and discounted breakfast vouchers.

go to www.empowerma.com for a registration form and more information.

Help keep this section updated with music-related events and conferences by sending your information to music@unity.org

RESOURCES AND SERVICES

We have moved this listing to our webpage at www.unity.org/music. Help us keep this resource updated with your favorite helpful links by sending your suggestions and comments to music@unity.org

MUSIC DIRECTOR JOB OPENINGS

Unity Church of Melbourne is seeking part time music director. Currently we are able to pay \$1,000 a month. If you are interested, please call Rev. Beth Head.

Unity Church of Melbourne
1745 Trimble Road
Melbourne, FL 32934
321-254-0313 Tue - Thurs 10a - 3p EST
321-253-9116 fax

“Unity Christ Church, Fort Wayne, IN is a loving and joy-filled community. We have an opening for a Music Director who can provide a presentation of diverse, first-rate, spiritually meaningful music for Sunday services and special events. For further information and/or a copy of the job description, please contact Rev. Mary Wood at 260-482-2477.”

Please do not reply to this email. Send your comments and suggestions to music@unity.org

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23 C/G G | 2. F F/G G

There's Friends a long the way There are

26 F G/F F G/F C Em/B Am C/G

peo-ple ev-ry where rea-ching out for prayer. We'll be An- gels, An- gels for each o- ther.

30 F Fm C Am Fm G C C⁷/E F

It on-ly takes a mo-ment to turn a life a- round.

35 C F C // F C

Rea chin' in to find com pas - sion, rea chin' out to lend a hand. Rea chin'

38 Am F Dm G F

in to pray for o- thers, rea chin' out a cross the land. Rea chin' in to touch the si- lence, rea chin'

42 C Am F Dm G C

out to light the way. Rea chin' in to find the guid-ance Rea chin' out to be the change.

46 F/C F C C⁷ F Fm C C⁷ F Fm 2 C

An- gels for each o- ther, friends a long the way to u- ni ty...