

# LET'S JAM

WORDS AND MUSIC BY GARY FRY

Travel all over the world today, you find that place to place  
People are people: sad's a teardrop, joy's a smilin' face  
You may not know the language but if you start up a tune  
The local cats will gather 'round to join in with you

**People ev'rywhere you go  
Have a groove and a vibe that's all their own, so  
Let's jam, let's jam  
Everyone can do their thing  
And together it's better, the whole world singin'  
Let's jam, let's jam  
When you're jammin' let the music take you away  
Doesn't matter if you sing or if you play  
Makin' music makes it when you wanna say  
Let's get it together the musical way  
Let's jam, let's jam, let's jam  
Let's jam, let's jam, let's jam**

Used to be it was "make love not war" and that may still be cool  
But today the word is "makin' war, that's a drag; makin' music, that's what to do"  
So lay down your weapon, and take up your axe  
When you open your ears to your brother's song  
You hear with your heart, in fact

To keep it rockin' we propose a resolution written in a musical constitution:

All music is created equal  
That's the fundamental, now here's the sequel:  
You have the right to the pursuit of your groove  
But not the right to mess with others (so moved)  
And furthermore, we urge affirmative action  
Lotsa kindsa music to give you satisfaction

Ev'rybody hears a diffrent drum  
That's jammin', that keeps it pumpin'  
All together: are we havin' fun?  
Way-oh boh-p bway-oh  
Let's jam

## A NOTE FROM THE COMPOSER

I wrote *Let's Jam* just a few weeks before the Persian Gulf War broke out, as international tensions were mounting. My only experiences in traveling abroad and meeting people from cultures and societies far different from my own were very positive: I made several trips behind the now-defunct Iron Curtain as a member of a choral music ensemble from the University of Miami, and knew firsthand how true it is that music is an international language. Though we could communicate very little verbally, if at all, we shared music and jam sessions that are even now vivid and delightful memories.

As I surveyed the sorry state of a world rushing headlong into war, I couldn't help but think of how much nicer it would be if international relations could take place on a musical basis. If we could trade fours instead of trading artillery fire. If we could concentrate on uplifting the human spirit rather than destroying our so-called enemies. From these ideas came *Let's Jam*, and to make the point musically, the piece begins with no language at all: just rhythm (the drums), adding a pitched instrument (the bass), and finally singers in a call-and-response exchange of wordless phrases. After the verses and choruses deliver the message, we suddenly launch into a free section of several different musical styles-- classical, gospel, rock, jazz, rap-- as a musical analogy for the acceptance of many different cultures and viewpoints. Finally, every section gets its own spotlight between phrases of the final chorus. To all this, add solos or group improvisations as you like: *jam* is the key word here!

I hope that *Let's Jam* is fun for you to work on and perform, but even more than that, I hope you'll feel that beneath the layers of catchy pop music and clever lyrics is something more meaningful: an attitude of respect and joy towards music and all the people who share this planet. If you have the opportunity to tour foreign countries with a musical ensemble, take it and see for yourself what wonderfully powerful stuff music can be to bring people together. And if I ever have the opportunity to meet you in person-- let's jam!



Duration: 4:52

# LET'S JAM

SATB Vocals

Words and music by  
**GARY FRY**

In two, not too fast, hip-hop feel (swing eighths)

(2nd X only)

SA *mf* Way-oh boh-p bway-oh\_ doh way-oh way-

TB *mf* Way-oh boh-p bway-oh\_ bway-oh\_ way-oh boh-p bway-oh\_

8

SA ah dah\_ dah\_ way-oh boh-p bway-oh\_ doh

TB yah dah\_ dah\_ way-oh boh-p bway-oh\_ bway-oh\_ way-oh boh-p bway-oh\_

15 [S] daht daht daht, Trav-el all o- ver the world to- day\_ you find that place to place\_

[A] daht daht daht, Trav-el all o- ver the world to- day\_ you find that place to place\_

[T] daht daht daht, Trav-el all o- ver the world to- day\_ you find that place to place\_

[B] daht daht daht, Trav-el all o- ver the world to- day\_ you find that place to place\_

17 *mp*

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