

Performed by THE BEATLES

Across the Universe

For SATB* and Piano

Duration: ca. 4:45

Arranged by ADAM PODD

Words and Music by JOHN LENNON
and PAUL McCARTNEY

Slowly and smoothly (♩ = ca. 76) *mp*

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Jai Gu-ru De - va.

unis. mp

Slowly and smoothly (♩ = ca. 76)

C

Piano

mp

†Om. _____ Jai Gu-ru De - va.

unis.

G/B C7/E

5

†close to 'mm' on beat 2

*halleonard.com/choral

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mf

Om. _____ Jai Gu - ru De - va.

mf

F C/G

mf

9

15 *Sopranos only (opt. Solo)*
mp

Om. _____ Words are flow - ing out _____ like end - less

G C

mp

13

rain in - to a pa - per cup, they slith - er while _____ they pass, they slip a - way _____

Cmaj7 F(add2)/C

16

_____ a - cross the u - ni - verse. _____ Pools of sor - row, waves of joy are

Tenors (or opt. Solo)

G/C /G C

18

drift - ing through my o - pened mind, pos - sess - ing and ca - ress - ing me. _____

Cmaj7 F(add2)/C F/G

21

mp Full Choir

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Jai Gu - ru De - va.

C C/E

24

mf

Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, _____

mf

This system contains the first vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef, also with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lyrics are "Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, _____".

G F/G

mf

26

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the first system. It features chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand. Chords are labeled G and F/G. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. The measure number 26 is at the start.

noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____

This system contains the second vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are "noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____".

F G/F C

28

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system. It features chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand. Chords are labeled F, G/F, and C. The measure number 28 is at the start.

Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, _____

This system contains the third vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef. The piano accompaniment is in bass clef. The lyrics are "Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, _____".

G F/G

30

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the third system. It features chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand. Chords are labeled G and F/G. The measure number 30 is at the start.

noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____

F G/F C

32

34 *Baritone solo*
mp

Im - ag - es of bro - ken light which dance be - fore me like a mil - lion

mp

Oo _____

34 C

mp

34

eyes, they call me on and on — a - cross the u - ni - verse. —

Oo

F/C G/C

36

Alto or Tenor solo

Thoughts me - an - der like a rest - less wind in - side a let - ter box, they

(Bar. solo cont.)

Thoughts me - an - der like a rest - less wind in - side a let - ter box, they

Soprano

Oo

Alto

Tenor mp

Bass

C

38

tum - ble blind - ly as they make their way a - cross the u - ni - verse. _____

tum - ble blind - ly as they make their way a - cross the u - ni - verse. _____

Oo _____

F/C G/C

40

Jai Gu - ru De - va.

Full Choir

mf

G C C/E

42

45

Noth-ing's gon-na change my world,____ noth-ing's gon-na change my world._
 G F/G F G/F
mf

Noth-ing's gon - na change my world,____
 C G F/G
 48

noth - ing's gon - na change my world.____
 F G/F C N.C.
p
 51

54

Soprano *mp*

Sounds of laugh - ter, shades of life___ are ring - ing through my o - pened ears, in -

Alto *mp*

Sounds of laugh - ter, shades of life___ are ring - ing through my o - pened ears, in -

Tenor *mp*

Sounds of laugh - ter, shades of life___ are ring - ing through my o - pened ears, in -

Bass *mp*

Sounds of laugh - ter, shades of life___ are ring - ing through my o - pened ears, in -

54

54 *ped.*

* *ped.*

*

cit - ing and in - vit - ing me._____ Lim - it - less,___ un - dy - ing love, which

cit - ing and in - vit - ing me._____ Lim - it - less,___ un - dy - ing love, which

cit - ing and in - vit - ing me._____ Lim - it - less,___ un - dy - ing love, which

cit - ing and in - vit - ing me._____ Lim - it - less,___ un - dy - ing love, which

