

Peace Anthem



I'm a huge baseball fan and I really love *The Star-Spangled Banner*, which is sung at the beginning of every game. For one thing, I grew up near Baltimore where the National Anthem was written in 1814 by Maryland demi-god, Francis Scott Key. And although I am ever more keenly aware of our nation's sins, blind-spots and persistent antipathies, I can't deny that I, my family and most of my friends are from the United States. It's home.

In fact I still choke up when I lay my right hand over my heart and sing "O'er the la-and of the Freeeeeeee..."

But I've also had a lot of time to think and write music this past year. Your song-of-the-month for July is a short, sweet melody set for the horns alone that, as it developed over time, began to sound to me like an instrumental anthem. The original working title was "Anthem For

Everybody Trying To Return To LIFE and Heal the World." That notion stems from a thought that has been coming into focus for me, that if people (myself included) were really fully present to our human consciousness, there's no way we'd ever harm another person or perpetrate so much violence against the Earth. And that national boundaries would seem silly and pointless.

Well, I eventually did settle on a more digestible title, "Peace Anthem." Try putting it on at your July 4th barbecue and see how it goes over!

Very special thanks to Loyola University music composition professor and Frenchmen Street bass and keys man Dr Jimbo Walsh for his help in solving a couple of harmony and counterpoint dilemmas.

Thanks for listening and for your continued support.

At your service,

Ben Schenck

Clarinetist / Leader

Panorama Jazz Band

Panorama BRASS Band

New Orleans, LA

Credits

Panorama Jazz Band

Ben Schenck – Clarinet

Aurora Nealand - Alto Saxophone

Charlie Halloran – Trombone

Matt Perrine – Tuba

Composer - Ben Schenck / ASCAP

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Mixed and mastered by Lu Rojas

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