

# Song For Womens Day



Victoria is passionate about audience involvement in her music, she says “Many of my songs have chorus parts for audience members to sing because I want people to be actively engaged in the music and the lyrics.” The *Song for Womens Day* was written to celebrate International Womens Day after Gibson went to a rally in the early 1990's and there was no specific song for the crowd of people to sing. “I imagined everyone singing something positive and sharing the energy and spirit of Womens Day”, Victoria explains, then continues, “I started from the idea that there is general agreement that certain issues are important, including personal safety, clean water, sufficient food and adequate shelter for everyone, especially children.” The idea grew to include a wish list of environmental and social benefits that she felt would be enthusiastically accepted.

Gibson has been singing her song at annual Womens Day events in Vancouver including rallies at the downtown library and Grandview Park, conference gatherings for students, the Arts' Club lounge and on cable television. She encourages everyone to join in the *Way-way-oh-way-oh* chorus as an affirmation of support for the sentiments expressed in the lyrics. The concept of the word “way” as a positive direction or path is common in many songs, but an argument she overheard between two teenagers with one insisting, “No way” and the other retorting, “Way!” gave the idea modern reinforcement.

After some discussions with her friends, Victoria decided that there could be no equality for women without equality for men as well, so she wrote of a Womens Day that is not only for females, but for all humanity. “The idea of freedom and fairness for everyone is my interpretation of the spirit of Women's Day”, she says and smiles broadly.

When she wrote the song, the 21st century seemed far away, but now we are well into the first decade, Victoria wants to share her song with a wider audience. Please consider hosting a performance of the song and help to create reality of our dream of a *Womens Day Song*.

Contact: [vixmusic01@hotmail.com](mailto:vixmusic01@hotmail.com), or 778-885-2123

A video of a performance can be viewed on her blog:  
[www.livemorelightly.com/2008/01/02/song-for-international-womens-day/](http://www.livemorelightly.com/2008/01/02/song-for-international-womens-day/)

**Victoria Gibson** is a veteran performer as a musician and multi-media artist. Her artistic practice encompasses a range of disciplines that have emerged from her interest in music and technology. As a musician, Victoria has most recently been rehearsing with Paul Plimley for an interactive, electronic, improvisational show to be presented at the Children's Festival in May 2008. As a composer, she is currently scoring her *Live More Lightly* song for publication with assistance from pianist and arranger Eric Hominick. Gibson's work as a studio engineer and music technologist has included recording and co-producing Kate Hammett-Vaughn's 2007 CD, *Lucky to Be Me*. She is also active as a computer instructor, web designer and graphic artist.

A graduate of UBC, Victoria holds a BA major in music and has performed in ensembles representing diverse cultural areas, including playing a Balinese gamelan instrument in the ensemble Gita Gong Asmara for the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to UBC. Although she has studied and performed Western European, African, Latin American, South Indian (Karnatic) and Indonesian music, her heritage is firmly rooted in North American Blues and Folk music traditions.

# Womens Day Song

by Victoria Gibson (socan 1994)

This song requires audience participation or two parts [2<sup>nd</sup> part].

vs 1.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Womens' spirit got to be free [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Everywhere across the land [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Brother and sister understand [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
How far we've come can only show how far we truly have to go,  
Hear now our silent scream, create reality from our dream.

vs 2.

Mother's smile shall know no tear, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Daughter's hide no secret fear, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
All the beloved children fed, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Each have a place to lay their head, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Earth become a secure place no more war toys or armament race,  
Land pure and water clean, we're keepers of our planet green.

Chorus:

Women's Day for humanity – Women's Day bring equality  
We will sing in harmony – we will set the people free x2

vs3.

Love can grow when hearts can rest, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Rise up now, East and West, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
United we can change the plan, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Save each woman, child and man, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Power grows when we are strong, help us sing our freedom song,  
Now it is not too late, put down bitterness and hate.

vs4.

Way-way-oh-way-oh, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Way-way-oh-way-oh, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Way-way-oh-way-oh, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Way-way-oh-way-oh, [Way-way-oh-way-oh]  
Power grows when we are strong, help us sing our freedom song,  
Now it is not too late, put down bitterness and hate.

Chorus:

Women's Day for humanity – Women's Day bring equality  
We will sing in harmony – we will set the people free x2  
We will set the people free!