

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

African American Spiritual

The image shows a musical score for the song 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands'. It consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, written in a key with one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a chord of F above the second measure. The second staff has a chord of C7 above the second measure. The third staff has a chord of F above the second measure. The fourth staff has a chord of C7 above the second measure and a chord of F above the final measure. The lyrics are: 'He's got the whole world in his hands, —' repeated across the four staves.

LYRICS:

1. He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
2. He's got the wind and rain in his hands.
He's got the wind and rain in his hands.
He's got the wind and rain in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
3. He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

LISTENING

Have someone play a non-pitched instrument on the words whole world each time they occur in verse one. Experiment with various sounds and evaluate their effectiveness in conveying the significance of the words. Is a large cymbal , a large drum or a gong a better sound because it lasts the length of the words than a wood block or maracas? Do the same with succeeding verses.

CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

Based on spirituals, two styles of music have developed: gospel and soul. This song takes on the gospel style with the addition of hand clapping and tambourine playing. The study of both these styles could be an interesting pursuit because they have a great impact on our current popular music.

As a language arts experience, ask the students how many syllables are in the word world Is it hyphenated? As a one syllable word, technically world would receive only one sound on a non-pitched instrument as suggested in the LISTENING paragraph. This word resembles the word fire which also has only one syllable that frequently slurs into two. Can students find other similar words?