56 *ped.*

*

shines a - round me like a mil - lion suns, and calls me on and on a -

shines a - round me like a mil - lion suns, and calls me on and on a -

shines a - round me like a mil - lion suns, and calls me on and on a -

shines a - round me like a mil - lion suns, and calls me on and on a -

G/C F/C

59

cross the u - ni - verse. Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, *mf*

cross the u - ni - verse. Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, *mf*

cross the u - ni - verse. Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, *mf*

cross the u - ni - verse. Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, *mf*

G *mf*

61

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE – SATB

noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____

noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____

noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____

noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____

F/G F G/F C

64

Soprano

Alto
Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, _____ noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _

Tenor

Bass

G F/G F G/F

67

Optional Descant
Small group of mixed voices
(Sop. and Ten.)

71

mf

Ah _____
 Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, _____

71

70

Ah _____
 noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____ Noth - ing's gon - na change my world, _____

73

end Descant

Ah _____ noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____

_____ noth - ing's gon - na change my world. _____

76

79

Jai Gu - ru De - va. Jai Gu - ru De -

Jai Gu - ru De - va. _____

C C/E

79

va. _____

unis. mp

Jai Gu - ru De - va.

F(add9) C

mp

82

mp _____ *p*

Jai Gu - ru De - va. Jai Gu - ru De - va.

p

C/E F(add9) C

p

85

*Singers all eventually close to 'mm' in their own time.
Sopranos may re-enter on lower octave while stagger breathing.*

dim. _____ *mm.* _____ *molto rit.*

dim. _____ *molto rit.*

C/E F(add9)

dim. _____ *molto rit.*

89

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE – SATB



NOTES FROM THE ARRANGER

“Across the Universe” was hailed by John Lennon as one of the best and most poetic lyrics he ever wrote. The song has clear influences from the Beatles’ interest in transcendental meditation. My hope with this choral arrangement was to bring some more of that contemplative energy to the piece, while retaining the powerful and even anthemic feel of the original.

As a lifelong church musician, I’m always looking for ways to blur the lines between performed pieces (usually choir anthems) and participatory music (usually congregational hymn singing). With each refrain of this familiar Beatles song repeating the simple mantra “Nothing’s gonna change my world”, there’s an easy opportunity to invite your audience or congregation to participate by singing along - either with each refrain, or just at the end.

Approach this piece with the stylistic considerations and clarity you would give to any choral setting of great poetry. There should be an expressive precision surrounding the text, which is full of abstract and colorful imagery.

TEXT

Words are flowing out like endless rain into a paper cup
They slither while they pass, they slip away across the universe
Pools of sorrow, waves of joy are drifting through my opened mind
Possessing and caressing me

Jai Guru Deva*, om
Nothing’s gonna change my world

Images of broken light which dance before me like a million eyes
They call me on and on across the universe
Thoughts meander like a restless wind inside a letterbox
They tumble blindly as they make their way across the universe

Sounds of laughter, shades of life are ringing
Through my opened ears, inciting and inviting me
Limitless, undying love, which shines around me like a million suns
And calls me on and on across the universe

**Sanskrit translation: Glory to the shining remover of darkness*

ABOUT THE ARRANGER

ADAM PODD is a Vermont-bred, Brooklyn-based musician, multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, and orchestrator. As an experienced improviser who was classically trained, his work brings a fresh and soulful sound to each new piece. He is best known in the choral world for his collaboration with twin brother Matt Podd on their viral virtual choir and orchestra version of *How Can I Keep from Singing* (HL #00357683).

He has worked with some of the top artists and organizations in his field including The National Symphony Orchestra, The Boston Pops, New York Pops, Houston Symphony, Idina Menzel, Ingrid Michaelson, Megan Hilty, Darlene Love, Macy’s Entertainment, The Young People’s Chorus of New York City, and Brooklyn Youth Chorus in such venues as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Symphony Space, New World Stages, and others.

Adam is the Director of Music at First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn where the choir often helps him to develop and premiere new works. In addition to his work in church and choral music, he plays often with his band, *Mimi & the Podd Brothers* - a jazz/soul/classical crossover experience which performs actively in and around New York City with a fresh take on the American songbook and music from around the globe.