Songs of Hope

An activity of "Singing Songs of Hope in War".

Read the article "Singing songs of hope in war" (page 9, *What's Up* October 2025). Many musicians use their music to promote peace and bring people together, especially in times of crisis. Work in small groups to explore the power of music further.

1. Listen to these two famous examples. Then, browse through their lyrics below.

"**Heal the World"** – Students of UMS
➤ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MY0pbdeQqEM&list=RDMY0pbdeQqEM&start_radio=1 (Umara Music Studio, 3 April 2022)

"**USA For Africa - We Are The World**"
➤ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3wNuru4U0I&list=RDs3wNuru4U0I&start_radio=1 (Oxygene 80, 29 Feb 2016)

Michael Jackson wrote this song. It says that the world can be a better place if everyone shows compassion. The song has become a global anthem for peace.	*This song was written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie. It was first performed together by many famous singers to raise money for people suffering from famine in Africa.*
Heal the World There's a place in your heart And I know that it is love And this place could be much brighter than tomorrow And if you really try You'll find there's no need to cry In this place you'll feel there's no hurt or sorrow There are ways to get there If you care enough for the living Make a little space Make a better place Heal the world Make it a better place For you and for me And the entire human race There are people dying If you care enough for the living Make a better place For you and for me.	**We are the World** There comes a time when we heed a certain call When the world must come together as one There are people dying Oh, when it's time to lend a hand to life The greatest gift of all We can't go on pretending day by day That someone somewhere will soon make a change We're all a part of God's great big family And the truth, you know Love is all we need We are the world We are the children We are the ones who make a brighter day So, let's start giving There's a choice we're making We're saving our own lives It's true we'll make a better day Just you and me.

1a*) What emotions do you feel as you read these lyrics?*

1b) *What kind of world do these singers dream of?*

1c) *What line(s) do you find most powerful? Why?*

1d) *Why do you think songs like these can make people feel less alone during a crisis?*

1e) *How are they using the power of music to give hope, like Ahmed Amsha?*

2. Imagine your group is a band that wants to raise funds for victims of a crisis (e.g. a natural disaster, conflict, famine, poverty, etc). Design an album to share songs of comfort, courage, and peace. Use the template on the next page.
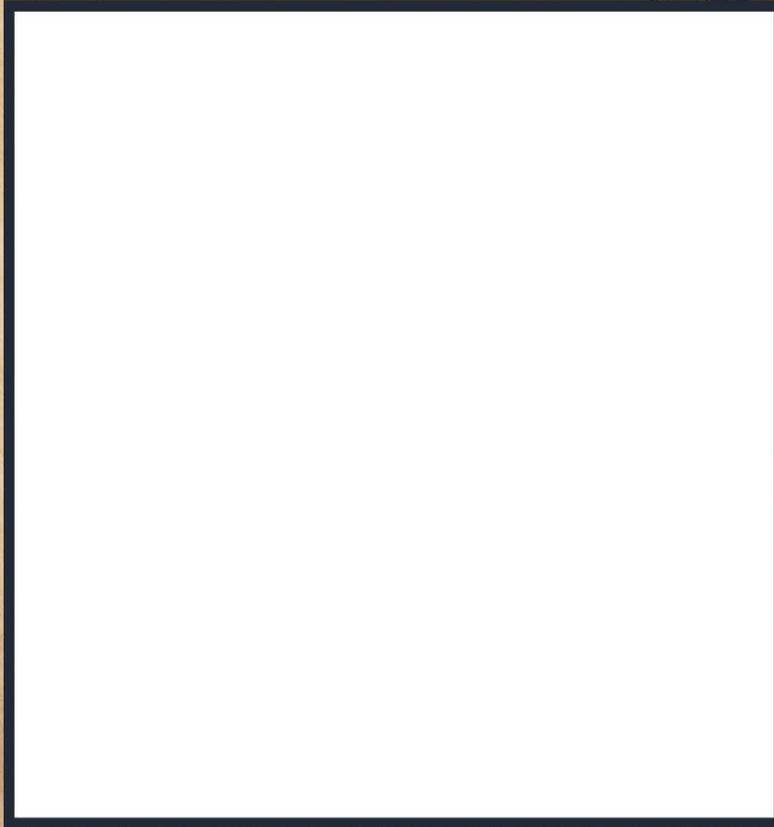
   Your front cover should include:
   - A band name (try to make it meaningful or symbolic)
   - An album title (e.g. "Voices of Peace", "Together We Sing", etc)
   - Artwork that reflects the theme you want to bring across
   - A short slogan or tagline (e.g. "Many voices, one heart", "One World, one voice" etc).

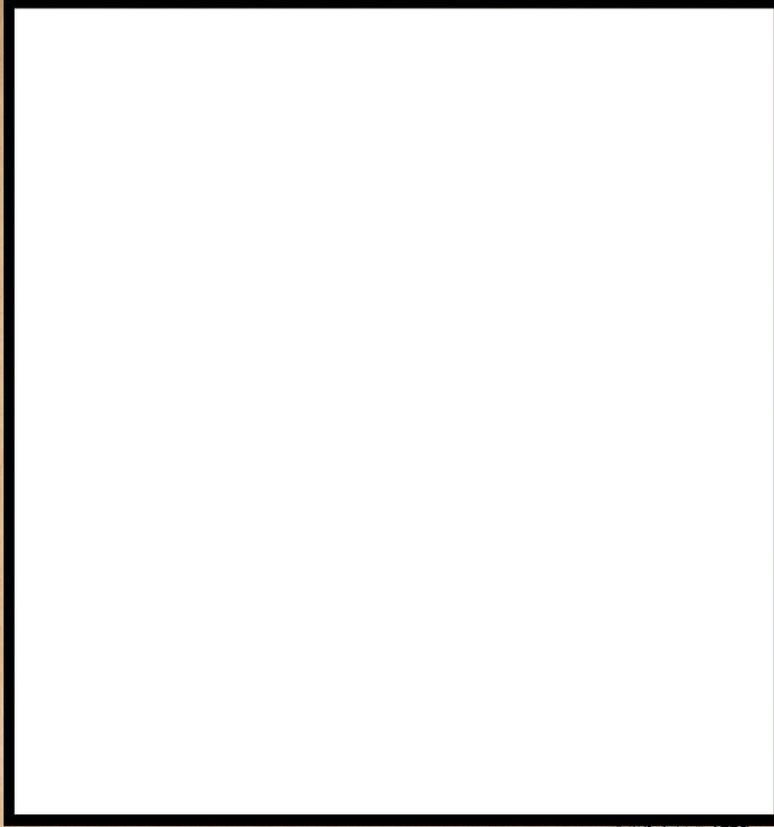   Your back cover should include:
   - Two or three sentences about your band's mission
   - A playlist of five or six songs of hope
   - For each song, write one line explaining why you chose it.

3. Present your album cover art to the class and play one song from your playlist.

Back Cover

Front Cover

Done by:

Description

- Reason for this album
- Meaning behind the cover art