



# HOPES IN CHAIN: A CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING HISTORY

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## **HOPES IN CHAIN: A CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING HISTORY**

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Teachers of History, often use documentaries to introduce their students to the values, practices, ideals, and conflicts in a given society. They use such mediums to help students to understand the connections amongst information, structures, historical culture and social relations.

To that end, music is a primary cultural source that can provide educators with a narrative to engage students with historical issues, to encourage them to practice skills of analysis, critical thinking, debate and to promote cross-cultural understanding.

To aid teaching of history, musical selections or songs are better to be treated like any other verifiable historical document. They need to be regarded as genuine illustration of a specific time and place that educators can use to highlight social issues such as: racism, inclusion, class, gender, cultural values, politics, and even household economics.

In my view, what makes music, message songs in particular a marvellous primary source for learners to investigate, is its accessibility – especially if the educators provide historical context, and if they form some questions to guide their learners' critical inquiry. Learners can listen to a message song and get a sense of what it tries to express about its time and place. Such direct access to a cultural artifact in the classroom, or for a study group is inexpensive and easily sharable.

In my experience, learners are often inspired by the immediacy of music, especially when it communicates about a society or their historic events. Music grabs attentions; it is expressive and triggers emotional states of awareness. It has been used by most cultures to accompany and enhance such diverse activities as storytelling, coaching, mentoring, worshipping, contemplation/meditation, mourning, healing, and not to say social criticism.

Speaking of social criticism and teaching of history, here we can refer to one of my message songs, titled: **Hopes in Chain**. This song is noted for its contribution to Black Lives Matter movement, and the Black History Month.



As a pioneer in writing message songs, I know it firsthand that societies use music to endow abstract ideas with sensuality and form, and of course on top of that, songs can give even metaphysical concepts a physical and immediate presence to a learning society – be it a school, a firm, or a community. Because it engages people’s minds and emotions, a well-written message song is a powerful medium to pass on information, and communicate social concerns. It can be an educational prop that can help people to remember information, especially those with historic values.

### A Song That Fights Racism



"Hopes in Chain" is a powerful message song that racism is unacceptable and Black Lives Matter. Through power of music, this song tries to spread the words about human rights, and it stands against racial discrimination. This project raises awareness and encourages its listeners to reflect on this pressing social issue.

*"While the United States is built upon immigration, and the immigrants' cultural contribution formed the state as it is today, the land of HOPE and Opportunity hardly is – well, not at least for people of color in its true sense or meaning. Therefore, with view to the recent events, especially after the tragic death of George Floyd, I decided to write a message song from the angle of 'HOPE' – a Crushed Hope! And Yaya beautifully performed it" Mosi says*



The song also contributes to the annual observation of "Black History Month" – from February to March 1st. "Black History Month" is an opportunity during which, the general public are further exposed to the Black historic events and Black contributions to the society. Related artistic productions are often among the highlights of such observation and events.

*"I hope this song continues to fulfill its mission to remind everyone that racism should not be tolerated. I hope it facilitates change and social progress" Mosi includes.*

*"Yaya adds: "Artistic collaboration between people of color and White writers is not that common – especially on such socially sensitive matter. But this release on its own, is a sign of social progress. An official statement if you will, that a noted White songwriter acknowledges the issue, raises his voice, and stands by the Blacks in this way."*

*"Hopes in Chain" is unique in many ways. It makes you think, it unites, it is deep, it is soulful, and it touches your core. And of course, its impressive music video takes the project to a whole new level. It tells and records our history at this point in time.*

WAALM Tribune

For example, before completing a section on slavery and resistance in the United States or before ending a lecture on social justice and equality, an educator could play "Hopes in Chain" and ask participants to recall specific details or the key words in the song, and explain how the lyrics or melody of the songs reflect aspects of inequality, racism, social justice and slavery. The song can facilitate the ideas stick. Such songs can also reinvigorate lectures, and generate participative discussions.

The application of message songs such as 'Hopes in Chain' is not limited to educational institutions. It can be part of any company's in-service training on equality, race and justice. It can be a subject of discussion in a community center, or even passed on to others as a source of both, pleasure and learn.

According to WAALM Tribune and Dennis Keller of Fairmont Post, Canada & USA:

*"Hopes in Chain also contributes to the annual observation of "Black History Month" – from February to March 1st. "Black History Month" is an opportunity during which, the general public is further exposed to the Black historic events and Black contributions to society. Related artistic productions are often among the highlights of such observation and events."*

The screenshot shows the Fairmont Post website interface. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation links for various categories like Business, Financial, Culture, Entertainment, etc. The main article is titled "A Song That Calls for Change" by Dennis Keller, dated September 4, 2021. The article features a large image of a man and a woman, with the text "HOPES IN CHAIN The Message Song" and "BLACK LIVES MATTER" overlaid. To the right of the main image are three smaller images: a woman with blonde hair, a woman holding a small object, and a man in a green shirt. The article text discusses racism and social awareness, mentioning Masi Dorsey, a prominent Canadian songwriter, and Yaya Diamond, an award-winning soulful singer from the United States, who have teamed up to release the song "Hopes in Chain".

Fairmont Post, Washington DC, NY, Toronto

As I mentioned in my recent interview: *"I hope this song continues to fulfill its mission to remind everyone that racism should not be tolerated. I hope it facilitates change and social progress."*

Yaya Diamond, the award-winning vocal artist, who performed this message song also mentions:

*“Artistic collaboration between people of color and White writers is not that common – especially on such socially sensitive matter. But this release on its own, is a sign of social progress. An official statement if you will, that a noted White songwriter acknowledges the issue, raises his voice, and stands by the Blacks in this way.”*

According to a number of international media, including Fairmont Post, New York:

*“Hopes in Chain is unique in many ways. It makes you think, it unites, it is deep, it is soulful, and it touches your core. And of course, its impressive music video takes the project to a whole new level. It tells and records our history at this point in time.”*



Hopes in Chain – The Music Video

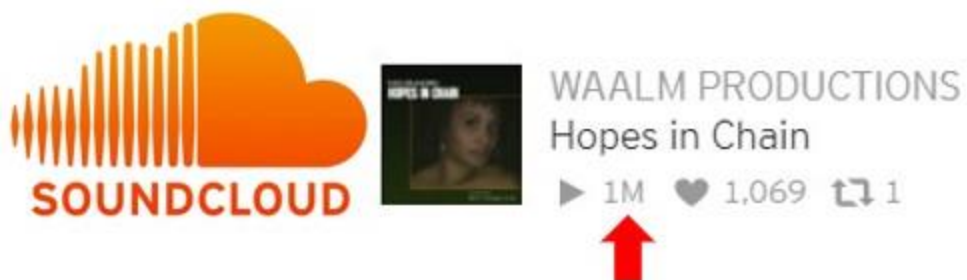


Recently aired and made available to over **398,000,000** listeners by iHeart Radio alone:

- 265 million listeners on-air
- 133 million registered users through digital & mobile

For more info/testimonials on other **120** Radio stations with an additional **900,000,000** listeners, ref to my critique.

Radio clips and commentaries are available from the Portfolio file.



A Recent Metadata Shows: The Song Reached over 1Mil Streams on SoundCloud Alone

**References:**

WAALM Tribune, (2020), A Song That Fights Racism,  
<https://waalm.tumblr.com/post/661413274632552448/a-song-that-fights-racism>

Dennis Keller, (2021), Fairmont Post, A Song That Calls for Change, <https://fairmontpost.com/a-song-that-calls-for-change/>